



## *Linking Northern Communities socially, culturally and economically: East European Immigration in Scotland*



### Seminar 2: *Transnational Biographies*

18 December 2014, 5-7 pm

Scottish Universities Insight Institute Glasgow,  
Strathclyde Campus, Collins Building, 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ  
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When people cross political, national, linguistic and religious borders and decide to stay, they start belonging not only to new communities. They also face – despite the victory of globalisation and an international market – different cultural contexts, mentalities, collective memories and values. They bring their own heritage which reminds them that they are and remain foreigners even once they master the language and adapt to local customs. Scots and East Europeans should remember that they have been migrants and settlers in each other's countries for centuries. At some point these newcomers stop being migrants and integrate, even assimilate. This has been the case with elite burgher families of Scottish descent in Polish, Lithuanian and Hungarian towns as much as with Poles, Slovaks, Czechs, Romanians, Russians and other Baltic and East Central European migrants who entered Scotland through various historical and contemporary waves of migration.

In an event organised and funded by the Scottish Universities Insight Institute, a series of short papers by specialists on migrants' history and culture will focus on individual "transnational biographies". The aspect of Scots abroad is going to be stressed here just as much as migration to Scotland. One's memory of origin often melts into the experience of a new environment and society very quickly, but it also causes conflicting identities and even heightened consciousness of one's own heritage. The idea for this public seminar and discussion is to explore the long-term impact of migration and the importance of history for identity-formation for individuals within communities through their biographies. One of the most important issues to be discussed include the question at which point someone stops being a migrant without becoming a 'native' of his/her new home.

Speakers:

Professor Waldemar Kowalski (Kielce University):  
*Scots and Jews in historic Kraków and Poland*

Professor Andrew Blaikie (Historical Sociology, University of Aberdeen):  
*Visual documentation, Polish/Lithuanian identities and social interaction in the 1940s*

Dr David Worthington (University of the Highlands and Islands):  
*Scots in East Central Europe – the Leslie Family in Slovenia*

Professor Mairead Nic Craith (Heriot Watt University Edinburgh):  
*Migration and cultural transfer: Ewa Hoffman's Lost in Translation (1989)*

Nicolas Le Bigre (University of Aberdeen):  
*Considering 'Home(s)': Transnational Voices from North-East Scotland?*

The discussion will be led by Professor Karin Friedrich (University of Aberdeen).

**Please register until 15 December at this [link](#)**

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