Return migrants inclusion and employment.
The case of return migration from the UK to Poland

**Research context:**
- **RESEARCH CONTEXT** (secondary data): Approximately 2 million Poles have emigrated since the EU enlargement in 2004. 750 thousand to the UK
- **Retour migrants**: People who have returned to their home country after having worked abroad.
- **Approximately 300 thousand long-term migrants have returned to Poland between 2002 and 2013.** Most of these migrants have returned from the UK (20%)
- **Mixed evidence** with regard to the situation of Polish returnees in the labour market:
  - Higher probability of unemployment (Bakewell et al. 2013)
  - Higher self-employment rate (Bakewell et al. 2013)
- **Possible solutions** for overcoming agency/structure problem, present in the majority of the previous research on return migration (Bakewell 2013)
- **Labour market inclusion** – understood as an opportunity to access all attached to full time employment rights and security (Standing 2010)

**Main research questions:**
- What are the conditions and processes of successful and unsuccessful inclusion of returnees on the home country labour market?
- How the changes in return migrants biographies and life projects interplay with the ongoing changes of employment pattern in Poland (especially with precarisation of work)

**Methodological framework:**
- **Methods**:
  - Biographical Narrative Interviews (Schütze 1984) in framework of realist biographies.
  - Secondary Data Analysis (i.e., LFS, national census, WRS)
  - Experts Interviews
- **Sample**: 40 Biographical Narrative Interviews, until November 2014, 12 interviews were conducted: 12 women, 10 men, both with return (10) and re-migrants (32), mainly from two regions Lower Silesia (Poland) and Scotland (UK) as well as two capital cities Warsaw and London
- **Data Analysis**:
  - Step 1: Grounded Theory Methodology (Glaser and Strauss 1967) – open and selective coding
  - Step 2: Biographical Analysis (Schütze 1984)

**Who?**
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**Selected dissemination and related publications:**
- 19-20 July 2018, Yokohama (Japan) – IAS 61 World Congress of Sociology. Paper “Life after leaving the Case of Return Migration from the UK to Poland: in the wake of the 2008 Economic Crisis” (Roznowski, Mrozowski, Mrozowicki)
- 9-10 August 2016, Espoo (Finland) – 13th Nordic Migration Conference Presentation of the paper “Regional context of biographies: Polish return migrants and their life outcomes after return migration” (Roznowski, Mrozowski, Mrozowicki)
- 24-26 August 2016, Glasgow (UK) – 62nd General Conference paper “Return migration flows: The case of return migration from the UK to Poland” (Mrozowski, Adam, Karolak, Mrozowicki, Mrozowski, accepted and forthcoming in 2016).

**Further research questions:**
- What are the stagnating strategies and under what biographical and structural conditions does it take the form of individual or collective actions?
- What is the impact of the post-transformation discourse of the “self made man” (Dunn 2004, Buchwalda 2008, Sowa 2013) on the emergence of the mobile labour force from the semi-peripheral Poland? What role in this process plays the dismantling of the socialist “welfare state” and privatisation understood in terms of the dispossession of the commons.

**Initial findings:**
- **So far from the data the four tentative types of return are emerging:**
  - 1) Return as an Investment - carefully planned return considered as a step in a career, generally preceded by the finding job from abroad completed with full labour market inclusion.
  - 2) Return as a Test - frequent among migrants with no previous job experience in Poland and among migrants who after working a few years abroad, noted some disadvantages of living there and who also believe that the situation in Poland has changed. Often linked with the “risk management” and the “just in case” transactional maintenance both personal and institutional. When the test failed, this type of return often ends with re-migration.
  - 3) Return as a Refuge – results from spontaneous decision after changes in personal (e.g. breakup, pregnancy, legal problems) or working (e.g. job-loss) life. Because the return is not well prepared, it might end with the problems with the labour market integration (Cassarino 2004). The LM outcome depends on the individual structural position and the type of work experience gathered abroad.
  - 4) Return for Non-instrumental Reasons/Values – return in order to acquire, restore or maintain non-materialistic values (e.g. unity of family, formal education, care of elderly parents, prestige). It is often combined with the modification of the hierarchy of values, migration is perceived as an enlightening experience, making “more clear” what is one’s ultimate concern. In this case work is of secondary importance and is often treated as purely instrumental.