



2023 Master internship at University of Gdańsk



TITLE : Couple and Dog. Relationships and interspecies bonds in private life and public space – international perspective

LAB & PEOPLE

- Name of the hosting lab: *Survey of everyday life, Institute of sociology, Faculty of social sciences*
- General activities of the lab: Exploring everyday and intimate life based on sociological qualitative methods.
- Website:
- Number of staff / PhD: 2
- Supervisor name and contact: dr Magdalena Gajewska, dr Magdalena Żadkowska ;
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TOPIC OF THE INTERNSHIP

- Scientific context of the internship (max 20 lines)

A noticeable trend among young Europeans is the choice of conscious childlessness. Many among such couples choose to include a dog in their pack. In our project, we look at both the choice of childlessness and the processes of creating an interspecies community. The aim of this sociological project is to describe the bond-building process in interspecies group. From the moment the couple co-habitates with the representative of another species to the moment the relationship is tamed and ritual practices of daily life are built. Realisation of the responsibilities of integration and adaptation to the norms and values of the human family (cleanliness training, health, place in the family structure and in the space of the house/apartment). We are meeting the couple/human person at the moment of relationship building. Looking at communication processes and expectations. We discover the division of household responsibilities related to caring for a new household member, to be re-examined after two years. What kind of divisions we can observe in it? What is the definition of family and familiarity by the respondents at the beginning of the relationship and after two years. We would like to capture styles of relationship building. Values and norms associated with 'animal life'. Capturing attachment styles among both human and non-human actors in family life. Ways of spending leisure time. Quantity and quality of time spent together at the beginning of the relationship and during the relationship after two years. We examine whether parenting roles, if adopted, at the beginning of the relationship are functioning in the relationship after two years. If so, to what extent they have expanded or narrowed. We recognise the impact of the presence of a pet on the relationships between the human

household members and the family lifestyle, and how the quality of life of the individual members of the human couple has changed. Has the presence of a pet affected lifestyle change? We ask about affective intimacy and narratives of intimacy. What are the levels of emotional commitment to love in the interspecies family (children vs. parents, partner vs. partner, practices of expressing love). Are we 'allowed' to love a dog/cat more than a human anymore? Family conflicts - conflicts over space, order, conflicts over understanding time, Resistance and aggression in the interspecies family. Our goal is to analyse the incorporation of behavioural needs into the daily life practices of the interspecies families.

Keywords: Human, non-human, family, dog, couple, intimacy, sociology, qualitative sociology, sociology with animals

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Tasks and duties entrusted to the student:

The student's task in the project will be:

- 1) Recruit couples for the study in their country of origin.
- 2) Collecting 10 online interviews from couples with dogs from their country of origin.
- 3) Preparing transcriptions of these interviews.
- 3) Assisting in desktop research.
- 4) Participating in scientific seminars dedicated to interspecies families.
- 5) Preparing in a team a text comparing families with dogs in Poland with families in his/her country of origin.

Skills to be acquired or developed:

We expect students to:

1. Experience in conducting sociological qualitative research mainly interviewing and transcription skills.
2. Independence in the process of recruiting people for the study.
2. Ability to work in an international team

PROFILE OF THE DESIRED STUDENT

- Minimum level of study required: **Bachelor's degree in sociology**
- Field(s) of study: **Sociology**
- Scientific skills : **Qualitative methodology**
- Language skills required : **English at a level that allows free oral and written communication.**

THE INTERNSHIP ASSIGNMENT:

Desired duration of the internship (in months): 3 month

Desired Starting date of the mission: *(please indicate the level of flexibility)* : **starting in February -March 2024**

Indicative weekly schedule: *20h / week*

Remuneration ? *no*

Erasmus grant : could be asked to your own university

Internship agreement: *an internship agreement will be signed.*

To SEA-EU students:

If you're interested please send your CV and letter of motivation to the scientist in charge, email before the date / / 203.