

## **Academia and cultural production as ‘postmigrant’ fields in Sweden (Dnr. P20-0137)**

Maja Povrzanović Frykman (Professor, Malmö University), Josepha Wessels (Associate Professor, Malmö University), Cristine Sarrimo (Associate Professor, Lund University), Barbara Törnquist-Plewa (Professor, Lund University), Eleonora Narvselius (Associate Professor, Lund University)

### **1. Hur har ditt projekt utvecklats? Förändringar i syfte, frågeställningar, teori, metod, material, genomförande?**

While the project officially commenced on 1 July 2021, the pilot phase started in March 2021. We met to draft the interview guide and then conducted pilot interviews, one per team member. A meeting at which we discussed the pilot interviews resulted in a revised interview guide: we simplified it by connecting some questions and making them more open. Defining the interview questions was necessary at a pilot stage since they were accompanying the ethical review application that was submitted on 28 March and approved on 28 April 2021 (Etikprövningsansökan dnr 2021-01787). The pilot phase also included a research seminar and one conference paper presentation where feedback on our project outline was received from fellow ethnologists at Lund University (27 May 2021) and at the SIEF congress (21-24 June 2021). The project was also briefly presented at the New Nordic Anthropology digital roundtables series (co-sponsored by Southern Methodist University, Stockholm University, and the University of Oslo), in the roundtable ‘Diversities’ (21 May 2021). That occasion yielded the first – self-selected – interviewee who wished to be interviewed after she heard about our project.

We did 40 interviews since the formal start of the project – 23 with persons working in academia and 17 in the cultural production field. 17 interviews were done in person and 23 over Zoom, which proved to be a very good medium for interviewing people in academia who have been using it on daily basis since the outbreak of the pandemics. The overall number of interviews is in line with our plans for the first project year but in some cases, it was not possible to match the interviews with migrants with the interviews with their allies.

Three scientific articles to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals are currently drafted and will be discussed at the first project workshop on 26-27 September 2022.

Neither of the major building blocks of the project, such as the aim, the research questions, or the theoretical framework, have changed. One change, however, compared to how the project idea was presented in the application for funding, refers to skipping the quotation marks around the term postmigration. While quotation marks signalled distancing and expressed hesitation, we now feel fully comfortable with using it as we are convinced that the exploration of postmigration as a theoretical framing of migration-related changes in society can be productive both in scientific and popular outreach terms. We are following the relevant scientific production spanning ethnology, migration, literary and cultural studies and we found the recent volume *Postmigration Art, Culture, and Politics in Contemporary Europe* (eds. Gaonkar et al., Transcript 2021) especially convincing in its review of the uses of the postmigration as a concept that allows for analysing identifications and practices that people with and without migrant experiences may have in common. This is in line with our overall aim of exploring different kinds of alliances that lead to the establishment of migrants and their descendants in positions of professional influence and public visibility in academia and cultural production as the two fields of our interest.

A change that we are currently considering refers to the possible addition of a method, namely autoethnography, to make transparent how our underlying knowledge stems from our own involvement in the fields we study. The team members' texts could be included in an autoethnographic collection with contributions by academics at different stages of professional maturity, who would be asked to focus on events and situations in which relations with others appeared as crucial for their professional establishment. Such a volume could be a side-product of our research, to be completed after the project's official end.

## **2. Vilka är projektets viktigaste resultat som de går att bedöma i nuläget?**

We are still in the process of transcribing some of the interviews, but the main result we can see at this stage is that differences in the ways professional establishment occurs in academia and cultural productions are considerable. Even if reliance on professional allies emerges as central in both fields, academic promotion is guided by formal requirements that make the conditions of competition more transparent in academia than in the field of cultural production. However, we can see huge differences in how an academic career is made possible, perceived, and experienced depending on the academic sub-field.

Also our research participants in the cultural production field can be differentiated according to their professions in the performance art field, whether in music production, literature or theatre and dance. They have different career paths, depending on their national and international networks. In this field language is a versatile concept and does not only relate to actual spoken language but also a shared 'professional' language based on a passion for the profession which leads to connections between migrants and allies.

On the other hand, we can see that the authors who are migrants tend to mention allies who are Swedish; they seem to be dependent on established Swedish allies to be able to publish. This seems to be an effect of power relations in the majority-language driven literary field in Sweden, and we will explore it further within a Bourdieusian framework.

## **3. Vilka nya frågeställningar har projektet genererat?**

How do the meanings of cultural capital, ethnic capital and the fluency in a particular language differ in particular sub-fields within our two fields of interest?

Our empirical interest is directed at the paths to recognition and professional influence of *people who self-identify* as migrants or migrant descendants, but so far, we were successful only in recruiting migrants as interviewees, only a few of which migrated to Sweden at a very early age. Most of them did their PhD studies in Sweden. Is the lack of adequate statistics making our sample biased?

The 'second generation migrants' among university employees in Sweden seems to not yet be at the age when promotion into professorship is likely. There is, however, a methodological challenge related to 'migrant generation' which we do not want to use as it clashes with the idea of postmigration in multiple ways. How shall we approach potential interviewees without pre-categorising them?

Finally, what can we learn from the interview refusals that seem to occur for very different reasons? How can they be productive for our understanding of the complexity of positionalities?

## **4. Hur har de internationella dimensionerna av projektet utvecklats?**

Our advisory board members are from Denmark and Germany, we are presenting the project at international conferences (see 7. below), and we will publish the research results in international scientific journals. Moreover, we collaborate with the international MaHoMe project (see 8. below).

## 5. Hur har information om projektet och dess forskningsresultat kommunicerats?

At this stage, **conference papers** (see 7. below) and **seminar presentations** (see 6- below) yield feedback on theoretical framing and methodological questions rather than results. The interview material is analysed in the papers-in-progress that will be presented and discussed at the **first project workshop** on 26-27 September 2022 for invited participants from our network (see 8. below) and local colleagues. Information of the project is available at Malmö University **webpages** in Swedish and in English (<https://mau.se/en/research/projects/academia-and-cultural-production-as-postmigrant-fields-in-sweden/>) and is linked to all team members' personal pages at their respective universities.

**LinkedIn** post on the project grant had 594 views and the post on the article in which the part of the project concerning the academic is presented had 618 views. This **popular article** "Högutbildade migranter mellan privilegier och förfrämmande" was written by Maja Povrzanović Frykman and published in print and online in TAM-Arkiv's journal *Nio-fem: Tidskrift om arbetsliv & profession* 1/2022, p. 20-27 ([http://www.tam-arkiv.se/sites/default/files/documents/tam\\_publicationer/Nio-Fem\\_nr%201-22\\_e-tidning.pdf](http://www.tam-arkiv.se/sites/default/files/documents/tam_publicationer/Nio-Fem_nr%201-22_e-tidning.pdf)) It was also made available via Malmö University main page, under "Malmö University in the media" news.

## Vilken typ av publikationer kommer projektet att leda till?

As listed in the application for funding, the project will result in peer-reviewed articles and an edited volume as well as in popular articles targeting wider audiences.

## Hur kommer du att säkerställa att dina resultat publiceras enligt RJ:s riktlinjer för öppen tillgång?

The scientific journals we target are full Open Access journals. Our budget foresees the funding of open access to the edited volume to be issued at the end of the project. For advice and support concerning Open Access publishing we will rely on professionals at Malmö University library.

## 6. Hur har projektet integrerats i institutionens/motsvarande verksamhet?

Eleonora Narvselius held a **lecture on uses of autoethnography** for the participants of the Summer Institute for Ukrainian academics and refugees at the University of Alberta (16-19 July 2020, in Krakow), which methodologically resonates very well with our project.

The entire team held **seminars for staff** (including PhD students) at the Ethnology division, Lund University (27 May 2021) and at the MIM institute, Malmö University (21 March 2022).

Cristine Sarrimo initiated and taught **the course "Migrationslitteratur"** (6 ECTS) in Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022 in her own section at SOL, Lund University. First, she initiated the course due to our project. Second, she addressed the project and described it to her students. She used some results from a couple of interviews when she had a discussion with her students on contemporary migration literature, especially around the concept "invandrare" and "invandrarlitteratur" and why these terms are outdated today in a postmigration society. So, the postmigration condition was used as one framework in the course.

Maja Povrzanović Frykman created, taught, and examined the **course module "Critical engagement with analytical tools in migration research"** (15 ECTS) given in Autumn semester 2021 within the of the course "Problems and question in contemporary IMER research" (IM631L, 30 ECTS) at the Department of Global Political Studies, Malmö University. One lecture was devoted to the postmigrant framework and to the RJ-funded project; the selection of related texts were included in the obligatory literature list. The examination essay theme was free for the students to choose and the essays included "Postmigrant research perspectives - An analysis based on German Rap" (Ronja Höver), "A marked

neighborhood’ – how an online exhibition is using a postmigrant perspective to overcome categorization” (Marina Steinle), “How far does recent research into (post)migrant communities acknowledge the tension between top-down and bottom-up identities?” (Adèle Cain) and “Cultural production based on the experiences of immigrants in Sweden, stand-up comedy examples” (Yusuf Sahiner).

In Autumn semester 2021 Maja Povrzanović Frykman had a **research intern** at the Department of Global Political Studies, Malmö University, IMER MA student Heléne Hedberg, who after completing the internship started to work on the thesis “A case (study) of the postmigrant condition? A theoretical exploration of a darbuka university course and the practice of Arabic music in Malmö, Sweden”, supervised by Maja Povrzanović Frykman.

**Music event *Fika Fusion*** to be held on 11 October 2022 at Malmö University has the purpose of promoting the project to wider audiences. It is co-organized by our former research intern Heléne Hedberg, our team member Josepha Wessels, Karolina Rosenqvist, project manager for Kulturstart – Malmö University’s cultural collaborations, and Pär Moberg, Course Director of the Department of Folk and World Music at Malmö Academy of Music. Preliminary confirmation of participating artists includes Carolina Calderon, Buster Blaeslid, Bader Debs and Yahia Alnajem.

**GPS Day** is an annual day-long set of panels on current research at the Department of Global Political Studies at Malmö University, oriented towards colleagues and students across the BA and MA programmes at the department. Our project got a panel slot on 11 November 2022.

The first **project workshop** to be held on 26 September 2022 will be open to interested staff from the universities in Malmö and Lund.

## **7. Har projektets medarbetare medverkat vid nationella eller internationella konferenser; vilka?**

Cristine Sarrimo:

- SASS (Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies) conference *Postcolonial Entanglements* (stream The Politics and Literariness of (Self-)Narration), Puerto Rico 27-30 April 2022 (online participation); paper “Undocumented Migrants’ Life Stories and their Effects on Swedish and Norwegian Migration Boards”
- *Nordic research meeting*, Department of Nordic Literature, Helsinki, 5-6 May 2022; Sarrimo presented our project and the two articles she is working on
- Scandinavian research meeting in Sociology of Literature *Nye perspektiver på litteratursociologi i Skandinavien*, arranged by young researchers from Lund, Aarhus and Copenhagen University, 13-14 June 2022; Sarrimo presented her former research and our current project
- Research Centre for Migration, Diaspora and Exile (MIDEX), University of Central Lancashire conference *Representations of Border Crossings in Media, Literature, and the Arts* (stream ‘Exilic, diasporic, migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking border crossers’), Preston, 15-16 December 2022; paper “Two asylum-seeking border crossers’ autobiographies and their effects on Swedish and Norwegian Migrations boards” – abstract accepted)

Josepha Wessels with Heléne Hedberg:

- 21st Nordic Migration Research (NMR) conference, panel *Postmigration – a new perspective to re-frame migration studies?*, Copenhagen, 17-19 August 2022; paper: “Oud, Qanoun and Darbukkah; the meaning of traditional Arabic musical instruments in postmigrant Sweden”

Maja Povrzanović Frykman:

- 15th Congress of SIEF, panel *Highly skilled migrants: challenging 'integration' categories*, Helsinki/online, 21-24 June 2021; paper: "Academia and cultural production as 'postmigrant' fields in Sweden: Exploring the diversity of alliances" (she also co-convened this panel with Tytti Steel, Helsinki University)
- Annual Conference of the Swedish Anthropological Association (SANT), Gothenburg, 28-30 April 2022, panel *Futurity and temporality of diversity: de-migranticization, the post-migrant and what else?*; paper "Getting beyond ethnicity, identity, and culture in research on diversity"
- 21st Nordic Migration Research (NMR) conference, panel *Postmigration – a new perspective to re-frame migration studies?*, Copenhagen, 17-19 August 2022, paper "From 'research on migrants' to research to the relationships in a society shaped by migration"

**Maja Povrzanović Frykman and the project's Advisory board member Moritz Schramm** (Odense) convened a panel *Postmigration – a new perspective to re-frame migration studies?* at the 21<sup>st</sup> Nordic Migration Research (NMR) conference in Copenhagen, 17-19 August 2022. The discussion of the nine papers presented in the panel made clear the need for further conversations on theory, particularly with the Nordforsk-funded MaHoMe team members.

## 8. Vilka spin-off-effekter har projektet givit?

We found out that our project is compatible with three other currently funded projects, as noted below. The networking with the team members of those projects will involve us in more workshops and possibly also more co-authored publications than originally planned in the project proposal.

### **Nordforsk-funded *MaHoMe* project** (<https://mahomeproject.com>)

Maja Povrzanović Frykman has been invited to act as Advisory Board member for the project *Making it Home: An Aesthetic Methodological Contribution to the Study of Migrant Home-Making and Politics of Integration* – MaHoMe, funded by Nordforsk, Joint Nordic-UK research programme on Migration and Integration. The Principal Investigator is Fran Lloyd from Kingston University, and one of the team members, Eleonora Narvselius from Lund University, is also the member of our team. Moreover, Moritz Schramm serves as Advisory Board member both in MaHoMe and in our project. As advisory board members, we participated in two MaHoMe project meetings devoted to methodological discussions and two papers based on that project were presented at our panel at the NMR conference in 2022 (see point 7. above). We decided to start meeting the MaHoMe team members from Lund and Copenhagen from early 2023 on, in a series of seminars devoted to particular theoretical and methodological questions our two projects have in common.

### **Forte-funded *EPI: Everyday practices of integration* project** (Att praktisera integration) (<https://www.gu.se/forskning/epi-att-praktisera-integration>)

This project involves two senior anthropologists (Lisa Åkesson and Jörgen Hellman) and one PhD student (Signe Askersjö) from Gothenburg University. They consider using the postmigration framework in their investigation of relations in three different workplaces. Maja Povrzanović Frykman was invited to present a paper at the panel *Futurity and temporality of diversity: de-migranticization, the post-migrant and what else?* they organised at the Annual Conference of the Swedish Anthropological Association (SANT) in May 2022. The entire team will participate in our project workshop on 26 September 2022 and give feedback to our papers-in-progress.

### **The Swedish Research Council-funded project *Staging Migration: Rhetoric, Representation, and Reception in Swedish Children's Theater*** (Att gestalta migration. Retorik, representation och reception)

i svensk barnteater) (<https://www.su.se/forskning/forskningsprojekt/att-gestalta-migration-retorik-representation-och-reception-i-svensk-barnteater>)

The project team from Stockholm University includes Anna Lund, Rebecka Brinch and Ylva Lorentzon. The purpose of the project is to produce theoretical and empirical knowledge about the potential of children's theater to stage an inclusive Sweden, and to investigate whether and how social boundaries between 'us' and 'them' may be reproduced as an unintended consequence. Rebecka Brinch will participate in our project workshop on 26 September 2022, and Maja Povrzanović Frykman will meet the entire team in Stockholm after the RJ hearing on 25 October 2022, to learn more about the *Staging Migration* project and discuss possible further collaboration, particularly in relation to public outreach activities.

#### **9. Aktuell ekonomisk redovisning, kort kommentar. Finns några avvikelser? Har medel kanaliseras från huvudanslagsförvaltaren till andra anslagsförvaltare; vilka?**

There are no major discrepancies. However, we saved some funding for conference attendance and fieldwork by using Zoom. RJ confirmed that it will be fine to relocate the saved money to more assistant-hours needed for interview transcriptions. Salary, fieldwork and book costs were transferred to the team members' respective departments at Lund University. In agreement with RJ, the project start was shifted for six months and the total duration of the project will be 42 months.

#### **10. Övriga kommentarer**

Cristine Sarrimo took the opportunity of applying at her department at Lund University for funding a project assistant (50% for 2 months), mainly to transcribe interviews in Swedish and English. If the application is successful, it will add resources to our project.

The second internship position in the project will be offered to MA students at the Department of Global Political Studies, Malmö University, in Autumn semester 2023.

The same project has been awarded funded by The Swedish Research Council (code 2020-01430). We chose the RJ funding since it allowed us to devote more person/months for research. We would like to thank RJ for flexibility with regard to the starting date and with regard to the free disposal of "drift" resources.