

Making sense of disruptions: Strategies of re-grounding of ailing Polish immigrants in Melbourne, Australia

Author/s: Manderson, L. Rapala, S. | **Year:** 2005 | **Publication type:** Journal article | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** General Wellbeing

Reference:

Key Words:

lifecourse, Polish, ageing, life histories

Research aim:

Using life histories and illness narratives, in this paper we explore how ailing Polish immigrants to Australia re-ground themselves in new locations.

Results/Conclusion:

We identify two distinct frameworks within which re-grounding is attempted: knowledge-based, in which the individuals rely on professional knowledge brought from the country of origin; and faith-based, in which individuals rely on religious values and precepts in order to make sense of their transformed lives and bodies. These frameworks are not mutually exclusive, but rather, they function together to allow individuals to make foreign locations familiar. Which system comes to the foreground at a given time depends on the participants' age: the younger participants tend to rely on professional experience, while older people turn towards faith.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s):

Polish

Location of study:

Victoria (Melbourne)

Age group:

Number included in study:

8

Type of participants:

older Polish people who attend a Planned Activity Program, coordinated by Australian Polish Community Services

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Narrative analysis

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: