

This research project aims to develop our historical and cultural knowledge about the processes of migration processes in the 20th-century Polish and Lithuanian music cultures. Although the scholarly interest in migratory movements and diasporic music cultures has increased impressively in recent decades in Poland and Lithuania, this field of Polish and Lithuanian music studies is still fragmented and limited in terms of interdisciplinary and comparative approaches. Overcoming established and still dominant monocultural narratives of 20th-century Polish and Lithuanian music emigration, the research proposal will contribute to a shift in national music history writing as a history of global migratory movements, interconnections, and networks.

Encompassing France and the USA as the main centres of attraction and diasporic locations for Polish and Lithuanian musicians during the short 20th-century, the project offers a transnational approach to chronologically and geographically diverse musicians' activities and works, which have never been studied together before. The research will be based on case studies focusing on the actors and their musical and cultural networks, on musical works and events as crucial contact zones of emigration, and on the role of music culture in (trans)forming and enacting diasporic identities and reaching out to audiences both in the diaspora and in the homeland.

The project will produce publications: a special issue of scholarly journal, a collection of articles, several peer reviewed articles. Two conferences and two workshops in Warsaw and Vilnius, symposium in Paris and common panel discussion at the conference in Chicago will increase the visibility and network of the teams. The curated exhibition and popularization of project's findings in new media will make results accessible to a non-academic audience. The research proposal is relevant as the first collaborative transnational study to broaden our understanding of the Polish and Lithuanian émigré music cultures providing a more comprehensive view on global migration of musicians, musical concepts and works, while opening up the prospect of further research in this area.