

## **Gendered Power Relations and Demographic Crisis**

[Professor Rachel Murphy](#)

Funder: British Academy - Pump Priming Collaboration between UK and EU Partners

The project focused on China, Japan, Poland, Slovakia, Russia and Ukraine. These countries have different political systems, cultural institutions and histories and different experiences with socialism and capitalism. But they are all countries with low fertility; rapidly ageing populations; strong familial welfare regimes; state-based neo-traditional representations of family; cultures of gendered complementarity; and racialised imaginings of nationhood that affect how immigration policies are used to redress shortages of labour for production and care work. These are also all countries where policy-makers have explicitly identified a demographic crisis and have tried through various measures to encourage women to have more children to reverse low fertility rates. Using an intersectionality-inspired ethics of care lens the project's four roundtable discussions explored different kinds of vulnerabilities and sources of insecurity that are integral to different individuals' possibilities to navigate (a) their reproductive lives and (b) their roles as both caregivers and care receivers across the life course. The project members also experimented with examining the concept of 'crisis' through an ethics of care lens in ways that would lead to redressing intersectional gendered inequalities.