
Studying migrants homes: Ethics, Participatory Ethnography and Visual Research

Anna Pechurina,
Leeds Beckett University

The study of migrants' home cultures

- ❖ Interviews with 30 families / people
- ❖ Mixed social and generational background
- ❖ Focus on intangible dimensions (a sense of Russianness)
- ❖ How (Russian) migrants recreate a sense of home country or a feel of their culture / cultural identity within the home.
- ❖ participatory / visual / home ethnography
- ❖ Chapter 3 in *Material Cultures, Migrations, and Identities* (Palgrave, 2015)



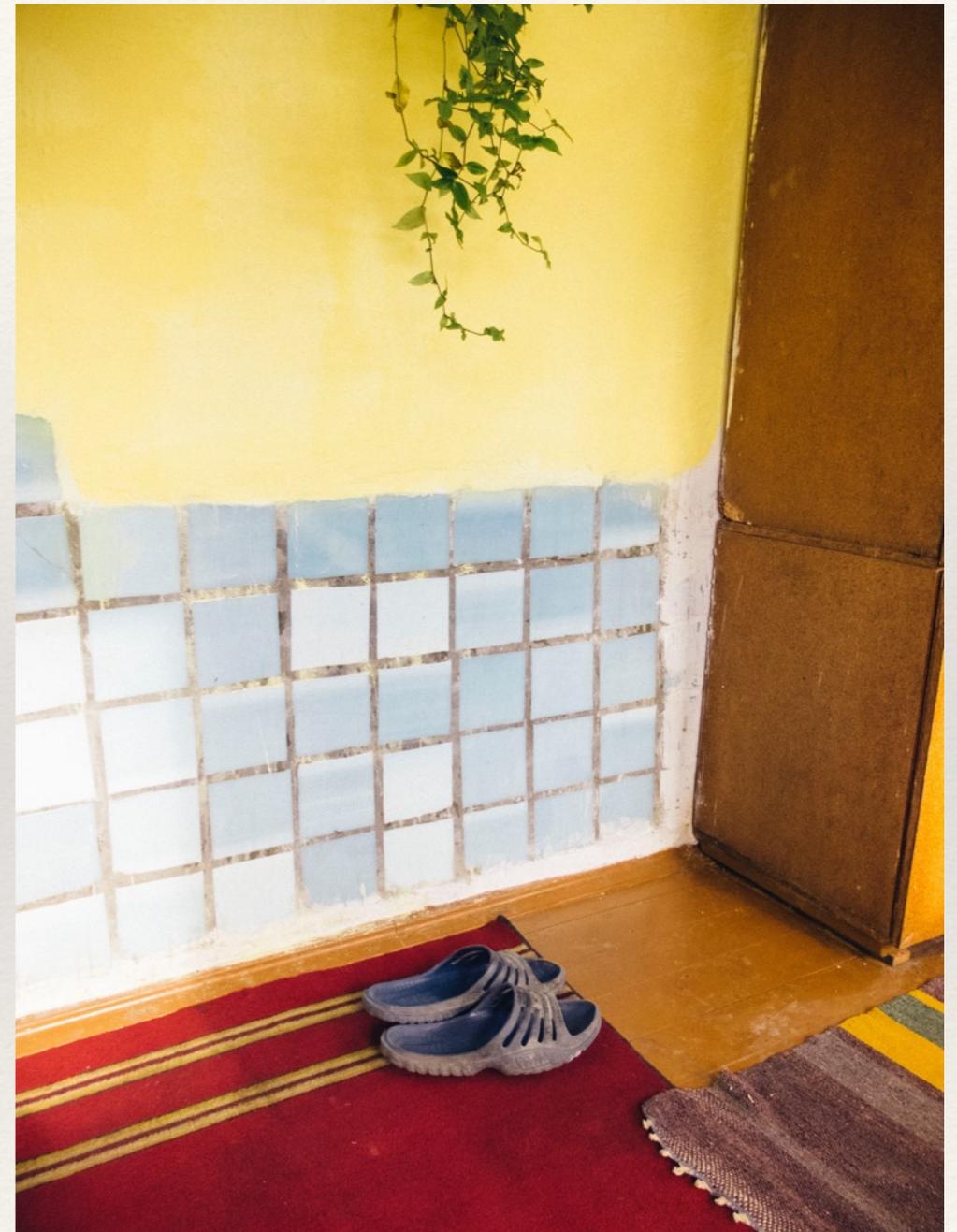
Insider/Outsider dilemma

- ❖ Generation (?)
- ❖ Class (?)
- ❖ Gender (?)
- ❖ Ethnicity (?)
- ❖ (Social) Geography (?)



Practical issues

- ❖ “Gate-keepers” / people who want to help / participants
- ❖ Information: how much is not too much?
- ❖ The “Russian” factor
- ❖ “Ethics” forms





















The function of the photograph

- ❖ photographs taken during interviews at home ‘both illustrate and enrich the data...The use of these two forms of narrative would help to ‘frame the enquiry’ and highlight the ‘private / personal and public / social modes of domestic space’ (Money 2007: 360).

Some ethical issues

- ❖ How anonymous the pictures of a sole object should be and whether it really made sense to take a picture of an object if the context is unclear?
- ❖ Is it necessary to take a picture of a doll that only a particular owner could have (for instance with faces of political leaders, or with faces of a participant and her friends)? Or, is anonymisation of visual images 'somewhat impossible' (Allen 2012: 447) when it comes to visual methods?
- ❖ How do I deal with changed significance and meanings of the images?
- ❖ Whose image it is after all? (authorship dilemma)

Material Cultures, Migrations, and Identities

What the Eye Cannot See



Anna Pechurina



The End

