

## In/visibility and Difference: A Visual Methods Workshop – Berlin, 3-4 December 2015

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### In/visibility of Immigrant Mothers' in the City

#### Abstract

Just a single look at current European debates on migration makes it clear that some migrants are more equal than others. What is also true is that some migrants are more visible than others. Migrants' desirability is closely connected with their visibility – or, rather, the lack thereof – in host societies. To put it bluntly, the migrants who blend in well do not cause as much controversy as those who stand out. Whereas much has been written about migrants' visibility, the multiple and complex layers of migrants' *invisibility* invite further exploration. Inspired by the work of [Dawn Mannay](#) and [migrantas](#), among other practitioners of visual and participatory methods, I asked Polish women in Birmingham to draw how it is for them to be (immigrant) mothers in that city. A discussion of and later analysis of these drawings provide not only visualizations of mothering practices, but also a commentary on various meanings of the urban. The drawings, together with accompanying stories, are included in a gallery on a website I have been developing with [Sarah Klepp](#) of TRANSFORMIG. During the workshop I will launch the website and discuss possible ways of opening it up to larger audiences as an interactive, participatory project.