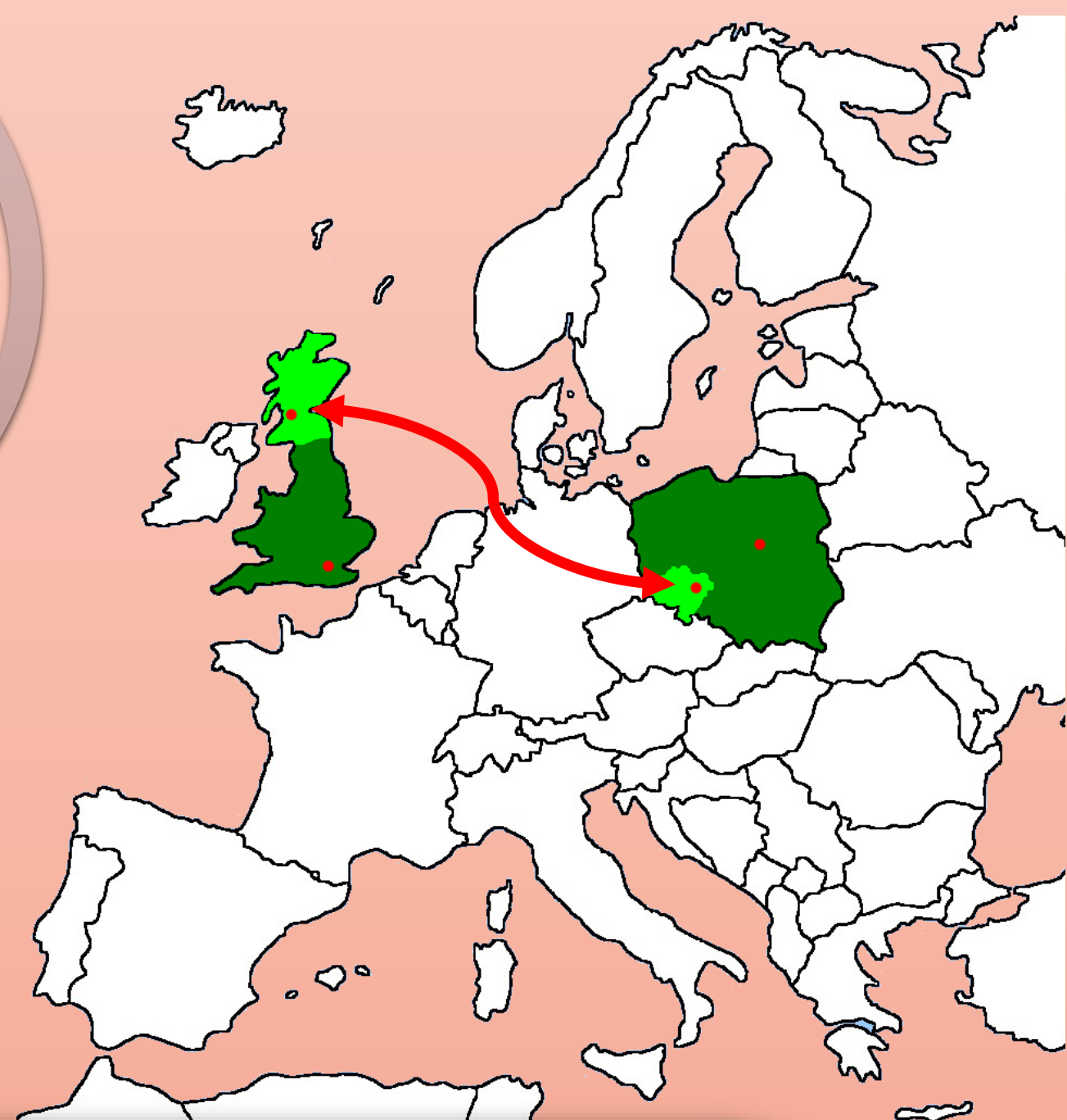
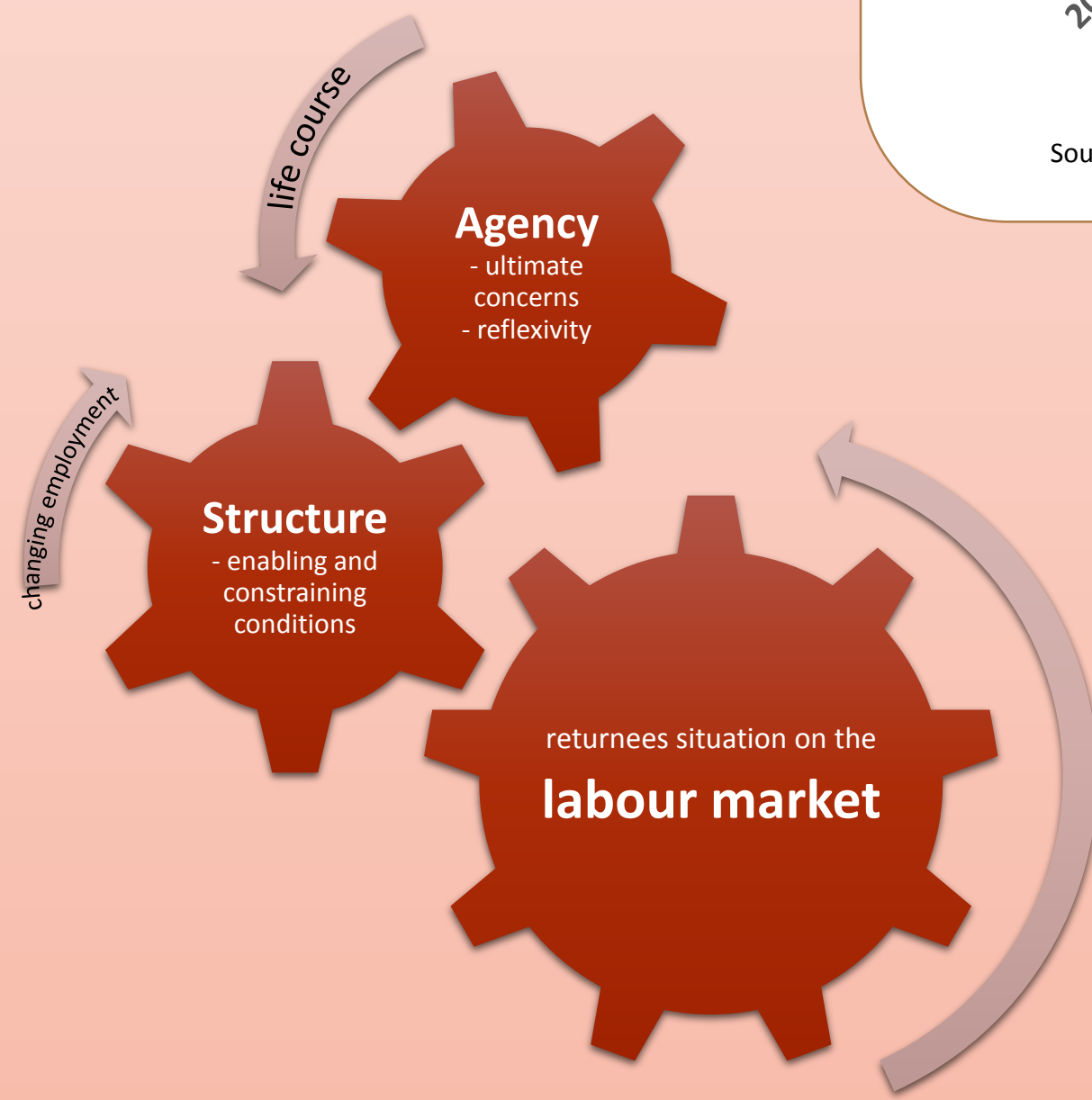
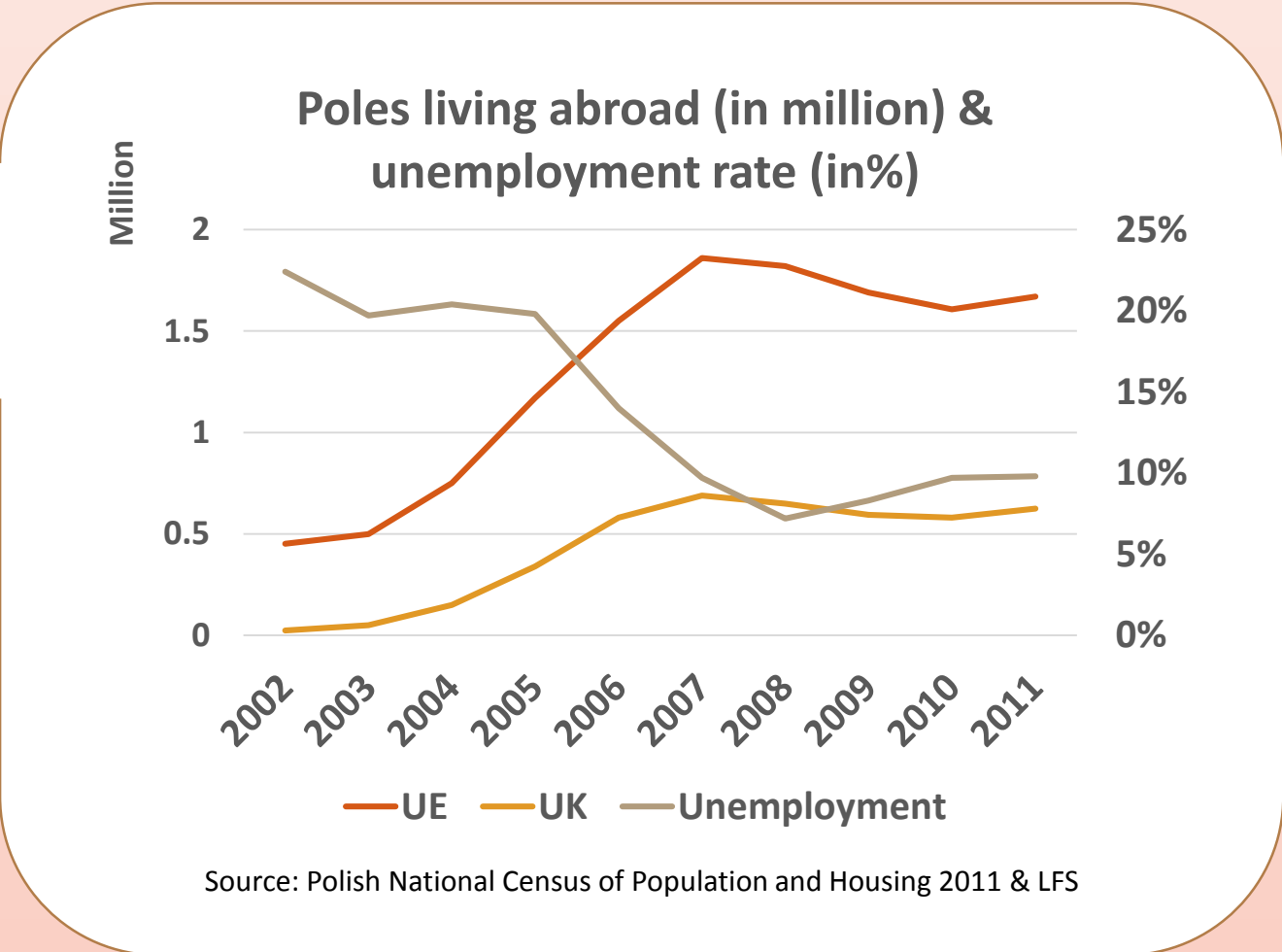


Return migrants inclusion and employment.

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 (700 thousand to the UK)
 - 63% of them under 30 years old having little or no experience on the labour market
 - Polish migrants are better educated than the total Polish population (67,1 % of them have at least secondary education, compared to 48,2% among adequate group in Poland)
 - At the same time (around 2000) the process of precarisation of work in Poland intensifies (Trappmann 2010)
- RETURN MIGRANTS**
- Approximately 300 thousand long-term migrants have returned to Poland between 2002 and 2011 (ca. 73 thousand of them returned from the UK) (GUS 2013)
 - 'Mixed evidence' with regard to the situation of Polish returnees in the labour market
 - Higher probability of unemployment (Anacka and Fihel 2013)
 - Higher self-employment rate (Bieńkowska et al. 2010)
 - High level of remigration (circular migration or the last chance given to Poland) (GUS 2013)
- **THEORETICAL BACKGROUND:**
- Critical Social Realism (Archer 2007) – possible solution for overcoming agency/structure problem, present in the majority of the previous research on return migration (Bakewell 2010)
 - Labour Market Inclusion – understood as an opportunity to access all attached to full time employment rights and securities (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:

- ✓ **Methodes:**
- Biographical Narrative Interviews (Schütze 1984) in framework of realist biographies
 - Secondary Data Analysis (i.a. LFS, national census, WRS,)
 - Experts Interviews
- ✓ **Sample:**
- 40 Biographical Narrative Interviews (untill November 2015, 26 interviews were conducted: 14 women, 12 men, both with return (14) and re-migrants (12); mainly from two regions Lower Silesia (Poland) and Scotland (UK) as well as two capital cities Warsaw and London
 - snowball sampling, mailing and via Internet forum for migrants
- ✓ **Data Analysis:**
- Step 1. Grounded Theory Methodology (Glaser and Strauss 1967) -> open and selective coding
 - Step 2. Biographical Analysis (Schütze 1984)

Realist Biographies - "Our basic supposition is that biographical methods allow us to probe in an epistemically objective way how real people act out an ontologically subjective social world. (...) We want to know how things happen at the level of what real people think and do." (Mrozowski, Turk, and Domecka 2013, 16–17)

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” transnational maintenance both personal and institutional. When the test failed, this type of return often ends with re-migration.
- ❖ 3) **Return as an Escape** – 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** – return in order to acquire, restore or maintain the 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.

Further research questions:

Related publications:

- Karolak, Mateusz (2015) "Migranci powrotni z Wielkiej Brytanii do Polski. Przyczyny powrotów z perspektywy biograficznej" [eng. "Return migrants from the United Kingdom to Poland. Reasons for return from the biographical perspective"] *Opuscula Sociologica* 2/2015, p. 37-51.
- Mrozowski, Adam, Krasowska, Agata, Karolak, Mateusz (2015) "«Stop the junk contracts!» Young workers and trade union mobilization against precarious employment in Poland" in Hodder and Kretsos (eds.) *Trade Unions and Young People: A Global View*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Karolak, Mateusz (forthcoming) "From potential to actual social remittances? Polish return migrants' coping strategies with discrepancies between their previous employment conditions and those in their home country." *Central Eastern European Migration Review* – special issue devoted to social remittances.
- Karolak, Mateusz (forthcoming) "Once you see that it can be otherwise, then you expect something else - Return migrants' perception of employment standards before and after migration" in Fedjuk Olena, Paul Stewart (eds.) *Inclusion and exclusion in Europe: migration, work and employment perspectives*.

What are returnees answers towards exposed by the migration experience lack of the work related securities?

- How the process of the normalisation of the „abnormal” occurs? - (re)construction of subjectivity
- What are the resistance/coping strategies and under what biographical and structural conditions does it take the form of individual or collective actions?
- In what circumstances returnees have impact on their work environment and non-migrants' perception of work standards? (Social Remittances)
- In what circumstances returnees contribute to the slowly growing resistance against the precarious nature of work in Poland or act as heralds and advocates of even greater flexibilisation?

Who?

Supervisor:
Dr hab. Iwona Taranowicz



PhD Student:
Mateusz Karolak
m.karolak@uni.wroc.pl

Co-supervisor: Dr Adam Mrozowski

Where?
Institute of Sociology
University of Wrocław



ChangingEmployment



Funding information - FP7-PEOPLE-ITN-2012 | Project number 317321 ChangingEmployment

www.changingemployment.eu
www.facebook.com/ChangingEmployment