

The perspective of transnationalism allows for emphasis to be placed on the importance of various relationships and interdependencies that are shaped as a result of individual and group migrations. Migrants, non-migrants whose lives are connected in some way to those who move, and returning migrants create and maintain extensive social ties across borders. These transnational relationships operate in different arenas: the financial, social-cultural and political. Although there is a growing body of literature on the financial and socio-cultural aspects of transnational ties, the political arena remains under-researched. It is so, in particular, with regard to the mechanisms and consequences of migrants' transnational political activities, political remittances and practices.

Until now, research on migrants' presence in the public space has focused predominantly on their participation in voting in the receiving and/or sending countries. However, this project argues for a wider conception of political transnationalism, not limited to voting, but encompassing such activities as the organization of political meetings, raising funds for parties, taking part in political protests, lobbying the host government regarding home country/community issues, and remitting political ideas and beliefs. Moreover, in Polish migration studies the analyses have been mainly devoted to post-accession migrants, and hence limited to the European context. Few researchers have conducted studies on contemporary transatlantic migrations, especially within the current theoretical framework, even though for decades North America has been a major destination for Polish migrants. This area, after all, is still successful in attracting Polish migrants, although on a smaller scale than in the past.

Several factors make the Polish migrants in Canada a particularly interesting case: the significant number of immigrants that reached Canada in the 1980s and 1990s (after systemic transformation), allowing comparative analysis; Polish migrants being situated between the "old" southern European groups and currently prevailing immigrants from Asian countries; the context of their reception in Canada (multicultural policy, the liberal law on the matter of dual citizenship). The decision to choose Canada and specifically Toronto (with the highest concentration of Polish migrants in this country) responds to the need for comparative studies on transnational activities.

The project aims to: (1) establish knowledge about the forms of transnational political engagement and the ways political remittances are transferred and used; (2) identify the transnational practices and tools that migrants and those back home use to maintain relationships; (3) highlight the determinants of migrants' political engagement; (4) recognize the importance of political (re)socialization both in the sending and receiving countries/communities; and (5) identify migrants' expectations regarding the home country's responsibilities to its diaspora as well as the diaspora's responsibilities towards the home country.

The research methodology relies on a qualitative approach, using in-depth, semi-structured interviews and expert interviews, conducted both in Canada (with Polish migrants) and in Poland (with non-migrants and returning migrants), i.e. in the sites of transnational practices. Such an approach helps to understand the complexity of the ways in which political ideas and practices circulate as well as the determinants of migrants' political engagement.

The novelty of the project lies in the topic, still under-researched in the field of migration studies, conducting research in both the receiving and sending countries, as well as giving a voice to various social actors – migrants, non-migrants and returning migrants. The project has the potential to contribute to the scholarly discussion on migration and politics, particularly on the impact of transnational remittances on political attitudes and behaviours. The research will result in at least three articles published in peer-reviewed international journals, a monograph in English and conference presentations.