Projekt

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Anslagsförvaltare / Grant administrator Malmö universitet 205 06 Malmö	**Forskningsämne / Disciplin:** Etnologi Internationell Migration och Etniska Relationer (IMER) Kulturstudier
Startdatum: 2021-01-01 Slutdatum: 2023-12-31	

Sökta medel / Applied funding

Budgetår / Budget year 2021	Löner Salaries 1 385 509	Drift Operating costs 193 104	Open Access Prod.stöd/support 0 0	Icke-forsk pers Non-research staff 20%	Summa Sum **1 578 613**
Projektdeltagare **Project participants**	År för doktorsexamen Year of PhD exam	Årsarbetstid Annual working time	Månadslön heltid Monthly salary full time	LKP Employer's top-up	Summa Sum
Povrzanovic Frykman, Maja (Professor) 600229	1997	45%	62 100	54,22%	517 161
Wessels, Josepha (Doktor) 730816	2008	10%	44 700	54,22%	82 724
Sarrimo, Cristine (Docent) 600904	2001	40%	53 000	53%	389 232
Narvselius, Eleonora (Docent) 721001	2009	40%	46 000	53%	337 824
Törnquist - Plewa, Barbara (Professor) 601204	1992	5%	63 800	53%	58 568
Budgetår / Budget year 2022	Löner Salaries 1 550 957	Drift Operating costs 204 104	Open Access Prod.stöd/support 30 000 0	Icke-forsk pers Non-research staff 20%	Summa Sum **1 785 061**
Projektdeltagare **Project participants**	År för doktorsexamen Year of PhD exam	Årsarbetstid Annual working time	Månadslön heltid Monthly salary full time	LKP Employer's top-up	Summa Sum
Povrzanovic Frykman, Maja (Professor) 600229	1997	45%	62 100	54,22%	517 161
Wessels, Josepha (Doktor) 730816	2008	30%	44 700	54,22%	248 171
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	Löner Salaries	Drift Operating costs	Open Access Prod.stöd/support	Icke-forsk pers	Summa Sum

Budgetår / Budget year 2023	1 550 957	134 400	195 000	Non-research staff %	**1 880 357**
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Totalt sökt belopp: 5 244 031 kr

Projektledarens (sökandens) underskrift / Project manager's (applicant's) signature

Datum / Date:
Underskrift och namnförtydligande / Signature and name:

Anslagsförvaltarens (prefekts eller motsvarandes) underskrift / Grant administrator's (head of department's or equivalent's) signature

Datum / Date:
Underskrift och namnförtydligande / Signature and name:

Budgetspecifikation / Budget specification

DRIFT: 193 104 (in 2021) + 204 104 (in 2022) + 359 400 (in 2023) = 756 608

ETHICAL REVIEW (in 2021) = 5 000

FIELDWORK travels + lodging in different locations in Sweden, to do face-to-face interviews:
30 000 (in 2021) + 35 000 (in 2022) = 65 000

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS (different persons for interview transcripts in different languages + background data collection): 88 704 (20% in 2021) + 88 704 (20% in 2022) = 177 408

PROJECT ADVISORS' COSTS = 22 000
• 1st project workshop (in 2021): 4 500 (travel from Odense and hotel for M. Schramm)
• 2nd project workshop (in 2022): 6 500 (travel from Berlin and hotel for R. Römhild)
• Project conference (in 2023): 4 500 (M. Schramm) + 6 500 (R. Römhild)

SEMINAR PARTICIPATION in Sweden and abroad, to receive feedback from peers:
15 000 (in 2021) + 7 500 (in 2022) + 7500 (in 2023) = 30 000

PROJECT WORKSHOPS (in 2021 and 2022): coffee + lunch for 15 participants = 19 800

WORKSHOP / CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION in Sweden and abroad, to present standard papers:
40 000 (in 2021) + 40 000 (in 2022) + 80 000 (in 2023) = 160 000

PROJECT CONFERENCE (in 2023), coffee + lunch for 25 participants + travel and lodging costs for invited participants = 19 400

PUBLIC EVENTS (coffee/refreshments) = 5 000

PROOFREADING: 8 000 (2 articles in 2022) + 20 000 (2 articles, 2 book chapters, 1 book introduction in 2023) = 28 000

EDITED VOLUME: production + Open Access costs (in 2023) = 165 000
We plan for an Open Access volume with Palgrave as we have excellent collaboration experience with that publisher, but first and foremost for its global reach and efficient advertising. (For example, the chapters in the project leader's recently co-edited Palgrave Open Access volume 'Conviviality at the Crossroads' had a total of 39 000 downloads in the first six months upon publication.)

ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS, Open Access: 30 000 (in 2022) + 30 000 (in 2023) = 60 000
It is uncertain if our universities' 'Prepaid publishing fees' contracts that allow for Golden Open Access publishing in a number of journals, will be
valid until the completion of the project. We therefore plan the costs for two Golden Open Access fees.

SALARIES

DIREKT LÖNEKOSTNAD:
1 424 651 (in 2021) + 1 175 441 (in 2021) + 1 209 134 (in 2023) = 3 809 227

Maja Povrzanović Frykman (MAU), 16 person/months

Lön inkl lkp: 1 677 475 (2021 40%: 543 444; 2022 40%: 559 158; 2023 40%: 574 872)

Josepha Wessels (MAU), 8 person/months
Lön inkl lkp: 631 116 (2021 10%: 86 928; 2022 30%: 268 324; 2023 30%: 275 865)

Cristine Sarrimo (LU), 14 person/months
Lön inkl lkp: 1 218 804 (2021 40%: 394 320; 2022 40%: 406 150; 2023 40%: 418 334)

Eleonora Narvselius (LU), 14 person/months
Lön inkl lkp: 1 044 180 (2021 40%: 337 824; 2022 40%: 347 959; 2023 40%: 358 397)

Barbara Törnquist-Plewa (LU), 2 person/months
Lön inkl lkp: 192 054 (2021 5%: 62 135; 2022 5%: 63 999; 2023 5%: 65 919)
// 2 person/months will be added as in-kind contribution to the project, from Prof. Törnquist-Plewa's
regular time for research covered by her salary at Lund University //

Josepha Wessels (MAU), 8 person/months

Sammanfattning på svenska (publiceras oredigerad på rj.se) / Summary in Swedish (will be published unedited on rj.se)

Migranters väg till ledande positioner i Europa är fylld med motsättningar och utvecklas inte i samma takt inom alla professionella områden. I det här projektet undersöks hur personer som identifierar sig själva som migranter eller som personer med migrantbakgrund har etablerat sig inom akademi- och kulturproduktionsfälten i det nutida Sverige; det är de två fält som har den högsta representationen av migranter i ledande positioner bland offentliga institutioner.

Internationellt anknyter projektet till den växande europeiska debatten och forskningen om 'postmigrations'-samhället. Där uppmärksammas antagonistiska förhållningssätt till migration samt kampen om deltagande och representation, men även nya allianser som skapas utan att de grundas på ursprung eller kulturellt arv. Vårt empiriska intresse riktas mot universitetslärare och forskare, författare, kulturjournalister och de verksamma inom musik, teater och film. Genom kvalitativa intervjuer kommer vi att studera deras vägar till erkännande och professionellt inflytande.

Projektet förenar etnologi, migrations- och litteraturstudier, och undersöker olika konstellationer av allianser mellan migranter, deras ättlingar och 'infödda' svenskar; det fäster särskild vikt vid rollen som vänskap spelar. Professionellt inflytande och synlighet står i fokus, liksom hur villkoren skiljer sig åt mellan de två fälten. Projektet kommer också att bidra med ny kunskap om det alltför lite utforskade arabiskspråkiga kulturfältet i Sverige.

Sammanfattning på engelska (publiceras oredigerad på rj.se) / Summary in English (will be published unedited on rj.se)

The migrants' and their descendants' presence in leading positions in Europe is full of tensions and does not develop at the same pace in all professional fields. This project explores such processes of establishment in present-day Sweden, in academia and cultural production as the two fields in which migrants have the highest representation in leading positions in public institutions.

This project contributes to the emerging cross-European debate and research on the 'postmigrant' condition that acknowledges antagonistic positions towards migration, and struggles about participation and representation, but also highlights new alliances that are not reduced to origin or heritage. Our empirical interest is directed at the paths to recognition and professional influence of people who self-identify as migrants or migrant descendants, and work as university teachers and researchers on the one hand, and as authors, cultural journalists and professionals in performance arts on the other.

Spanning ethnology, migration and literary studies, the project explores different constellations of alliances between migrants, their descendants and 'natives', with a particular interest in the role of friendship. It addresses issues of professional influence and public visibility, and asks how they differ in the two fields. It also brings insights into the under-explored Arabic language-based cultural field in Sweden.

Projektbeskrivning / Project description

Academia and cultural production as 'postmigrant' fields in Sweden

The research assignment and purpose

Sweden has undergone substantial socio-cultural changes supported by multicultural- and diversity policies aiming at integration of immigrants (Eide/Nikunen 2011). However, since 2015, migration has become a divisive issue, viewed as an unwelcome challenge rather than a benefit to society (Leurs *et al*. 2020).

This project does not set to do 'research on migrants', but **shifts attention to the relationships** emerging in a society shaped by migration. It explores **the ways professional alliances are forged across origins** – between migrants, their descendants and 'natives', in different constellations – and focuses on established professionals who hold positions of high status.

The migrants' and their descendants' presence in high status and leading positions (Zweigenhaft/Domhoff 1998) in Europe is full of tensions and does not develop at the same pace in all professional fields (Neue Deutsche Medienmacher*innen 2020a, 2020b; Peurell 2018). While migrants and their descendants are under-represented in leading positions in Swedish economy, politics, defence, state and municipal authorities (Gabelic/Nordin 2016), they have the highest representation in leading positions in **the fields of academia and cultural production** (*Makten* 2005; Peurell 2018). Our empirical interest is thus directed at university teachers and researchers on the one hand and at authors, cultural journalists and professionals in performance arts on the other.

Former research suggests that work contracts in Sweden are often obtained via personal contacts (Povrzanović Frykman 2012; Tovatt 2013) and identifies the crucial importance of support facilitated by established insiders (Göransson/Lidegran 2005; Olsson *et al*. 2018). Therefore it is urgent to explore what the processes of professional establishment in academia and cultural production look like for migrants and their descendants, and how they may differ in these two fields.

Furthermore, as former research highlights hierarchies related to migrant professionals' race and ethnicity (Alexander/Arday 2015; Behtoui/Leivestad 2019; Law *et al*. 2004; Nkomo 2013; Turner *et al*. 2008), country of origin (Povrzanović Frykman/Öhlander 2018) and social class (Bihagen *et al*. 2013; Flisbäck 2005), we find it urgent to understand how these factors may influence paths to recognition and professional influence in academia and cultural production in Sweden.

Our purpose is **to contribute to the emerging cross-European debate and research on the 'postmigrant' condition** that started in Germany and spread, among others, to Austria, Switzerland and Denmark (Schramm *et al*. 2019), but not yet to Sweden. We see that it requires a stronger engagement with different kinds of alliances that lead to the establishment of migrants and their descendants in positions of professional influence and public visibility.

This project will thus provide in-depth insights into the processes of professional establishment in academia and cultural production as emergent 'postmigrant' professional fields in Sweden (Eliasson 2019; UKÄ 2019, 2020). These fields are marked by different possibilities of (trans)formation of cultural capital and different grounds for gaining professional recognition.

Theoretical framing

Originating in the independent theatre scene in Berlin in 2008, the notion of 'postmigrant' was popularized by artists, intellectuals and activists born in Germany who refused to be labelled as 'foreigners' or 'immigrants' (Donath 2011). It is a political statement in terms of explicit change of perception of the society as shaped by migration in a decisive way, unfolding as a part of the belated negotiations of privileges, access, and exclusion.

Scholars further developed **the 'postmigrant' perspective** to capture the overall plurality of life-stories and backgrounds (Schramm *et al*. 2019), and the societal condition in which migrants and migrant descendants gain visibility in the public

sphere, and are recognized as professionals while remaining reflective upon inequalities affected by actual or ascribed migrant background (Çağlar 2016; Nowicka 2018).

We adopt the 'postmigrant' perspective as a primary basis of a framework that acknowledges **antagonistic positions and struggles** about participation and representation, **but also new alliances** that are not reduced to heritage and cultural belonging (Foroutan 2019; Petersen *et al.* 2019; Schramm *et al.* 2019; Stjepandić/Karalayali 2018) or to a binary distinction between 'migrants' and 'natives' (Glick Schiller 2012; Schramm 2018). Our research involves as equally important professionals who self-identify as 'natives', 'migrants' and 'migrant descendants' (Osanami Törngren 2019), even if it starts with 'migrants' as initial participants. Although the 'postmigrant' perspective endorses the rejection of the 'ethnic lens' (Glick Schiller *et al.* 2006), it urges us to remain sensitive to **the relevance of migration-related experiences** and the obstacles and inequalities that they may entail.

Being aware of the paradox of using the term 'migrant' as part of the criteria for the selection of a part of our research participants, we critically scrutinize this term as a label that may be used to pre-define people's possible positions or to essentialize presumed cultural difference (Povrzanović Frykman 2017). We are also aware of the varying definitions of the terms 'foreign-born', 'foreign background' (Norlén/Rispling 2018), 'people of colour' (Neue Deutsche Medienmacher*innen 2020a) and 'mixed Swedes' (Osanami Törngren 2019) as well as of the possible differences in experiences of migrants from EU and non-EU countries (Sánchez Gassen/Heleniak 2018).

As the project bridges the disciplinary fields of ethnology, migration and literary studies, an important way of ensuring its cohesion is to apply a grid of interlinked concepts that scaffold the research design and justify our methodological choices.

Central concepts are field, cultural, symbolic and social capital, group-making and recognition (Bourdieu 1969, 1993, 1996, 1984). Utilizing **Bourdieu's understanding of a field**, we will be able to capture the diversity of capital mobilized in the symbolic struggles and positionings, which correlates with the plurality of principles of hierarchization in the fields of academia and cultural production in present-day Sweden. We combine it with the **theorizing of transnational social fields** well-established in migration studies (e.g. Levitt/Glick Schiller 2004). Careers in both fields under scrutiny are often characterized by transnational connections and collaborations (Bozeman/Corley 2004; Pettersson 2018).

Bourdieu's concept of convertible capital and its different types is crucial to avoid the trap of seeing migrants or their descendants as unified categories (Tovatt 2013). It also allows to capture the difference between the professionals who migrated due to their competence on demand, and those who have to struggle to achieve the required competence and/or get it recognized.

Human agency, **personal choices** and **individual social mobility** as social class-making factors are also stressed by Bourdieu (1993, 1996). Professional advancement will thus be regarded as an outcome of an interplay between personal positioning, quality of one's cultural and social capital, *and* structural constraints. Furthermore, the project has a strong potential to contribute to the **theoretical refinement of the notion of field** as the socio-cultural domain where actors are involved not only in struggles for recognition and prestige, but also in **friendly cooperation**, and where they create **alliances** and facilitate recognition of each other's unique input.

It may be presumed that **processes of (mis)recognition** (Bourdieu 1984) within these fields, as well as **types and volumes of capital** allocated, play a significant role in forming alliances and collaborations across matters of migration, origin or heritage. Relative openness and transnational aspects of these fields may trigger new dynamics of relation-making underpinned by mutual recognition.

Recognizing the **diversity of alliances**, we differentiate between allies perceived as **mentors** (Blau *et al.* 2010; Bäker *et al.* 2020; Cawyer *et al.* 2002) and **friends** (Akila/Priyadarshini 2018; Rumens 2017; Young/Kidd 2009) and explore the experiences of **gate-keeping** (Greenfeld 1988; Lamont 2010; Shoemaker/Vos 2009). This actor-perspective will allow us to explore micro-mechanisms of selection and conversion of different types of capital in the academic and cultural fields.

We further differentiate between 'friendly relation' (Kurth 1970) and **friendship as a support mechanism** (Cronin 2014) that may have different impacts on recognition of merit and/or talent in the fields investigated. To understand the role of friendship in the professional situation (Briggle/Spence 2009), we draw on the sociology of workplace friendship that understands the porous and mutable nature of these relationships (Rumens 2017). We will explore the professional and personal factors that influence the meaning of friendship, being aware that friendship may blur the boundaries of private and professional life and develop into relations of 'fictive kin' (Pettersson 2018). We will thus also explore the

complexities and downsides associated with work-related friendships – the 'dark sides' (Pillemer/Rothbard 2018) of the ever-present **potential for bias and nepotism** (Lundgren *et al*. 2018; Myklebust 2020).

Methods and material

Personal stories, biographical accounts and **oral histories** on processes of professional embedding, establishment and gaining positions of responsibility, will be collected by the means of face-to-face **open-ended interviews** (Rapley 2001) characterized by **explorative questions** (Bogner/Menz 2009).

The interviews will be conducted with up to 20 professionals who self-identify as migrants, up to 20 who self-identify as migrant descendants, and with up to 40 persons whom they identify as allies important for their professional trajectory (some of whom will presumably self-identify as 'natives'). All are equally important for an in-depth understanding of gate-keeping, negotiations of power and reaching the positions of influence. Initial research participants (half of them academics and half in the field of cultural production) will be addressed directly, to create the purposive sample. Snowballing will be used when asking these participants to help us address their allies. The sample size is appropriate for a rich qualitative analysis (Charmaz 2006).

We will include academics with a range of different disciplinary backgrounds, who hold prominent academic positions at Swedish universities. Cultural producers will include established theatre workers and performers, musicians, and film professionals. The selection of authors, cultural journalists and critics will be based on the fact that they contribute to the public debate on migration issues, and that they are recognized by, and interact with, influential agents in a (trans)national cultural field.

In focusing on profession and operating with the notions of field and capital, we will produce fine-tuned insights into the relevance of migration-related experiences in the processes of professional establishment, intersected with gender (Acker 2012; Hancock, 2016; Sang *et al*. 2013; Yuval-Davis 2011), country of origin, legal status, the length of life in Sweden, the reason for (own or parental) migration, age, educational trajectory (Van Zanten *et al*. 2015) and class background (McCall 2005). This will allow for a complex comparison across these factors. We will in particular strive towards a balanced number of male and female interviewees among the initial participants, in order to be able to explore and compare how gender has affected their career trajectories (Gardiner *et al*. 2007; Hilmer/Hilmer 2007; Ooms *et al*. 2018).

Thematic analysis (Fereday/Muir-Cochrane 2006; Riessman 2008) of the **interview material** will be implemented. A discourse analysis (Foucault 1971, 2008) of **debate articles**, **published and broadcasted interviews** with participants and **reviews** of their work, will help us to get insight into cultural/social capital of the core sample, and also to obtain background information about public representations of migrants and of so called 'immigrant' authors and cultural producers.

To gain a broader insight into the ways in which research participants and their professional environments are represented, interview material will be further triangulated with the analysis of **visual representation** found at **websites**, **social media accounts** and in **private photo- and video archives**, that we would be granted access to. Bourdieu saw photographic practice as an index and instrument of integration, by which the camera 'supplies the means of solemnizing climactic moments of social life' (Bourdieu/Whiteside 1996:21). Therefore photo-elicitation as a visual method, i.e. inserting visual material from personal archives during interviews, will serve well for this study. As a technique it has been used in the fields of migration studies to examine adaptation to ethnic diversity in neighbourhoods (Harper 2002). Using this technique, will give a broader insight into how participants and their professional environments are represented, and how public appearances, moments of formal professional recognition and social media networks can be connected to our participants' reflections on their social capital (Hedenus *et al*. 2019; Tovatt 2013).

Background material will include secondary sources such as migration- and employment-related statistics and reports (e.g. Eliasson 2019, 2020; Kennerberg/Lind 2019; Lundgren e*t al*. 2018), reports on the cultural field (e.g. Kulturanalys Norden, 2017a, 2017b) and on higher education institutions (e.g. UKÄ 2019, 2020), policy documents and debate articles (e.g. Gabelic/Nordin 2016; Nordiska ministerrådet 2012).

On the basis of our former research (Povrzanović Frykman/Mozetič 2019; Povrzanović Frykman *et al*. 2020), we deem the **potential risk** of insufficient numbers of willing participants to be minimal. As a mitigation measure we would use our existent access to both fields and implement snowball sampling in creative ways (Anthony/Danaher 2016). As experienced researchers, we are well-prepared to tackle the **methodological challenges** that may arise from elite interviews (Conti/O'Neil 2007; Harvey 2011; Littig 2009) and 'insider' research (Greene 2014; Perera 2020). We will be

capable to handle **ethical aspects** of the proposed project (Josselson 1996; Obelené 2009) beyond the ethical requirements and recommendations issued by the Swedish Research Council in 2017. A formal ethical review will be obtained and the collected primary data will be anonymized, stored and managed in line with the rules set by RJ and our home universities.

The project plan

Three project meetings per year will be held to update the literature review, refine our overarching conceptual framework, and plan the steps in project implementation.

In **YEAR 1**, we will

- conduct pilot interviews (one each team member), to discuss and possibly amend the interview guide
- interview 10 migrants + 10 migrant descendant professionals + 20 allies
- identify cultural producers participating in current migration-related debates in (trans)national cultural publics
- implement discourse analysis of those debates
- collect and analyze background data on issues of gate-keeping and migrants' presence in the fields of academia and cultural production in Sweden
- analyze interview material obtained in Y1
- draft 2 scientific articles
- organize 1st project workshop
- receive feedback at 4 seminars + present 3 papers at workshops/conferences
- organize a panel discussion in Malmö + other activities targeting non-academic audiences (see Communication Plan)

In **YEAR 2**, we will

- interview 10 migrants + 10 migrant descendant professionals + 20 allies
- analyze interview material obtained in Y2
- submit 2 articles drafted in Y1
- draft 2 more scientific articles
- organize 2nd project workshop
- receive feedback at 2 seminars + present 3 papers at workshops/conferences
- present 3 papers at workshops/conferences
- organize a panel discussion in Lund + other activities targeting non-academic audiences (see Communication Plan)

In **YEAR 3**, we will

- submit 2 articles drafted in Y2
- draft and finalize 2 chapters summarizing the findings
- receive feedback at 2 seminars + present 5 papers at workshops/conferences, including the project conference
- organize the project conference in Malmö
- contact Palgrave, design and submit the book proposal
- write introduction, edit and submit the volume based on the conference
- organize public seminars + presentations for high schools and student unions + other activities targeting society at large (see Communication Plan)

Contribution to the international research front

The 'postmigrant' perspective allows us to push forward a much-needed **epistemological shift** in the disciplines of ethnology, migration and literary studies: **we do not see migrants and their descendants as a separate object of study** (Dahinden 2016), but see **migration as an integral part of continuous societal change** (Römhild 2017).

By exploring relationships across origin and heritage, we reach **beyond the standard path in migration studies, of pursuing research on 'immigrant integration'** (Mügge/van der Haar 2016) or 'labour market integration' (Nohl *et al*. 2006). By exploring the dynamics contributing to the establishment of migrants and their descendants as professionals with high status, we move current research forward by focusing on people with **positions of influence that have not been of dominant interest in migration research**.

Our innovative contribution to migration studies further lies in thinking in terms of sociability (Amit 2015) that goes **beyond the well-established research on migrant and professional networks** (e.g. Raghuram *et al*. 2010; Ryan 2018), and in differentiating between relations with mentors and friends against the background of the processes of gate-keeping.

While there exists a variety of studies on **mentoring** in academia (Blau *et al*. 2010; Bäker *et al*. 2018; Cawyer *et al*. 2002, Schrodt *et al*. 2003), our contribution lies in the focus on migrants and migrant descendants involved in such mentoring and on the experiences of mentors in the field of cultural production.

Migration scholarship on **friendship** tends to focus on private life (Povrzanović Frykman/Mozetič 2019; Ryan 2015) and on migrants' friendships with co-nationals (Hendrickson *et al*. 2011; Morosanu 2013). Our pursuit of friendships links to Kennedy's (2004) study of highly skilled migrants, which shows that friendship grounded in similar professions and lifestyles is more important than co-national or home connections. However, being based on the 'postmigrant' perspective and pertaining to academia and cultural production, it is truly novel.

In literary studies, the 'postmigrant' perspective implies the **rejection of the notion of '(im)migrant literature'** as anchored in the authors' non-Swedish origins. Categories such as 'immigrant writer' and 'immigrant literature' have been questioned (e.g. Beschnitt 2010; Frank 2010, 2013; Gröndahl 2009), since they reduce certain literature to exotic deviations from a national norm (Nilsson 2010; 2013). Our innovative contribution to this field is theoretical, as the 'postmigrant' perspective moves beyond binary distinctions and acknowledges the fact that every member of a society is affected by migration. It is not an exclusive experience shared by 'The Other'; nor do writers or cultural producers necessarily share common views connected with a place of origin. A further contribution to literary studies lies in the project's interdisciplinary methods. Combining the thematic analysis of our interview material with discourse analysis of debate articles, published interviews with our research participants and reviews of their work will enable us to enhance knowledge of how they navigate in emergent 'postmigrant' professional fields.

The knowledge contribution equally pertinent to ethnology, migration and literary studies, is related to the largely under-researched **Arabic language-based cultural field in Sweden**. Arabic is the second most spoken language in Sweden and Arabic culture has been present in the country since three decades. Due to this increasing cultural diversity, public interest in the Arabic language has grown exponentially, with a nine-fold increased participation in courses at the Folkuniversitet alone, since 2012 (Parkvall 2018).

While the project will bring about original empirical material specific to Arabic language speakers among our interviewees, analyzing that material in a wider comparative framework proposed above, will help us understand relations which 'unsettle, render unstable, ideas of otherness' (Bromley 2017:38) and make **an original contribution to the cross-European debate and research on the 'postmigrant' condition**.

The internationally most important work in the research area concerned

The 'postmigrant' perspective started to yield contributions to knowledge on the multiple influences of migration to societal change in a number of disciplines such as ethnology (Römhild 2014, 2017), sociology (Hill 2016; Hill/Yıldız 2018), migration studies (Foroutan 2019; Foroutan *et al*. 2018; Moslund 2019; Yildiz 2010, 2016; Yildiz/Hill 2014, 2017), theatre (Litvin/Sellman 2018; Sharifi 2017; Stewart 2017), music (Reitsamer/Prokop 2014), media (Thomas *et al*. 2019), art (Petersen 2019), literary (Geiser 2015; Romeo 2006) and cultural studies (Bromley 2017; Gaonkar *et al*. 2020; Gaugele 2019; Petersen/Schramm 2017; Schramm *et al*. 2015, 2019) as well as European studies (Bojadžijev/Römhild 2014; Römhild 2018). A recent volume that explores how immigrant filmmakers use film to find a place in a new cultural situation (Sundholm/Andersson 2019) is also highly relevant to our project.

The **studies of friendship** most important for this project include those on workplace friendships (Briggle/Spence 2009; Rumens 2017), on 'fictive kin' (Pettersson 2018), on friendship as a support mechanism (Cronin 2014), and on informality, voluntariness, communal norms, and socio-emotional goals as the defining features of friendship (Pillemer/Rothbard 2018).

The researchers' roles, skills and qualifications

The team has **complementary methodological expertise** pertaining to different strands of qualitative analysis of narrative, textual and visual material and **complementary disciplinary expertise** that will produce added value in terms of complexity of analysis and depth of contextualization.

The team's fluency in Swedish, English, Dutch, Croatian/Serbian/Bosnian, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian and Arabic will contribute to the **quality of the interview material** obtained in the mother tongue of the majority of interviewees.

All researchers will conduct and analyse interviews and participate in communication of results.

Maja Povrzanović Frykman, Professor of Ethnology, Malmö University (MAU), is an internationally recognized migration scholar who published widely on refugees and labour migrants, transnational migration, representations of migrants, and highly skilled migrants. As the project leader, she will organize the project workshops and the final conference, and take responsibility for data protection and archiving, data security and ethical measures. She will ensure effective team collaboration and guarantee that the planned activies are done on time.

Cristine Sarrimo, Associate Professor in Literary Studies, Lund University (LU), brings into the project her accumulated expertise in testimonial and autobiographical narratives and migration literature (Sarrimo 2012, 2015, 2019). She will perform a discourse analysis of current debates on migration and migrant cultural production.

Josepha Wessels, Visual Anthropologist and Senior Lecturer in Communication for Development, MAU, authored the world's first monograph about the history of Syrian documentary cinema and video activism (Wessels 2019), conducted research on Syrians in the Öresund region, and a life history study of Syrians in Germany and the Netherlands. She is currently a senior co-researcher with a 6-year VR funded research environment on Refugee Migration and Integration in Jordan, Turkey and Sweden, in collaboration with Gothenburg University. She has unique access to artistic and social networks of Syrians in Sweden.

Barbara Törnquist-Plewa, Professor in East- and Central European Studies, LU, is a cultural historian who studied identity, collective memory and heritage in relation to nationalism, minorities and ethnicity. In this project, she draws on her former leadership of the COST research network 'In Search for Transcultural Memory in Europe' and her work on intellectuals in the field of cultural production and heritage sectors (Kowalski/Piekarska-Duraj/Törnquist-Plewa 2019).

Eleonora Narvselius, Associate Professor in European Studies, LU, will draw on the knowledge gained in the project 'Crafting Academic Heritage in Lund, Wroclaw, Lviv and Kaliningrad'. Her recent publication on the ways of meeting diversity and otherness in heritage institutions (Narvselius 2019) provides a useful background knowledge. She currently participates in the NordForsk project MaHoMe that investigates the cultural effects of migrant integration policies in the UK, Denmark and Sweden, and Horizon2020 project SO-CLOSE focusing on integration of miratory heritage into the European public space.

Most **scientific outputs will be co-authored**, in different constellations of co-authorship. The conference-based volume will be co-edited by Povrzanović Frykman, Sarrimo and Narvselius.

Up to 3 students in the MSc programme International Migration and Ethnic Relations (IMER, MAU) will be offered **research internship** in the frames of the project. They will be supervised by the project leader. (The interns are not paid, but granted 30 credits within their MSc programme.)

Resource needs

All researchers are employed 100%. The funding will cover: salaries (Povrzanović Frykman 45%, Sarrimo 40%, Narvselius 40%, Törnquist-Plewa 5% + 5% in-kind, not funded by RJ, Wessels 10% Y1, 30% Y2&Y3); ethical approval; project advisors' participation (2 workshops, conference); fieldwork travels; interview transcripts + background data collection (assistants, 20% Y1&Y2); conference- and seminar participation in Sweden and abroad; conference organization; proofreading and Open Access costs; public events.

International collaborations

A grant of 300 000 SEK issued jointly by our home faculties in 2019 facilitated six team meetings and four public seminars at the Malmö Institute of Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare, MAU. We hosted Oskar Rosén, the General Manager and co-founder of the Arabic Theatre in Stockholm and two highly profiled academic promotors of the 'postmigrant' perspective: Professor **Regina Römhild** (Institute for European Ethnology, Humboldt University, Berlin) and Associate Professor **Moritz Schramm** (Institute for the Study of Culture, University of Southern Denmark, Odense). Both agreed to take the role of **project advisors**. Collaboration with the advisors will ensure our participation in the ongoing development of the state-of-the art in research employing the 'postmigrant' perspective.

Povrzanović Frykman is a part of an international consortium that applied in 2020 for funding of a H2020 project on narratives of migration led by Dr. **Wiebke Sievers** from the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Another well-established contact is the prominent migration scholar **Ayse Çağlar,** Professor at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Vienna University. Both wrote on the 'postmigrant' perspective (Çağlar 2016; Sievers 2019), and will be invited to participate in the project conference and contribute to our edited volume.

Narvselius is a team member and Povrzanović Frykman a member of the international network of the **NordForsk project MaHoMe** mentioned above. Connections to this project will help us reflect on our results in a broader perspective.

Povrzanović Frykman is the initiator and leader of the Malmö University-based **Highly skilled migrants research network** involving 72 researchers from 18 countries, able to provide advice and feedback.

Communication plan

Multidisciplinary academic audiences

We will submit **4 journal articles**, **2 book chapters** and **1 book introduction** during the life-time of the project, and expect more publications to emerge after its formal completion. **Up to 3 MSc theses** will be completed by the IMER MSc students as project interns.

We will target **peer-reviewed journals** in ethnology (*Ethnologia Scandinavica*, *Ethnologia Europaea*), cultural studies (*International Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Culture Unbound: Journal of Current Cultural Research*), migration studies (*Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Nordic Journal of Migration Studies*), journals focusing on academia (*Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*) and qualitative methodology (*International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, Q*ualitative Research*), and prioritize those with full Open Access.

The interdisciplinary **edited volume** (Palgrave Open Access) will summarize the project results and include the contributions based on the final **project conference.**

For critical feedback we will use existent national and international networks and discuss our work at **8 seminars** in Sweden and abroad. We will organize **2 interdisciplinary project workshops** that will involve the project advisors and our colleagues and students.

We will present **11 papers at workshops and conferences** in Sweden and abroad (including the conferences organized by Nordic Ethnology and Folklore, SIEF, IMISCOE, Nordic Migration Research, ACS Crossroads Conference, and the project conference).

Communication of results will be ongoing in our regular **teaching activities**, targeting colleagues and students in the programmes on BA, MSc and PhD level. After the formal completion of the project, we will organize **a joint MSc and PhD summer course** in collaboration with our international colleagues.

Society at large

Besides delivering scientific results, the proposed project will offer useful information for atcors working with equal treatment across origin in the labor market in Sweden. We will publish **at least 5 articles in daily press**, **cultural journals** (*Subaltern*, *10TAL*, *Teatertidningen*), and **trade union journals** for academics (*Universitetsläraren*), journalists (*Journalisten*) and writers (Författaren).

To further communicate the results to cultural producers, university leaders, human resources professionals and representatives of professional organizations, we will use the existing infrastructure upheld by dedicated teams of professional communicators at our home universities, to issue **press releases** and **podcasts** (via MEDEA at MAU, HumLab Studio at LU), **blogs** and **social media contributions**. We will also use MAU's established collaboration with Malmö Festivalen, LU's stand at Göteborg Book Fair and Humanistdagarna at LU.

To brainstorm and share knowledge with external stakeholders, we will use our contacts with the policy-oriented Migration Studies Delegation (DELMI) and the migrant-led Diversify Foundation that focuses on highly skilled migrants. We will organize **2 public seminars** (at MIM, MAU) and **2 panel discussions** (at STORM Innovation Hub, MAU), in collaboration with *Sydsvenska Dagbladet*, Författarförbundet, Reporters without Borders, ICORN,

Journalistförbundet, and Swedish PEN.

To address the perceived 'lack of good role models' (Gabelic/Nordin 2016) among the migrant/descendant professionals in the fields of our interest, we plan **2 presentations in high schools** in Malmö and Lund and **2 in collaboration with the student unions** at our home faculties.

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