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# Polish Migration to the North East of England: Social Capital and Integration

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# Presentation outline:

- Introduction
  - Background and context to study
    - MA Study
  - PhD research
  - Proposed methods
  - Ethical and practical issues
  - Summary
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# Introduction

- 1+3 Studentship
- MA research



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# Background and context to study

- In May 2004 ten new states joined the European Union (EU)
  - Controversial – ongoing debate
    - Implications of migration to the UK
    - Work experiences of migrants  
(Dustmann et al, 2003; Wallace, 2002; Wallace and Stola, 2001; Spencer et al, 2006)
  - Less attention to experience beyond the workplace
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# MA study

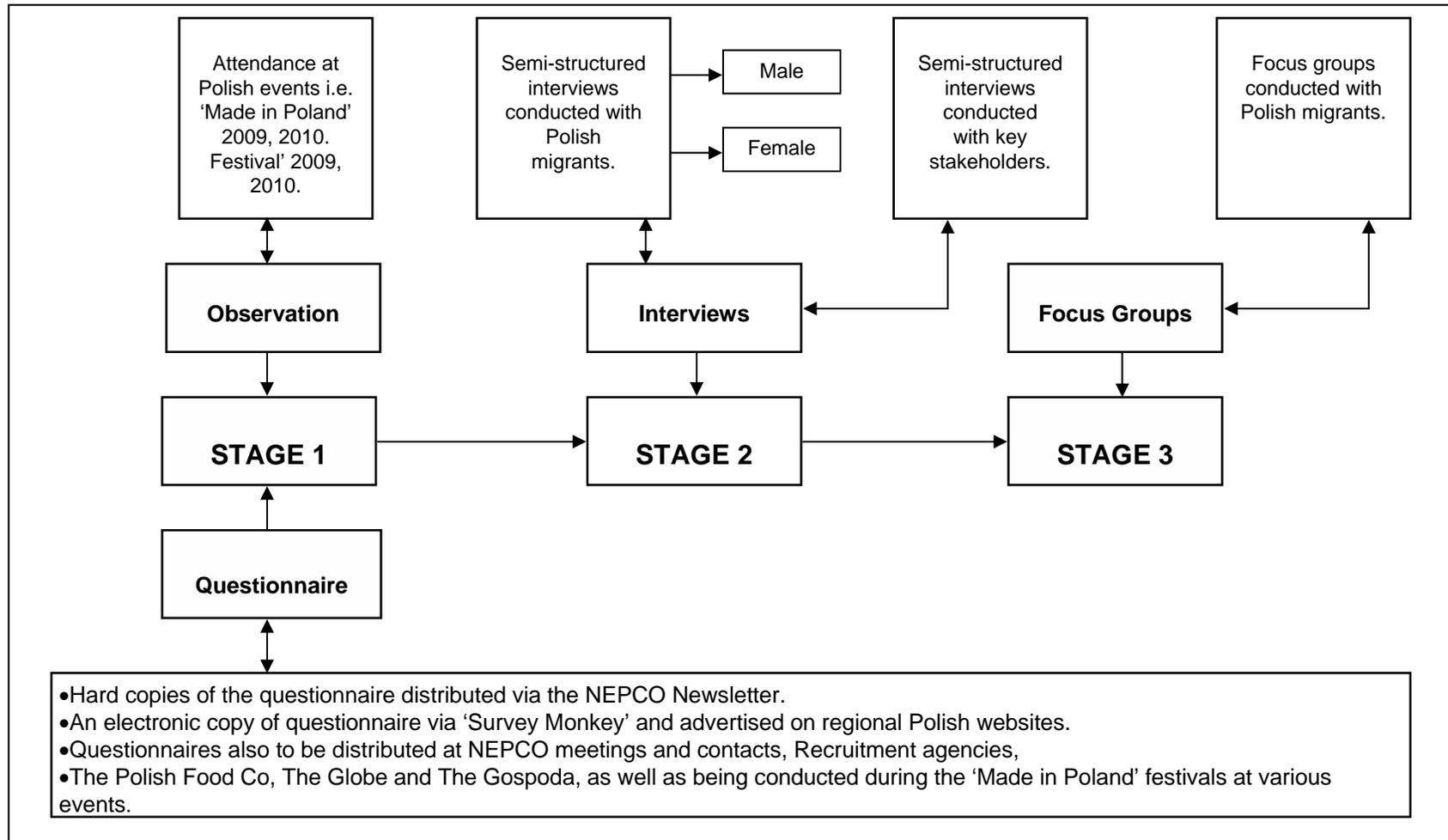
- Participation of Polish migrants in cultural activities in the NE
  - Case study approach over 3 stages:
    1. Questionnaires/observation
    2. In-depth interviews
    3. Focus groups
  - Limitations
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# PhD Research

- What type of activities lead to increased levels of interpersonal trust and broaden social connections for Polish migrants in the NE?
    - What is the relationship between social capital and integration for this group.
    - Does this directly or indirectly affect the migrants decision to stay or leave?
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# Proposed methods



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# Ethical and Practical issues

- **Harm and Risk**

- What might this study do to hurt people involved?
- How likely is it that such harm will occur?
- How to be sensitive when asking questions?

- **Honesty and Trust**

- What is my relationship with the people that I am studying?
- Am I telling the truth?
- Do we trust each other?

- **Privacy, Confidentiality and Anonymity**

- In what ways will the study intrude or come closer to people than they want?
- How will information be guarded?
- How identifiable are the individuals and organisations studied?

- **Intervention and Advocacy**

- What do I do when I see harmful, illegal or wrongful behaviour by others during a study?
- Should I speak for anyone's interests other than my own?
- If so, whose interests to I advocate?

Adapted from Miles and Huberman (1994:p292)

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# Summary

Through a case study of Polish migrant participation in the cultural sector in the NE, the PhD will seek to examine:

- The way in which Polish migrants in the region build social capital.
  - The relationship between social capital and integration for this group.
  - The impact this relationship has upon the migrant's decision to stay or leave the region.
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