



Public lecture

Situated Living: Understanding migrants' responses to unsettling events through a time-place-relational nexus

by

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Warsaw, Centre of Migration Research, Pasteura 7

Abstract

The 'mobility turn' foregrounds the ongoing movement of people through space. In the particular context of EU Freedom of Movement, this implies that migrants will respond to changing circumstances by simply moving on. Such a perspective is reflected in popular and academic commentary predicting a mass exodus of EU citizens from the UK in the unfolding context of Brexit. Yet, these predictions are not borne out in migration data to date. In accounting for this apparent contradiction, we argue that the 'mobility turn' has overlooked the importance of time, place and relationality in understanding migrants' lived experiences. Taking the case of Polish migration to the UK, we draw on data collected longitudinally over time and in the context of two moments of significant change, which we term 'unsettling events' – the 2008-09 economic recession and Brexit. Analysing our data through a life course lens, our findings provide insights into the complexity of migrants' reactions to these unsettling events, highlighting how mobility and immobility are interconnected in migrants' lives. We introduce the notion of 'situated living' to capture a more nuanced understanding of migrant experiences as lived in particular times (both personal and historical), places and Relationships.

The Public lecture is part of the 'Modern Poland' project, which is a collaboration between leading scholars from the Migration Research Group at the University of Sheffield and the Centre of Migration Research at the University of Warsaw. This project is funded by the Noble Foundation's [Programme on Modern Poland](#). It runs from October 2017 to September 2019.

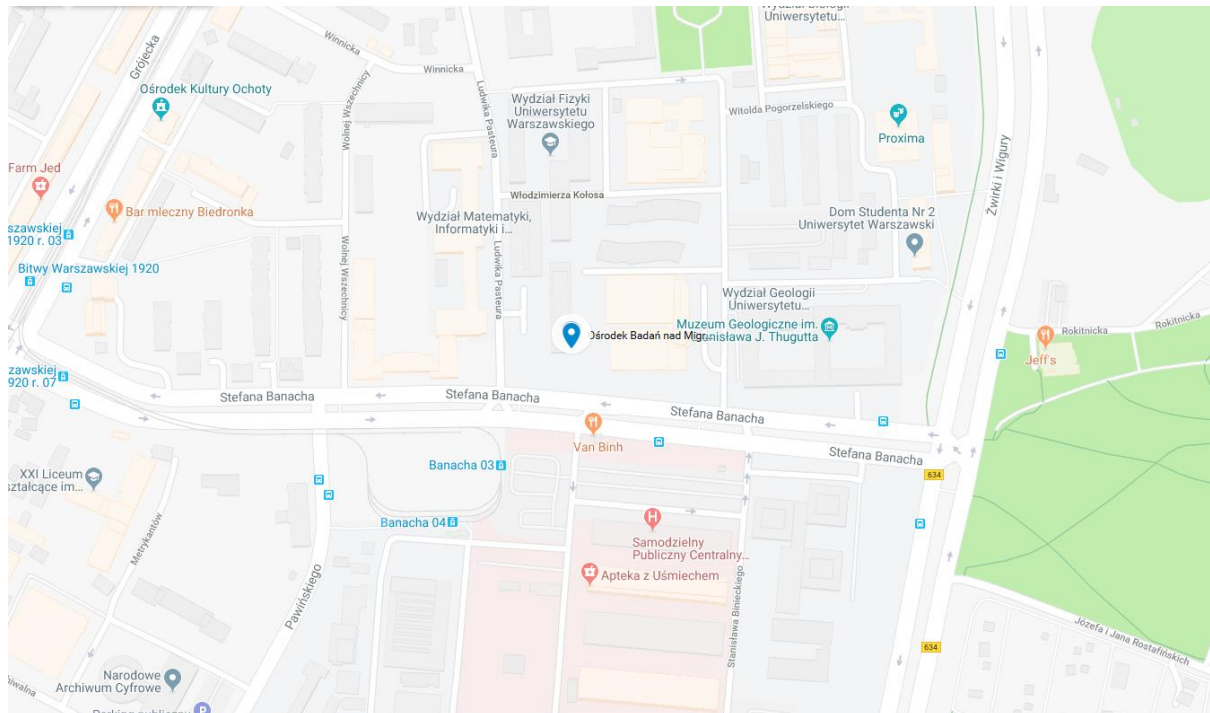
Useful Information for Participants:

Address:

Centre of Migration Research
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Map

[See the map](#)



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