This lecture is based on a qualitative research project which compared the attitudes of transgender men in Poland and the United States toward dominant notions of masculinity in their respective countries.

Focusing on people who had been recognized as female at birth but self-identify as male, the lecture addresses their ways of defining masculinity, attitudes toward accomplishing socially acknowledged patterns of maleness and re-defining their gender identity. It compares Polish and US transgender men’s efforts to negotiate personal and social identity in light of dominant masculine ideals (e.g., their potential reworking, acceptance and rejection of various elements of those ideals) and explores how alternative notions of masculinity shape different experiences of female-to-male transition in both countries. The research was funded by the Polish - U.S. Fulbright Commission.

Dr. Anna M. Kłonkowska is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Sciences, University of Gdansk. She is a sociologist, psychologist, philosopher; her research interest include: transgender studies (with particular interest in trans masculinities), men’s studies, sociology of the body. Dr. Kłonkowska facilitates one of the few support groups for transgender people in Poland since 2010 and cooperates with the Trans-Fuzja Foundation and Tolerado Gdansk. She is also the editor-in-chief of the sociological journal, Miscellanea Anthropologica et Sociologica. Selected publications: Masculinity: Assigned–Reassigned–Socially Constructed: The Social Reception of Trans Masculinity in Poland, Men and Masculinities; and Making Transgender Count in Poland: Disciplined Individuals and Circumscribed Populations, Transgender Studies Quarterly.

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