



LIVING TOGETHER IN THE CONTEXT OF BREXIT

MIGRANT-‘HOST’ ENCOUNTERS IN THE EAST END OF GLASGOW

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This project is conducted by **Dr Anna Gawlewicz**.
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and specialises in migration and diversity.

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'hosts' migrants diversity Glasgow Brexit

LIVING TOGETHER

is a research project about migration and the impact of Brexit on diverse urban communities. The project explores relations between Polish migrants and the long-settled population in the East End of Glasgow, Scotland. It is being carried out by Dr Anna Gawlewicz from the University of Glasgow and runs from March 2017 until December 2019.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project explores how Polish migrants and the long-settled population 'live together' in the context of Brexit. It looks at Polish-'host' encounters in the East End of Glasgow, a rapidly changing and an increasingly diverse urban area. It also investigates if and how growing insecurities and anxieties caused by the UK's decision to leave the European Union (EU) affect these encounters and the local community more broadly. As such, it contributes to the understanding of how Brexit impacts on the lives of people in Scotland, a home to sizable migrant populations. While this issue has been heavily discussed in the media ever since the EU referendum on 23 June 2016, academically it remains largely unexplored and demands urgent attention.

WHY POLISH MIGRANTS?

Polish migrants are the most numerous migrant group in Scotland and the UK (ONS 2016). An estimated 8,400 of them settled in Glasgow and have significantly contributed to the growth of the so called 'Other White' population in the city (Scottish Census 2011). Polish migrants have been prominent in the UK ever since the accession of Poland to the EU in 2004 and the opening of the UK labour market for Polish and other accession countries' citizens.

WHY SCOTLAND?

A focus on Scotland provides a compelling case not least due to Scotland's devolved government, distinctive immigration patterns and ethnic diversity. In the Brexit referendum, Scotland voted to remain in the EU vis-à-vis the overall vote to leave in England and Wales. It is therefore crucial to look at the Scottish context to contribute to the wider investigation of regional disparities in attitudes towards immigration and Brexit.

WHY GLASGOW'S EAST END?

The East End of Glasgow has experienced a major shift over the last decade because of the extensive regeneration agenda. It also has a growing migrant population, in particular 'Other White' population, and boasts one of the largest Polish communities in Glasgow.

The project involves interviews and focus groups with the residents of the East End and the representatives of the local voluntary and public sector organisations alongside participant observation and documentary analysis.