

Social Change Symposium

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Presentation: Confirmation of Candidature, May 2023

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Title: Resilience, Community and Displacement: A Study of Roma Refugees from Ukraine in Poland

Abstract: On 24th of February 2022 the tensions between Ukraine and Russia evolved into the current Russian-Ukrainian war, which resulted in a movement of refugees into countries on the eastern border of the European Union. According to the observations of the UNHCR, refugees, particularly those of Roma ethnic background, have been experiencing challenges while living in displacement (Sytuacja Romskich Uchodźców na Ukrainie, 2022). This research investigates the daily realities, community-building and resilience of refugees from Ukraine who are of Roma ethnicity in Poland, which has a large established local Roma population. Additionally, it investigates how organizations and local Polish Roma people collaborate and what is their role in helping Roma refugees. The proposed methodology is based on ethnography using participatory observation. The aim of the project is to research the community and lives of these refugees, understand how the communities of displaced Roma and local Polish Roma co-exist and ultimately contribute to the knowledge about Roma people and refugees, their communities and resilience in displacement.

Key words: Roma people, refugees, Ukraine, community, displacement, ethnography.