

Homelessness and Migration
Intersections in research perspectives and individual experiences

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Similarities and differences in perspectives

Homelessness research

Easy to define

Hard to define, hard to reach
populations

Theories of causation

Inventing taxonomies

Not that much

Creating a sense of disorder, out of
control

Migration research

Easy to define

Hard to define, hard to reach
populations

Theories of causation

Inventing taxonomies

Politically contentious

Creating a sense of disorder, out of
control

Critical perspectives in migration research

Janine Dahinden (2016)

Migration research anchored in nation states

Normalizing migration is a way to regulate social reality and control the conduct of various groups and individuals

- Study mobility instead
- Study whole population and not just “migrants”
- Study mobility as a part of social theory

Dahinden, J. (2016) A plea for the ‘de-migrantization’ of research on migration and integration. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 39(13):2207–2225.

Polish migration to Belgium

Polish people sleeping rough in Brussels 2008-2012

Homelessness lens: detachment from the formal and informal support networks

Janek

- Born 1962 in North-Eastern Poland
- Left overcrowded substandard parents' house to industrial Silesia in 1978
- Late 1980s criminal activities all over Poland
- 1990s circular mobility to Belgium
- 2007 fall out with a brother, no work
- 2011 deportation and imprisonment in Poland

Polish migration to Belgium



Fieldwork in Brussels



Fieldwork in Brussels



Sylwia Urbańska

Polish women's migration to Brussels

- Circular mobility – escaping abuse and violence at home – from one form of homelessness to other
- Regime of immobility – pioneers of divorce – houselessness in order to stay

Urbańska, S. (2015) *Matka Polka na odległość. Z doświadczeń migracyjnych robotnic 1989-2010*. Toruń: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika.

Urbańska, S. (2021) (Im)mobility, residence and gender in divorce practices and discourses in the rural farming community of East Mazovia, *LUD Organ Polskiego Towarzystwa Ludoznawczego i Komitetu Nauk Etnologicznych PAN* 105:84-113.

Critical perspectives in migration research

(Im)mobility is entangled in individual stories and in homelessness research perspective

Bridget Anderson (2019, 2021)

- A “migrant” is perceived as a person whose movements or presence are problematic - governance of the mobility of the poor (regulating beggars in public space)
- Methodological denationalism: exchanging the lens of migration for one of displacement and citizenship

Anderson, B. (2019) New Directions in Migration Studies: Towards Methodological Denationalism. *Comparative Migration Studies* 7(1):1–36.

Anderson, B. (2021) Methodological denationalism: de-exceptionalising displacement, re-exceptionalising citizenship. *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*. 12(3):300–311.

Ukrainians in Poland

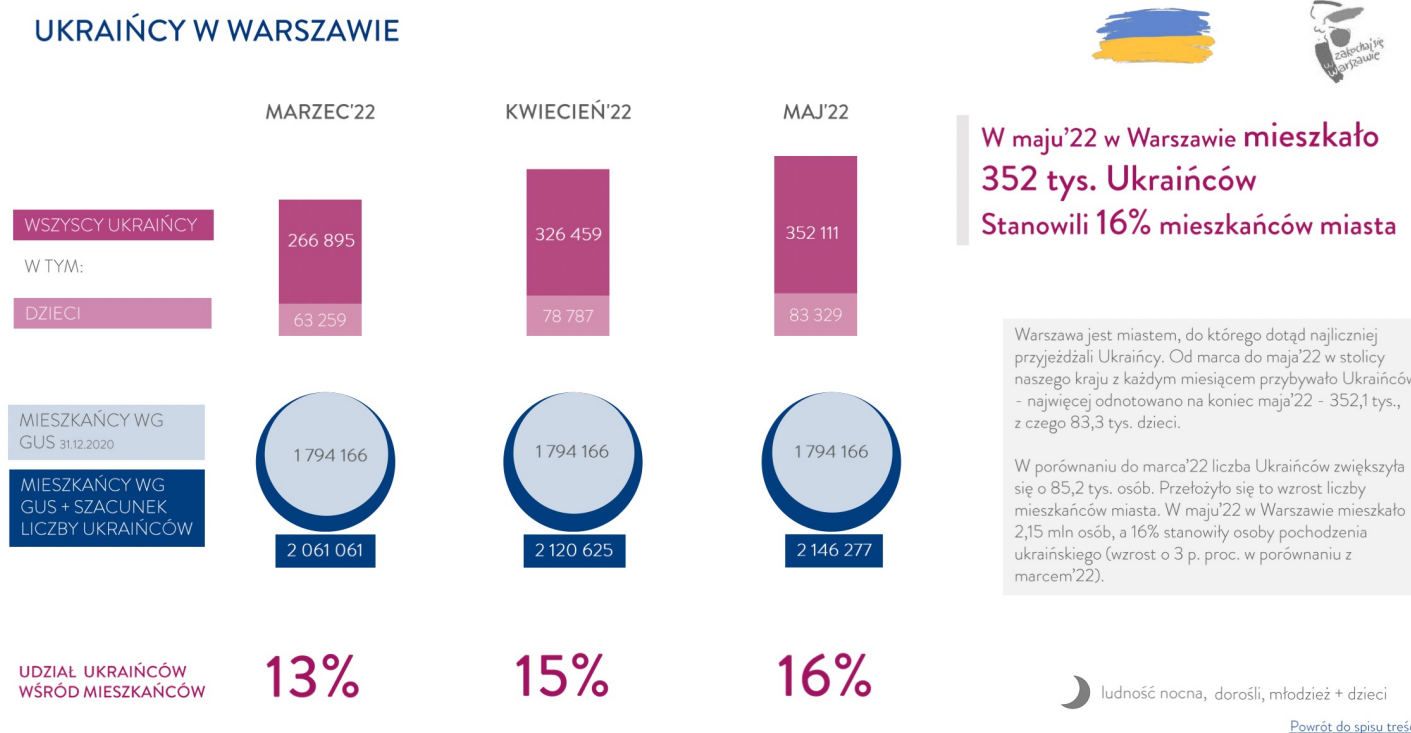
After the Russian invasion on 24.02.2022

How many people came?

- Movement across the border
- Number of personal registrations
- Children at schools
- Child benefits claimed
- Shelters

Address, housing?

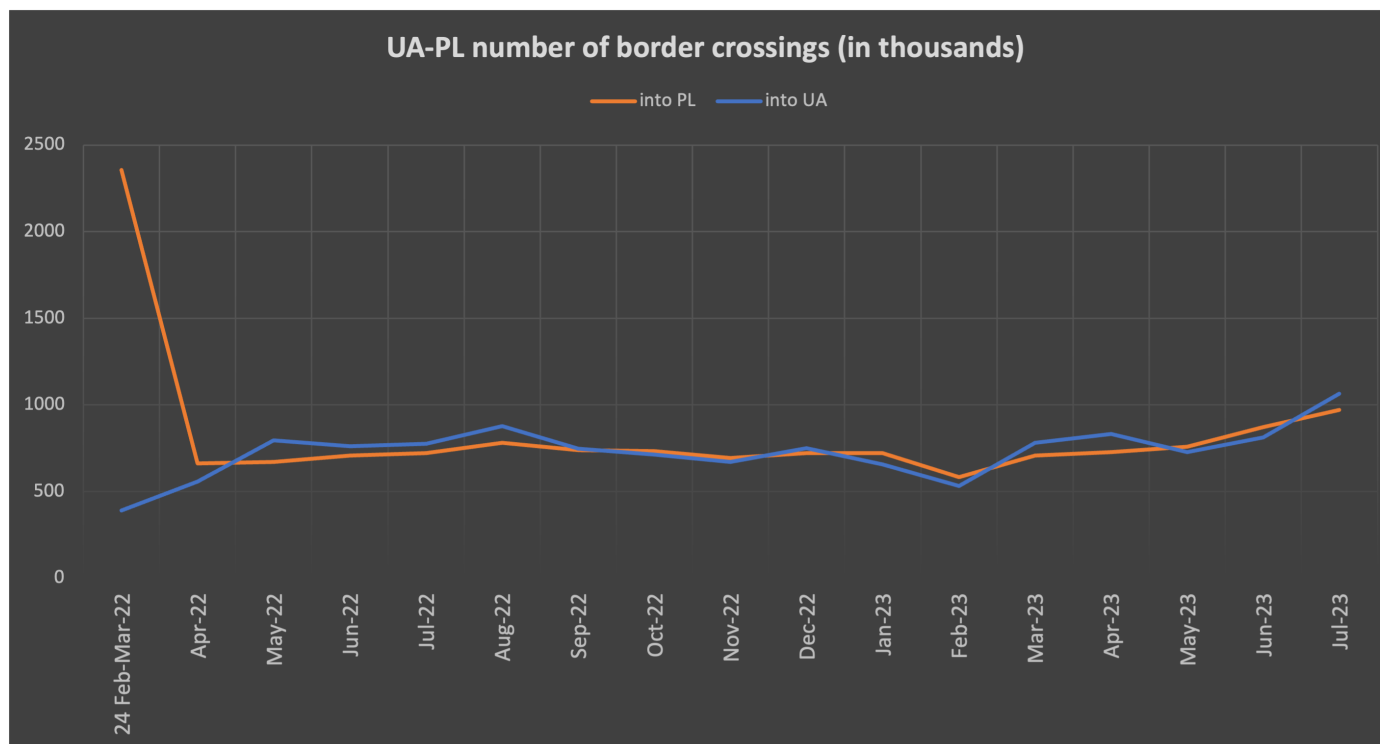
Number of mobile devices



Geotrapping method – number of mobile devices with Ukrainian settings logging in – 3.37M in May 2022

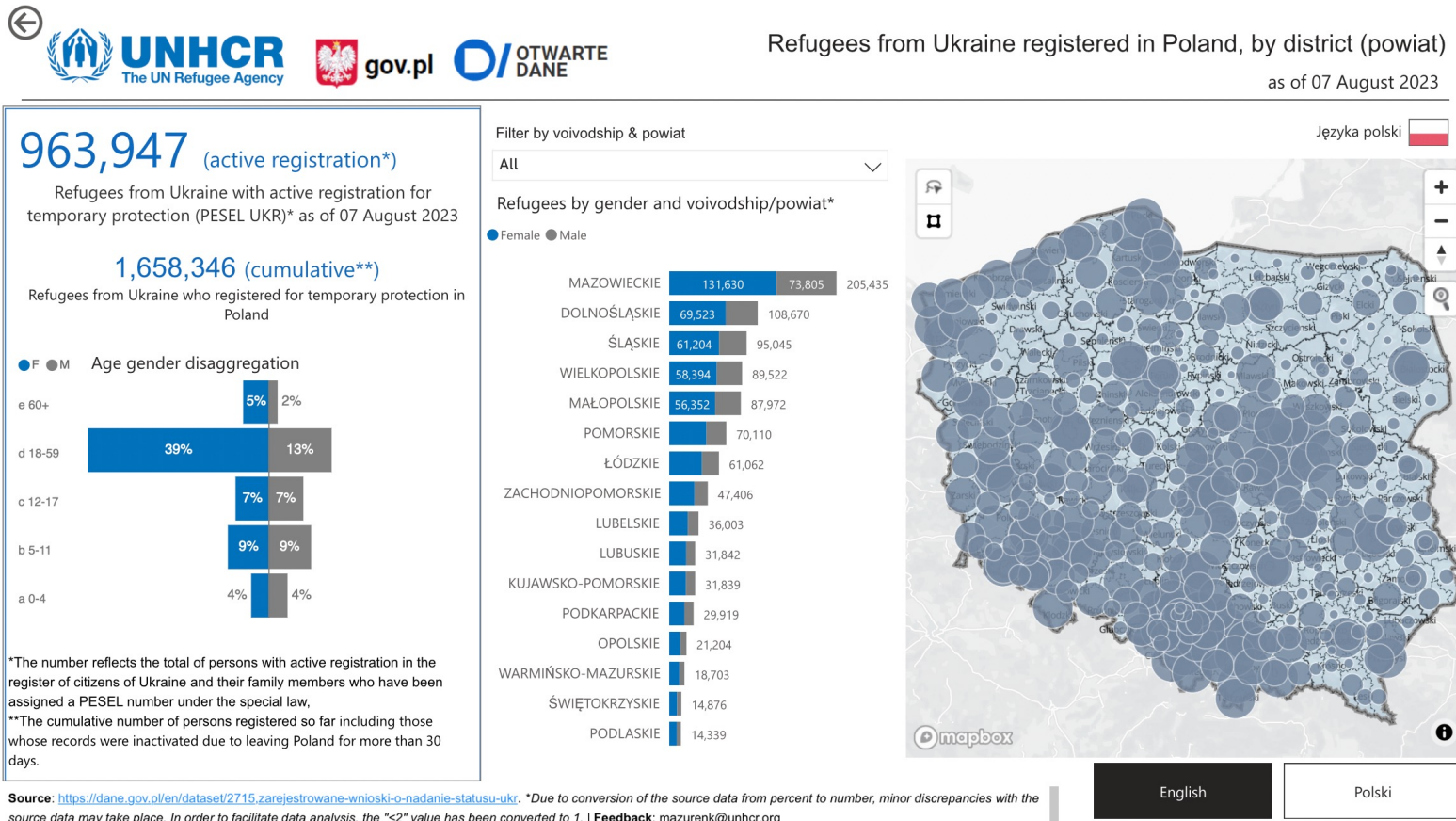
Source: Miejska gościnność: wielki wzrost, wyzwania i szanse - Raport o uchodźcach z Ukrainy w największych polskich miastach, 2022, Centrum Analiz i Badań Unii Metropolii Polskich im. Pawła Adamowicza

Number of border crossings



Source: Own graphic based on the data from the Polish Border Guard, 2022-2023

Number of registrations with authorities

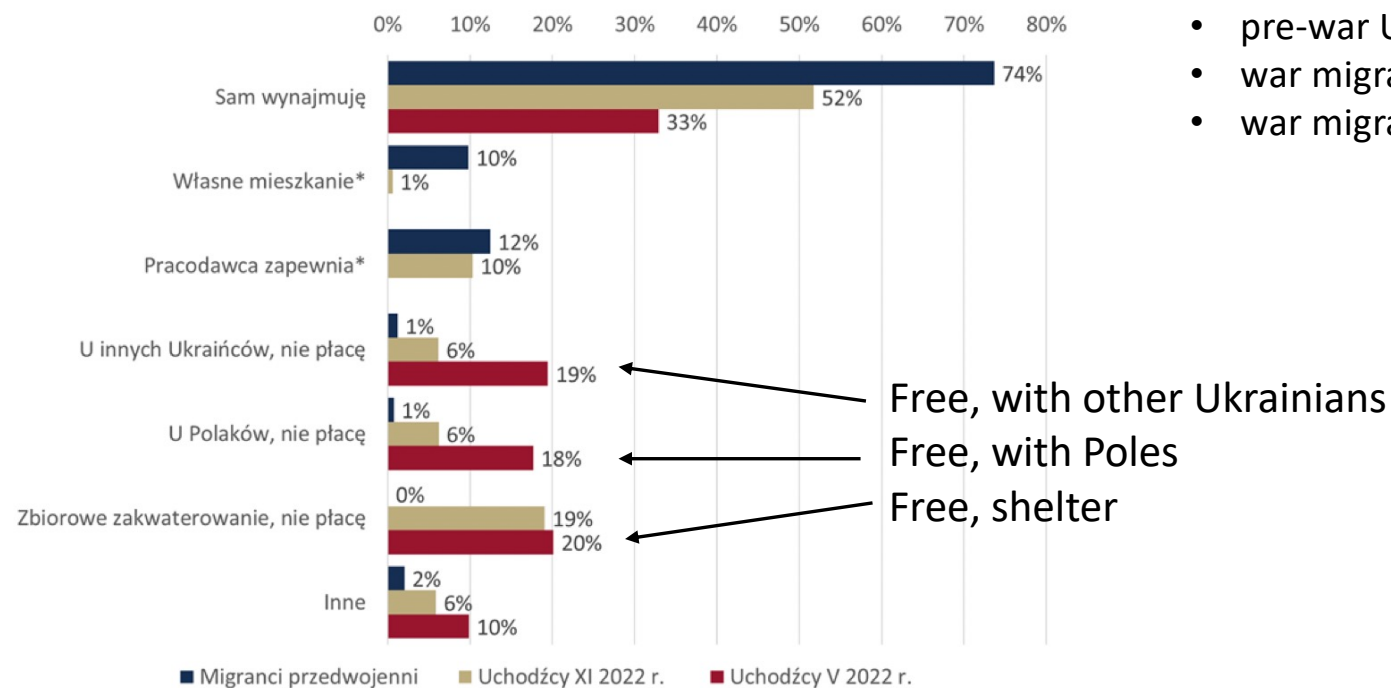


Source: dane.gov.pl – Polish open data portal

Ukrainians in Poland – housing

- Still people in temporary shelters
- Skyrocketing rents
- Exploitation of women who want to rent
- People going back (and forth) to Ukraine
- Internal displacement in Ukraine

Rysunek 8. Miejsca zakwaterowania różnych grup migrantów



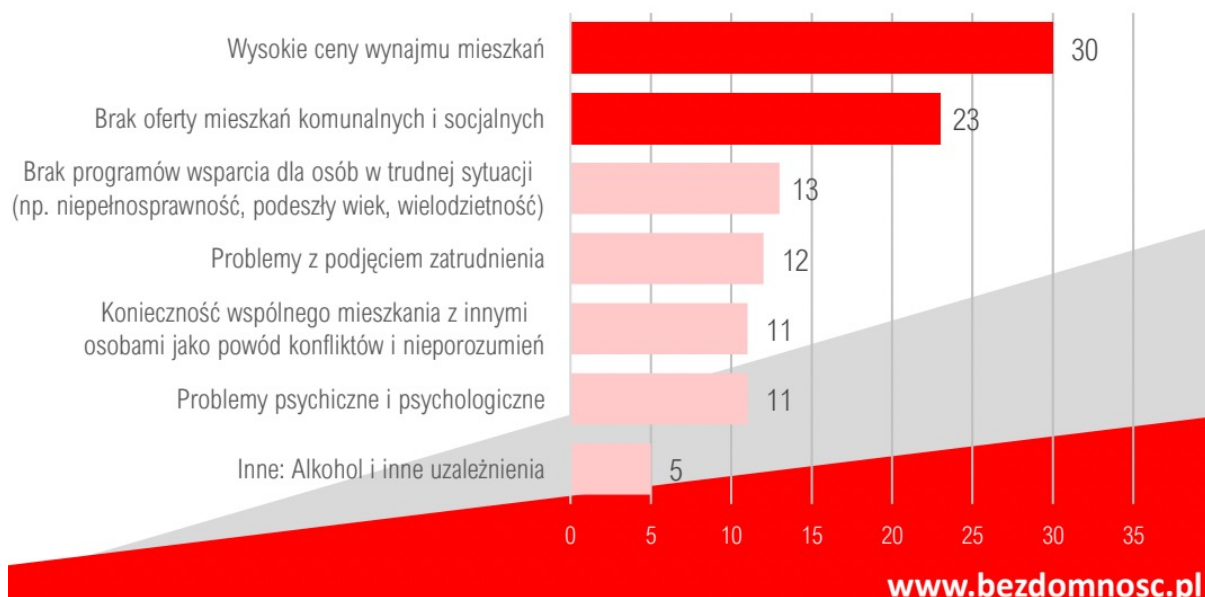
Housing situation of

- pre-war Ukrainian migrants (blue)
- war migrants May 2022 (red)
- war migrants October 2022 (yellow)

Free, with other Ukrainians
 Free, with Poles
 Free, shelter

Source: Sytuacja życiowa i ekonomiczna migrantów z Ukrainy w Polsce – wpływ pandemii i wojny na charakter migracji w Polsce. Raport z badania ankietowego. Narodowy Bank Polski, 2023.

Główne przyczyny zagrożenia bezdomnością wśród uchodźców:



Risk of rooflessness among Ukrainians in Poland – housing needs not met due to:

- High rents
- Lack of municipal dwellings
- Lack of programmes for people with special needs
- Problems with employment
- Conflicts due to living with other people
- Psychological and mental health problems
- Alcohol and addictions

- Support organizations recognize the problem of homelessness and risk-of-homelessness among Ukrainians
- They don't have the capacity to provide housing


Source: Wilczek, J. (2023) Informacja z badania ad hoc dotyczącego ryzyka bezdomności wśród uchodźców w Polsce oraz potrzeb organizacji wspierających uchodźców i osoby w kryzysie bezdomności



Source: Natalya Omelchuk fb

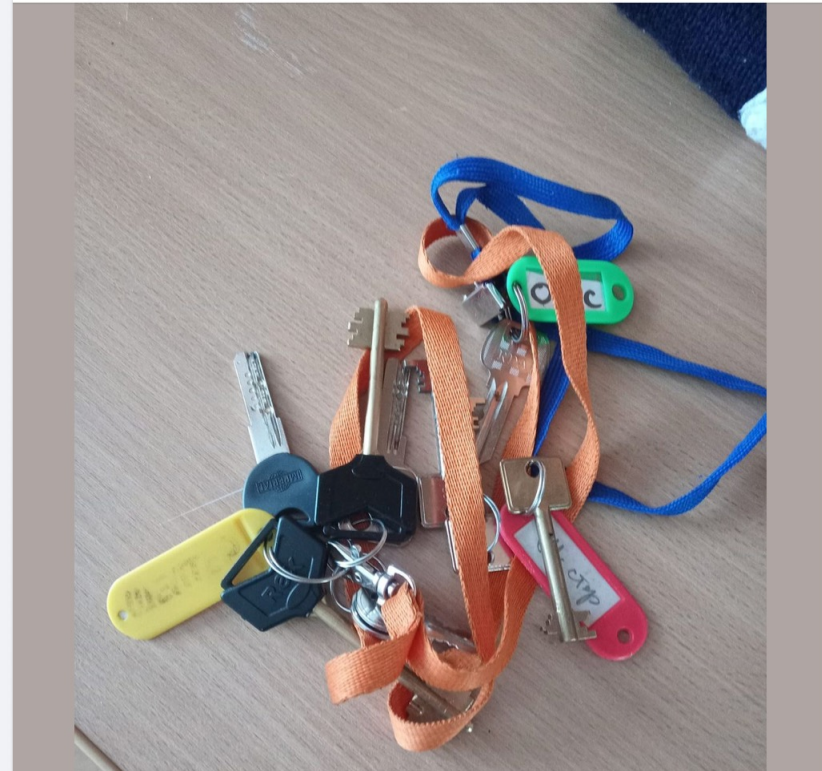


Source: Natalya Omelchuk fb

 Natalya Omelchuk is with Nataly Vasytkova and 3 others. March 19, 2022 · 🌐

Ключі від квартири в Молодогвардійську я ще не викинула. Вони просто лишились в косметичці в Ворзелі. Я їх скрізь возила. Хоч за 8 років брат вже двічі замінив замки і мої ключі не підійдуть, але то є пам'ять.
Вчора я знайшла в рюкзаку ключі від шелтера. Коли ми евакуювали жінок, я забрала їх у колеги, бо мала намір поїхати ще в будинок забрати деякі речі. Але від 24.02 в тому селі йдуть бої - нам "пощастило" бути недалеко від аеропорту Антонов в Гостомелі....
Я не впевнена, що будинок вцілів. Але маю велику на то надію.
І мрію приїхати в шелтер, відкрити двері ключами та випити з дівчатами кави на подвір'ї. Як завжди.

[See Translation](#)





Gavin Turk, L'Âge d'Or, 2011 (Painted bronze 365 x 147 x 81cm)



Gavin Turk, L'Âge d'Or, Wereldvluchtelingendag Rotterdam, 2021 Photo: fadmagazine.com



René Magritte, La Victoire, 1939 (oil on canvas, 72.5 x 53.5cm) image source: wikiart.com



Thank you

René Magritte, La Victoire, 1939 (oil on canvas, 72.5 x 53.5cm) image source: wikiart.com