

Short Project Description: Lives of Young Migrants in Aging Societal Contexts (LYMAS)

LYMAS places focus on ageing societies as a macro context for understanding the experiences of younger migrants with the overall aim of understanding how this group experiences the local, national and transnational implications associated with ageing family, community and societal contexts. The question of what kind of effect an ageing society will have on younger generations has rarely been directly engaged with within research and there is a paucity of studies addressing the question of how multiple dynamics of minoritisation and exclusion are associated with being young, a migrant and/or an ethnic and cultural minority intersect with the broader realities of living in an ageing societal context. We anticipate that this focus provides a unique perspective on understanding processes of societal ageing, enabling a comprehensive analysis of what it means to live in an ageing society. We hope to examine the challenges associated with aging populations and the policy responses to demographic aging across multiple European contexts, examining for example how developments such as cuts in social benefits, migration and youth and family policies, affect younger migrants in terms of their decision-making and life trajectories and choices.

The selected countries Germany, Switzerland, Poland, and Austria offer diverse yet comparable socio-economic and cultural contexts, with different histories of migration and systems/approaches to migration control. We see this as a basis enabling us to comprehensively reflect on similarities and contrasts between the experiences of young migrantised people across these regions. We also anticipate that our transnational and comparative focus can yield valuable insights on regional developments and dynamics of population ageing and their connections to transnational regimes of mobile labour in these contexts. In our analysis, we aim to examine the following research questions:

1. How young migrantised people and their families are affecting ageing demographics and the wider structural societal changes that are associated with population ageing (including a focus on regional national and transnational developments)
2. How ageing kin networks and multi-generational in families and society in general impact the young migrants and their life trajectories (as related, for example, to relationships, family planning, life-long-learning, work, employment, migration/mobility, social inequality).
3. Understanding the roles of young migrants in the support networks of their elderly kin in consideration of disparities in elder care provision affecting migrant families).
4. Understanding the impact of demographically determined societal changes in the roles, obligations and relationships of younger migrants, including emerging intergenerational interdependencies and relationships.
5. Understanding the nature/purpose of intergenerational kin keeping among younger migrants and the associated costs and benefits.

Methodologically, we follow a multifaceted approach and combine policy analysis and expert interviews with participatory, visual methods. In this way, we want to examine the political and social macro-contexts as well as the perspectives of young people themselves.

If you have any questions regarding the application, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Edward Omeni via email: omeni@dezim-institut.de