

Cities as Spaces of Solidarity and Participatory Remembrance

The Case of Kraków and the Multifaceted Polish History between Emigration and Immigration from a Female Perspective

14 May 2025, 2pm - 16 May 2025, 1pm
Multicultural Centre in Kraków (Centrum Wielokulturowe w Krakowie),
Zabłocie 20, 30-701 Kraków

Poland's migration history since the end of the Second World War has been characterised by forced displacement, political persecution and economic migration, and is closely intertwined with the history of the Cold War, European integration and current military and political conflicts. Poland is both a country of emigration - especially after joining the EU, many people emigrated for economic reasons - and immigration: since the 2010s, refugees from third countries have been arriving in increasing numbers, and due to the Russian war against Ukraine, the country has become one of the largest recipients of refugees from Ukraine. As a result of these historical developments, Kraków has become one of the main destinations for immigrants and sees itself as an inclusive and open city of diversity. Many migrant organisations are active in this context and shape the city - with women often being the driving forces.

During our workshop we will look at the multifaceted history of migration in Poland and Kraków and the specific role of women in this history and its remembrance. Together with representatives of migrant organisations and taking the situation in Kraków as a starting point, we want to explore the potential of cities as spaces of diverse participation - both in political processes and in negotiating narratives and visibilities in public remembrance. The event will include workshop formats, inputs from researchers, educators, activists and politicians as well as city tours.

Another focus of the workshop is the further development of our FeMig.Lab online platform: we will engage in-depth with a biographical account of a Polish emigrant and discuss the key questions for the methodological reflection that will become part of the platform.

The workshop takes place within the transnational project "[Female Labour Migration in European History](#)" (FeMig.Lab). FeMig.Lab aims to make more visible the often overseen herstories of Female Labour Migration in Europe as well as their consequences for today's mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion of migrants and for intersectional structures of discrimination. Our aim is to counteract anti-migrant and sexist narratives at both local and transnational levels. To this end, we bring together museums, memorials, cultural research institutions and migrant organizations throughout Europe to exchange and work on a differentiated and intersectional narrative about European migration history and its interconnectedness with colonialism, the Cold War, and the struggle for democratic and diverse societies. Furthermore, exemplary testimonies of female (labour) migrants will be collected and documented on an online platform as a digital exhibition, accompanied by tools and reflections on how to integrate and make more visible the presence and agency of female migrant workers throughout the European history in the 20th century into educational and exhibition programs.

The workshop in Kraków is organized by Minor and Humanity in Action Poland.

Please find the preliminary program below.

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Preliminary Program

Wednesday, May 14

Time	Event
13:00 – 14:00	Arrival
14:00 – 14:30	Welcome by Minor, Humanity in Action and the Multicultural Centre in Kraków Introduction round
14:30 – 16:00	Female Labour Migration in Poland after WW2 – An Overview (speaker tbc)
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee Break
16:15 – 17:45	Open City – Idea and Practice Discussion Round with Paulina Pilipuk, Coordinator of the Multicultural Centre and a representative of the Kraków Municipality
17:45 – 18:00	Wrap up of the day
18:00 – 19:00	Non-formal city walk
19:00	Group Dinner

Thursday, May 15

9:00 – 11:30	Workshop: Talking about Emigration – Oral History Methods in the Context of Iner-European Female Labour Migration with Gabriela Nicolescu: The 'Method of Easiness' in Interviews with Domestic Workers in Italy and the UK: Incorporating Photo Archives and Objects and representatives of the Emigration Museum and Archive Gdynia (tbc)
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 – 13:15	Ukrainian and Belarussian Community Activism in Kraków – Discussion with Representatives of Migrant Organizations
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	Fighting for Equality and Dialogue on all Levels – The Roma Community Centre between Advocacy for a multicultural society and emergency support for Roma Refugees from Ukraine Presentation and Discussion with Dr Małgorzata Kończek (tbc), Fundacja w Stronę Dialogu - Foundation Towards Dialogue
16:00 – 18:00	City Walk: Migrant Herstories in the City of Kraków Guide: Alicja Ziolo
	Evening at free disposal

Friday, May 16

9:00 – 10:30	The FeMig.Lab Online Platform – Presentation and Discussion of the Concept and Ideas for the Self-Testimonies
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:00	<p>The story of Krystyna Modrzewska</p> <p>Deep-dive discussion of the Self-testimony to be presented on the FeMig.Lab Online Platform by Humanity in Action Poland</p>
12:30 – 13:00	Wrap-up, Feedback and End of the workshop