

## BOOKS RECOMMENDED

### **The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics**

Edited by  
**Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra,  
and Fernando Casal Bértoa**

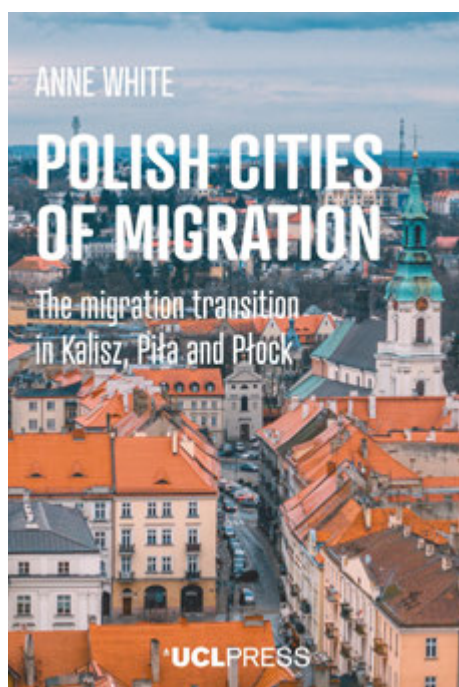
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2025, 1120 Pages

ISBN: 9780192873149

*The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics* provides students, researchers, practitioners, and interested readers with the most complete analysis of Polish politics and society yet published. Including cutting-edge contributions from specialist scholars across the world, it is a comprehensive and up to date reference work and authoritative source on Polish Politics.

Poland is the fifth largest European Union (EU) member state, representing in terms of size and population more than half of the EU enlargement in 2004. On October 27th 2021, it celebrated the 30th anniversary of the first free and fair parliamentary elections. During these 30 years, the country has achieved unprecedented progress and has gone through substantial political and economic transformation. These dynamics make Poland a fascinating laboratory to unfold complexities of post-communist processes and developments, from transition to democracy, to democratic backsliding and backward. Although Poland itself is reasonably well-researched, above all together with other Central East European countries, a prestigious systematic and in-depth analysis in English language in the format offered by an Oxford Handbook is unprecedented.





Anne White

## **Polish Cities of Migration**

**The migration transition  
in Kalisz, Piła nad Płock**

London: UCL Press 2024, 338 Pages

PDF ISBN: 9781800087354

EPUB ISBN: 9781800087361

Hardback ISBN: 9781800087316

Paperback ISBN: 9781800087330

*Polish Cities of Migration* analyses how Poland is transitioning to a new identity as a 'country of immigration,' although its 'country of emigration' identity remains strong outside a handful of bigger cities. The book explores two interconnected puzzles: how Poland's migration transition is influenced by the fact that it is simultaneously a country of emigration, and why migrants are spreading out beyond the metropolises, often settling with their

families in smaller cities with limited labour markets, cities from which Poles themselves continue to migrate. It argues that migrants' feeling of comfort in such locations can be explained mostly by network and lifestyle considerations. These link to impressions that local Poles—who used to be migrants themselves, and/or have family and friends abroad—possess pragmatic and accepting attitudes towards migration, particularly from Ukraine.

The book is based on in-depth interviews with 37 Polish return migrants, 70 Ukrainians and 17 other foreigners living in Kalisz, Płock and Piła. Key concepts include migration culture, livelihood strategies and place attachment. The analysis is situated within a wide range of existing secondary literature and contributes towards understanding the impact of migration on Poland, Ukrainian labour migration and wider global migration processes in the twenty-first century.

## **Reconfiguring Relations in the Empty Nest**

### **Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay**

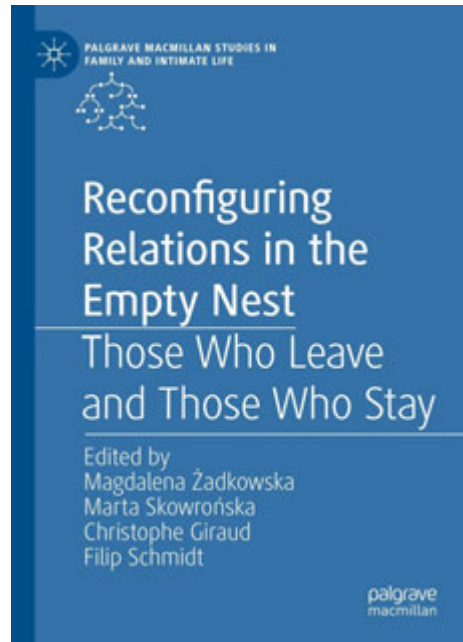
Edited by  
**Magdalena Żadkowska,  
 Marta Skowrońska, Christophe Giraud,  
 Philip Schmidt**

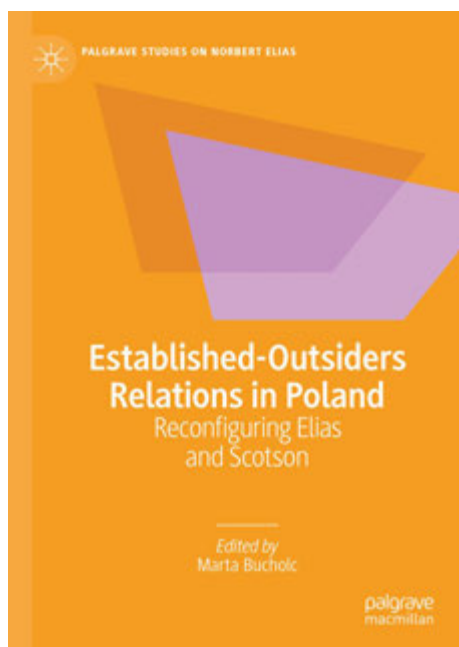
Cham, Springer International Publishing/Palgrave  
 Macmillan, 2024, 340 pages

ISBN 978-3-031-50402-0  
 eBook ISBN 978-3-031-50403-7

This edited volume traverses the spectrum of experiences that take place after children leave the family home and parents find themselves in the “empty nest” stage of life. Rather than focusing on measuring the intensity of empty nest syndrome or asking

whether parents’ marital satisfaction increases or decreases in this phase, the authors present rich qualitative data from across Poland and France to show that there is great variation in how families experience the empty nest, developing both a study on intimacy and love and on family solidarity. Throughout the book, themes of mixed emotions, nuanced attitudes, contradictions, and dissonance are explored while shedding light on “supporting actors” of the empty nest transition, such as family pets and material objects.





## **Established-Outsiders Relations in Poland: Reconfiguring Elias and Scotson**

Edited by  
**Marta Bucholc**

Palgrave Macmillan; 2024, 291 Pages

ISBN-10: 3031495225

ISBN-13: 978-3031495229

This book uses Norbert Elias and John L. Scotson's *The Established and The Outsiders* to map selected established-outsiders figurations in Poland after 1989. Looking at gender and sexual orientation, nationalism and patriotism, race and class, antifeminism and homophobia, elitist and populist imaginaries, religious and political ideals and ideologies, hate speech, and the crisis of the

rule of law, this book tracks how inequalities are transformed into figurations of the have and the have-nots by way of spatial, symbolic and institutional exclusion. This edited collection is rooted in a socio-historical understanding of the trajectory of Polish society before and since the fall of Communism over thirty years ago, and a critical assessment of the dramatic turn that Polish society has taken since the beginning of the democratic backsliding in 2015.