Artykuły i studia

KRYSTYNA SLANY

Nowe migracje kobiet – obiektywne trendy i subiektywne doświadczenia. Przypadki imigrantek w Polsce

The article has two objectives. On the one hand, it adopts a gender perspective with the aim of highlighting objective trends and characteristics of the so-called new migrations of women with reference to the transformations of the global labour market. On the other hand, on the basis of a qualitative research carried out as part of the EU project FeMiPol, it reports on the experiences of female immigrants in Poland, e.g. with regard to labour market situation, discrimination and integration. Combined analyses based on both the “dry” and the “wet” style present gender in migrations as a derivative of an interactional situation occurring between various global, macro-social, micro-social and individual conditions, creating as a result a complex, multilayer range of migration problems. The FeMiPol research documents the opposition between social exclusion and integration of female immigrants and provides insight into the dynamics of integration through the labour market. At least three dimensions of social discrimination of female immigrants can be distinguished: a) discrimination due to a gender segmentation of the labour market, b) discrimination due to national origin (coming from a poor country, which activates stereotypes and prejudice, emphasizes the significance of the cultural difference), and c) discrimination due to being a female migrant. The qualitative research contributes to the development and strengthening of critical reflection on the socially and culturally constructed roles, relations and gender patterns in migrations.

Keywords: transnational migration, labour market, globalization, women in new migrations, labour in informal domestic sector
ANNA KRAJEWSKA

„Polityka braku polityki”: imigrantki w polskim sektorze opieki nad osobami starszymi

The situation of migrant women undertaking work on foreign labour markets is difficult for a number of reasons, since in their case the problems of foreign employees regardless of gender are compounded by the problems that women encounter regardless of their nationality. Until recently, Poland did not have a problem of demand for foreign labour force, the number of immigrants flowing into the country was relatively low, and there was no immediate opportunity for the issues pertaining to immigrant policy to arise as a subject of public debate. At the same time, the Polish society is aging. Facing the shrinking labour force problem, Polish authorities will most likely have to develop some kind of policy encouraging workers representing diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds to come to the country. The article presents research results concerning immigrants employed as elderly care workers in both formal and informal elderly care sector in Poland. The research was conducted within the framework of an international research project entitled *Gendered Citizenship in Multicultural Europe. The Impact of Contemporary Women’s Movements* (FEMCIT). The elderly care sector is particularly interesting for those who research the issue of women’s migration for several reasons: firstly, it is predominantly feminized; and secondly, due to the aging of Polish society, the sector will most probably expand and open to the foreign labour force. The research conducted within the FEMCIT project allowed the research team to indicate the main obstacles and challenges that policy-makers will need to overcome in designing the immigration policy.

Keywords: immigration, elderly care, women’s migrations
Modernizacja czy kryzys? Przemiany rodzin czasowych migrantów

Migration impacts the lives and family relations of those who migrate, and this is also true with regard to circular migration, where the person is in a cycle of going aboard to work and then returning to the home country for some time. On the one hand, as a result of the migration, the entire family has to adjust to the rhythm established by the migrant. On the other hand, it also makes it necessary for the family members to become independent and take over the responsibilities that pre-migration belonged to the migrating husband/wife. Using research completed in the Opolszczyzna region of Poland, the authors attempt to answer the question of how families adjust to the situation in the different periods, and how the gender roles as well as parent-child relations change in such families. The authors focus in particular on the issues of the changes in the families themselves: do they continue as traditionally operating (albeit imperfect) families, or do they shift towards the contemporary model of „living apart together”, where each of the family members independently forges his/her life paths?

Keywords: migration, family, husband, wife, father, children
Problemy imigrantów i uchodźców w Polsce na podstawie wybranych przekazów medialnych

This text has been drafted on the basis of analysis of daily press: Gazeta Wyborcza from the period 1990–2008 and Super Express from the period 2004–2008. In order to enrich the presentation, the text includes a description of how foreigners are presented in Polish soap operas and other TV series. An analysis of press articles and TV series produces an insight into how, over the years, the issue of immigrants and refugees was presented in Poland, and how Poland has been coping with this issue. In general, the image of immigrants – both those who are waiting for decisions regarding their futures, and those who were granted refugee status in Poland – is not too cheerful. Media image of foreigners from the East and foreigners from the West is different. The former, no matter their education, tend to take the simplest jobs (with pay below the pay offered to Poles), often work in the grey zone, and either fall victim to common exploiting their difficult financial situation, or run fraudulent operations themselves. Immigrants from the West, on the other hand, are presented very favourably, are well educated, and cope well in Poland, gaining friends in the process.

Keywords: immigrant, refugee, media image, work
Artykuły i studia

ANNA TITKOW

Co to jest praca kobiet?¹

This article attempts to reveal the essence of what constitutes “women’s work”, i.e. to study the concept of unpaid women’s work. Gender theory, as well as empirical research completed in 2002 based on this theory, are used to achieve this objective. The article has 3 sections. The first section describes the character and present status of unpaid women’s work. The second section pertains to the place given to unpaid women’s work in the private and public spheres. The last section is based on the results of empirical research on the everyday experience of Polish households, with particular focus on participation in and division of housework; the female and male point of view on this subject; the end of “women’s care festival”.

Keywords: gender, unpaid women’s work, housework, private/public spheres, care
The critique of feminism from the 1980s and 1990s has broadened feminism's homogenised concept of gender identity and power relations and made it more complex, varied, and intertwined. Although the roots of intersectionality are strongly connected with the disagreement of non-white and non-middle class women with the feminist unified notion of domination, we should not forget about the similar critique from the 1970s which was concerned with sexuality and lesbian invisibility. This first wave of criticism led to the notions such as "woman identified woman" or "lesbian continuum" which once again repudiated desire in the name of a common gender identity. It was precisely this repression of sexuality that was one of the elements that started the gay/straight split in the early 1980s and brought about queer theory that challenges the notion of sexual identity and includes voices that were previously excluded. By definition, queer theory perceives all identities as contingent, shifting the knowledge/power relations. This creates conceptual and practical problems about the possible connections between those two theoretical approaches. Are intersectionality and queer theory interrelated? To which extent does one duplicate the other and how do they differ? Can we talk about queer intersectionality or about queering it (i.e. the question of heteronormativity)? Does queer theory analyze all power relations, or just some? In my text, I would like to reflect upon the history of the above-mentioned critique and its present consequences.

Keywords: gender, race, sexuality, lesbianism, critique of feminism, intersectionality, heteronormativity, queer theory