

Graduation Plan



Graduation Plan: All tracks

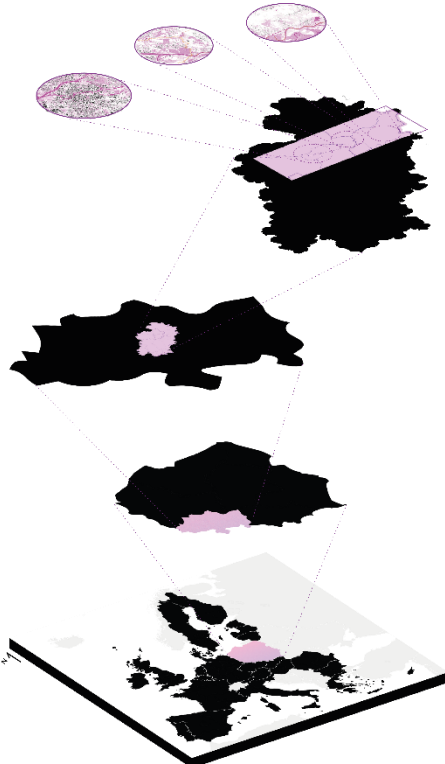
Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information		
Name	Małgorzata Martyna Rybak	
Student number	5860253	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Planning Complex Cities	
Main mentor	Caroline Newton	Spatial Planning and Strategy
Second mentor	Birgit Hausleitner	Urban Design
Argumentation of choice of the studio	To comprehensively address urban inclusivity, the master thesis should be a mix of research and design at various scales. In my master thesis I have put an emphasis on planning as it examines the influential role of socio-political norms on urban minorities, particularly the LGBTQIA+ community. The participatory aspect in planning trajectory, integral to the Planning Complex Cities Studio, facilitates active engagement of marginalised communities in shaping urban environments. By intertwining design elements, the trajectory seeks to visualise and implement innovative solutions to the creation of more inclusive, equitable, and socially sustainable urban spaces.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Disturbing Normativity. Queering Spatial Planning Towards Inclusive Communities in Poland.
Goal	
Location:	Country: Poland, City: Wrocław and rural peripheries

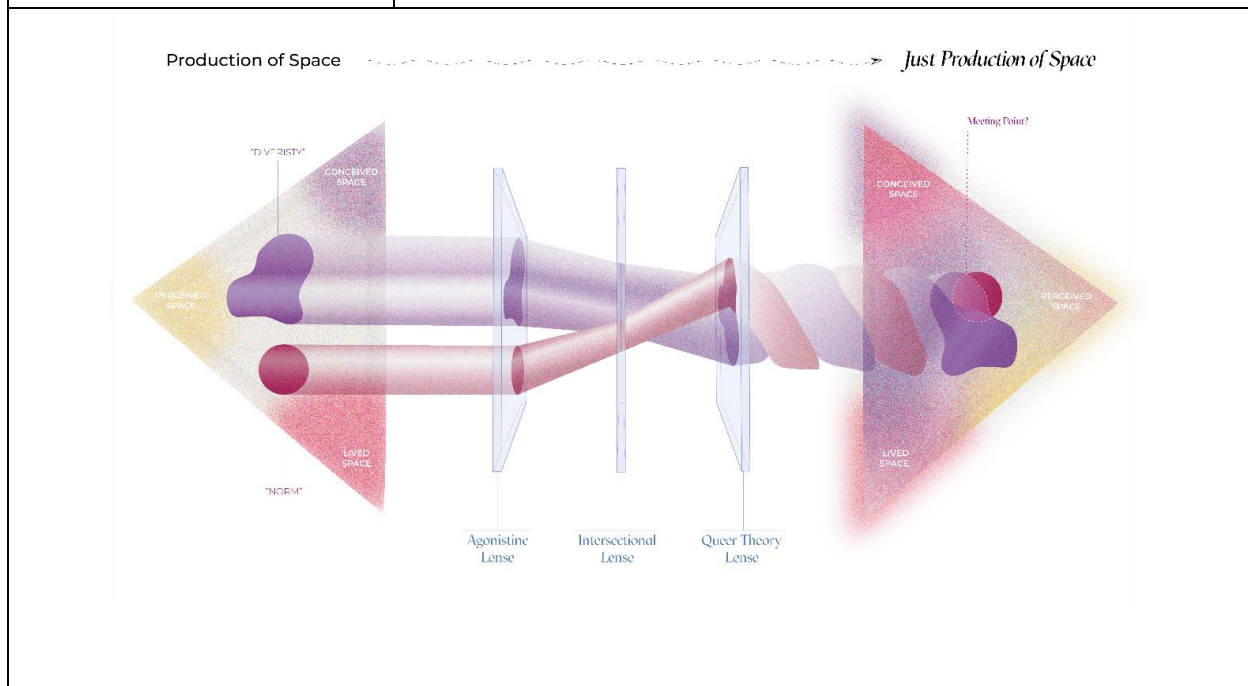
	 <p>Wrocław and Peripheries</p> <p>Regions Wrocław & Wrocławski in Lower Silesia</p> <p>Lower Silesia Province in Poland</p> <p>Poland in European Union</p>
<p>The posed problem,</p>	<p>Emergency: February 2019 was expected to mark a significant turning point in Poland, as the country aimed to take its first steps towards greater inclusion and tolerance for non-heteronormative individuals. Rafał Trzaskowski, the mayor of Warsaw, signed a declaration in support of LGBTQIA+ rights and expressed his commitment to follow the World Health Organization's guidelines on sexual education standards (Urząd Miasta Warszawa, 2019). At the time, however, Poland had been governed for four years by a conservative majority government with another four years to go. The politicians from the Law and Justice (PiS) party caused strong opposition to the progressive Varsavian president. They argued that this new programme would sexualise children and pose a threat to Poland. This was enough to ignite the slow-burning division and intolerance in Polish society.</p> <p>As a reaction to the changes in Warsaw, anti-LGBT resolutions were quickly drafted by the lowest administrative bodies (gminy), which supported the "Family Charter", a document that hides homophobia and danger for the queer community behind so-called 'perfect family' values. By June 2020, almost a third of Poland had become known as an "LGBT-free zone" (Jabłonowski, 2020). The undeniable and dangerous relationship between political power and spaces of exclusion became clearly visible. In response, activist and director Bart Staszewski travelled to these unwelcome spaces and marked them with the sign "LGBT free zone" (Ambroziak, 2020). Other</p>

	<p>activists Jakub Gawron, Paulina Pająk, Paweł Prenet and Kamil Maczuga mapped these areas and created the “Atlas of Hate”, available online (Atlas of Hate, n. d.).</p> <p>October 2023 marked a big change in the Polish parliament, when the democratic opposition won the majority of seats and ended the dominance of the conservative rule. A period of change and transformation began. This changing and evolving social situation aroused my interest, and the frightening moment of the creation of "LGBt Free Zones" made this socio-political conflict express itself in spaces of exclusion that should never happen again.</p> <p>Problem Statement: The problem statement highlights the rise of gender intolerance in Poland, where discrimination against non-heteronormative individuals has become increasingly relevant. The growing polarisation of society is an alarming sign and an impulse to rethink how to bring society together. What are the roots of the problem and how can it be mitigated? This issue encompasses three key dimensions: social norms, political influences & spatial planning, all of which contribute to an unjust environment for marginalised communities (e.g. queer).</p> <p>To address this issue, research needs to explore the socio-political dynamics that influence the processes of spatial production and seek input from both communities to promote inclusivity and tolerance. Rather than looking for ways to divide Poland, the focus will be on accepting diversity and catalysing respectful behaviours. In this thesis it will be important to look through queer theory into places or events that give opportunity for solidarity actions and 'meeting' of difference.</p>
research questions and	<p>Main research question: In what ways can evolving socio-political dynamics and spatial planning contribute to dismantling gender intolerance and fostering inclusive communities in Poland?</p> <p>Sub research questions: <u>Power Dynamics:</u> 1. What are the socio-political factors influencing spatial planning decisions related to inclusivity in Poland? <u>“Norm”:</u> 2. How do ‘norms’ affect the environment in which non-heteronormative people live? <u>Queering:</u> 3.A. How can queering contribute to a more inclusive production of space? 3.B. What is the lived experience of non-heteronormative individuals and how does it relate to safe space in urban settings? <u>Urban Struggle:</u></p>

	<p>4. How can input from marginalised communities, especially the queer community, be included in urban planning for greater inclusivity and tolerance? In what ways can urban design facilitate that?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Theories: An important step in developing this research is to build a strong theoretical background and understanding of terms. These will guide the process and be used as a lens through which to evaluate findings and guide further methodologies.</p> <p><u>Power Dynamics:</u> For development of this part of the research project topics of power reactions and insurgency will be deepened.</p> <p><u>"Norm":</u> To understand status quo and dynamics in place Theory of production of space as well as critical urban theory will be introduced. Delving into the intersectionality approach will be an enrichment for understanding social complexity.</p> <p><u>Queering:</u> Introduction of queer theory and queering is needed in order to proceed with this project.</p> <p><u>Urban Struggle:</u> Literature on participation and disobedience will be introduced for development of the design assignment.</p> <p>* More broad explanation of the theory can be found in the appendix.</p> <p>Research Aim: This research is an exploration across three interconnected dimensions: social, political, and spatial. In the social realm, a critical examination of societal norms that shape physical and non-physical spaces is essential. The project aims to delve into the definitions and theories of 'power,' 'queering,' and 'inclusivity,' constructing a strong theoretical foundation. Through research and analysis, the project aims to identify gaps and challenges, particularly those associated with heteronormative principles within Poland's current planning system and governance structures. Given the intricate interplay of religion and politics in the Polish context, these factors will be integral components of the research. Moving beyond theoretical frameworks, these identified issues permeate everyday life and spaces. Thus, citizen engagement becomes very important. This research seeks to enrich our understanding of the queer community's spatial experiences in the urban environment. It aims to promote solidarity and mutual understanding between different communities, thereby contributing to the creation of more inclusive urban environments.</p> <p>The central aim is to uncover relationships between the aforementioned socio-political challenges and spatial dimensions, contributing to the development of</p>

	<p>understanding and tools for creating a genuinely inclusive environment. Ultimately, the goal is to design spaces that are inherently inclusive, diverse, and equitable, reflecting a commitment to fostering a more just urban landscape.</p> <p>Process:</p> <p><u>RQ_1: Power Dynamics</u></p> <p>In addition to developing the theoretical basis, it will be important to analyse the current political and planning laws in Poland that limit gender inclusiveness. Introduction of historical context will be important for full understanding of socio-political dynamics and analysis of origins of polarisation in Polish society. What is hidden behind the dialectic of "vilification" of marginalised groups by the government? The lens of queer history and a response through art will be included as well. There is a need to pay attention to spaces of these historical changes, it could contribute to the development of the design part of the thesis (e.g. spaces of disobedience).</p> <p><u>RQ_2: "Norm"</u></p> <p>This research will need to expose existing norms in the system, not only through analysis of policy and planning, but also through site-specific observations and interviews. Transcalar mapping and its relation to socio-political data will help to understand a status quo in space at both national and local levels.</p> <p>There is a need to conduct interviews with professionals in the field (Ewelna Jaskulska from feminist studio Architektoniczki), spatial activists (Jacek Sterczewski - sociologist, podcaster from Wrocław) to understand their view on the current situation. The voice of the queer community, as a marginalised group that can see norms and oppression more clearly, will also be important. However, in order to fully understand both perspectives and to identify strengths or weaknesses of the current system and hopefully find a middle ground, it will be important to reach out to more conservative citizens as well (preferably those living in "LGBt free zones").</p> <p><u>RQ3_A&B: Queering</u></p> <p>To answer research question 3A, papers on queer planning, participation and insurgency will be analysed. Observation of queer foundations and community activities will help to identify opportunities and changes. To answer question 3B it will be necessary to analyse the report on the living situation of LGBT people and to conduct interviews (Kultura Równości - LGBT Association from Poland). All those histories of queer association, art, magazine production, protest - they have their</p>
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	<p>space in the city tissue. Mapping this and extracting lessons from these findings will be crucial.</p> <p>*It is important to acknowledge a need of submitting Data Management Planning and obtaining the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) approval to conduct interviews.</p> <p><u>RQ4: Urban Struggle</u></p> <p>This part of the assignment will focus on evaluating and summarising previous findings. The focus will be on developing guidelines for planning that can transform the field into a more gender inclusive one. In addition to previous policy analysis, it will be crucial to identify challenges and opportunities on the site to create more inclusive spaces. There is particular interest in the possibility of creating a strategy/design for spaces of disobedience, of democratic expression, where differences can respectfully meet and be heard.</p>
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Process

Method description

RQ1: Power Dynamics

Methods: Literature Review, Media Review, Policy Analysis, Socio - Spatial Analysis

Process:

In order to analyse socio-political dynamics and their influence on spatial planning, it is necessary to create a strong theoretical background on issues of power, marginalisation and inclusion. Media analysis will help to understand the dynamically changing Polish context, as well as to trace the history of socio-spatial reactions to political changes.

Spatial planning policy analysis is necessary to understand procedures in Poland and opportunities for change or improvement in the planning process.

Socio-spatial analysis will help to understand the Polish context and track strengths and weaknesses of the current system.

Outcome: Understanding Polish Planning System and Socio-political Context; Exposing Current Polish System, opportunities and challenges; Deepening Understanding of Production of Space Processes

RQ2: “Norm”

Methods:

Literature Review, Media Review, Policy Analysis, Socio - Spatial Analysis, Field work, Interviews, Stakeholder Analysis

Process:

Literature review will deepen understanding of spatial production processes, critical urban theory and intersectionality.

Policy and media research will be examined through a heteronormative lens to identify divisive structures/norms.

Socio-spatial analysis, fieldwork and interviews will be used to observe and document how norms influence lived space and its users. Measured data and spatial observations will be compared with expert and local narratives.

This information will contribute to a comprehensive stakeholder analysis. This will provide an understanding of local actors and power relations.

Outcomes: Exposure of Norms and binaries of Spatial Planning; Local Narratives

RQ3_A: Queering

Methods: Literature Review, Media Review, Policy Analysis, Case Study, Socio - Spatial Analysis, Field work

Process:

Through the strong theoretical background of Queer Theory, the term 'querying' and its relationship to space will be explained.

Policy and media research will be examined through a queer lens to identify opportunities and insurgencies within the system. Tracing the influence of queer art will also be important. In this part of the research, the case study "Wroclaw & its periphery" will be presented in more detail. The socio-spatial analysis will help to locate binary and non-binary spaces and their characteristics.

Socio-spatial analysis as well as field work will serve as a tool to document 'queered' spaces and queer performances recently and in the past.

Outcomes: Documenting Performance of “queering” space & evaluation; Guidelines for more Inclusive Spatial Planning (spatial + procedural)

RQ3_B: Queering

Methods: Media Review, Socio - Spatial Analysis, Field work, Interviews, Stakeholder Analysis, Intersectionality & Mapping

Process:

Media review and socio-spatial analysis are needed to collect data about the queer community, their activity, influence and struggles.

Fieldwork and interviews will be used to observe and document how the queer community influences the lived space and what their needs are. Measured data and spatial observations will be compared with expert and local narratives. It is important to include in the interviews allays of the queer community, professionals from Poland in the field of architecture and opponents of queer culture.

This information will contribute to a comprehensive stakeholder analysis. This will provide an understanding of local actors and power relations.

An intersectional approach and mapping will be used to fully understand and translate oppression and diversity into a spatial dimension.

Outcomes: Queer Narratives / Interviews (based on it guidelines of needs); Guidelines for more Inclusive Spatial Planning (spatial + procedural)

RQ4: Urban Struggle

Methods: Literature Review, Policy Review, Case Study, Intersectionality & Mapping

Process:

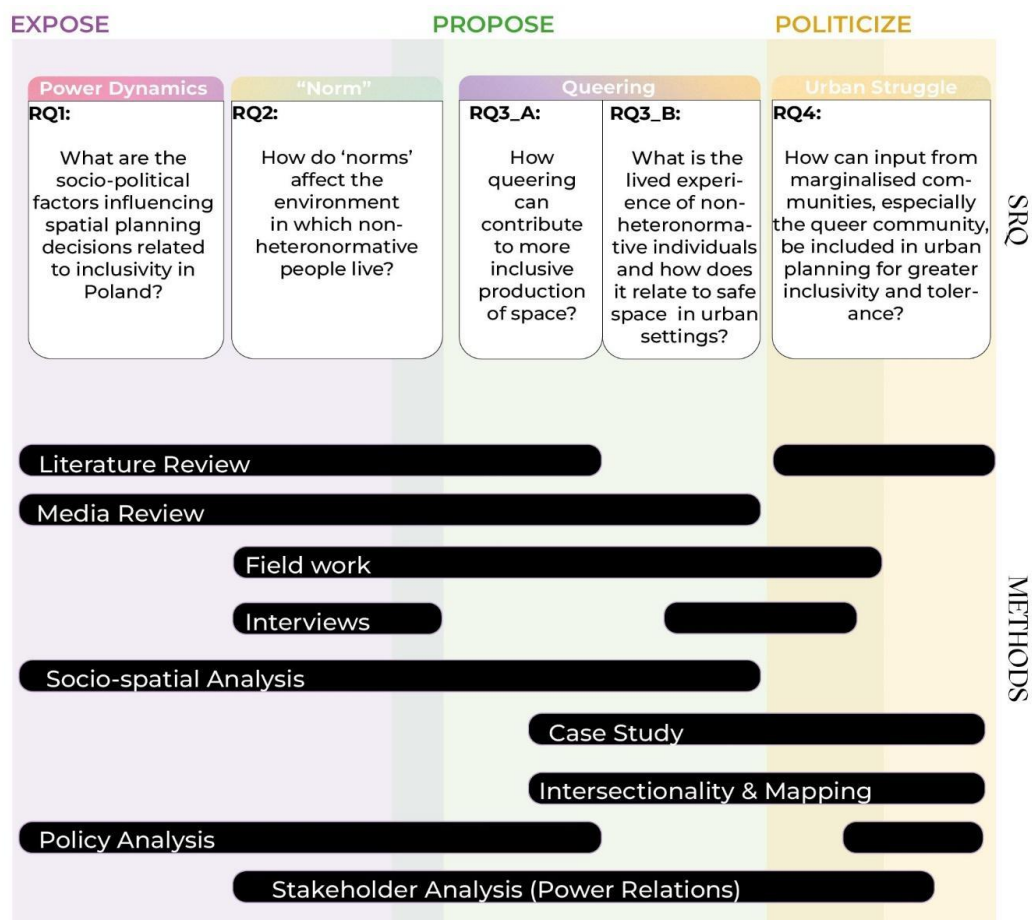
This part of the research will bring together the conclusions and analysis from the previous chapters in order to propose spatial planning guidelines and design components that could be 'meeting points'.

The literature review will introduce the concepts of insurgency, participation and solidarity in the production of space.

Previous policy review, interviews, stakeholder analysis and interviews will be used to assess needs and opportunities in the case study and spatial planning process to enable a more inclusive approach.

Intersectional approach and mapping will be used as a tool to represent coexisting realities and 'meeting points' where binarism is outlawed.

Outcomes: 'Meeting Points' - where differences can blend; Improvement in Spatial Policy guidelines through Queer Lens; Reflection on the role of Urban Planner



Literature and general practical references

RQ1_Power Dynamics:

| Foucault, M. (1980). The Eye of Power. In Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977 by Michel Foucault (pp. 146-165)

| Foucault, M. (1982). The Subject and Power. Critical Inquiry, 8(4), 777-795.

| McAuliffe, C., & Rogers, D. (2018). Tracing resident antagonisms in urban development: agonistic pluralism and participatory planning.

RQ2_ "Norm":

| Brenner, N., Marcuse, P., & Mayer, M. (2009). Cities for people, not for profit.

| Castán Broto, V., & Neves Alves, S. (2018). Intersectionality challenges for the co-production of urban services: notes for a theoretical and methodological agenda
 | Crenshaw, K. (1991). Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color.
 | Doan, P. L. (2023). Re-Orienting Planning Practice. In Urban Planning
 | Lefebvre, H., Nicholson-Smith, D., & Harvey, D. (1991). The production of space.
 | Marcuse, P. (2009). From critical urban theory to the right to the city.

RQ3_A&B_Queering:

| Broto, V. C. (2021). Queering participatory planning. Environment and Urbanization
 | Doan, P. L. (2016). Queering planning: Challenging heteronormative assumptions and reframing planning practice.
 | Foucault, M., & Miskowiec, J. (1986). Of Other Spaces.
 | Gandy, M. (2012). Queer ecology: Nature, sexuality, and heterotopic alliances. Environment and Planning D: Society and Space
 | Shane, D. G. (2005). Recombinant urbanism: Conceptual modeling in architecture, urban design, and city theory
 | Struzik, J. (2018). Praca nad sobą i solidarność-ramowanie queerowego aktywizmu w Polsce [Self-work and solidarity-framing queer activism in Poland]
 | Wermers, J. E., & Lunn, J. O. (2018). Mapping queer space (s) of praxis and pedagogy.

RQ4_Urban Struggle:

| Bielska, B. (2018). Potencjał zmiany. Rezultaty działania ruchu społecznego na przykładzie aktywizmu LGBT* w Polsce [The potential for change. Social movement outcomes on the example of LGBT* activism in Poland].
 | Brenner, N. (2009). What is critical urban theory?
 | Frediani, A. A., & Boano, C. (2012). Processes for Just Products: The Capability Space of Participatory Design. In Oosterlaken I. & van den Hoven J. (Eds.), The Capability Approach, Technology and Design
 | Miraftab, F. (2004). Invited and Invented Spaces of Participation: Neoliberal Citizenship and Feminists' Expanded Notion of Politics. Wagadu: A Journal of Transnational Women's & Gender Studies, 1(1), 3.
 | Miraftab, F. (2016). Insurgency, Planning and the Prospect of a Humane Urbanism.

Intended interviews:

| Ewelina Jaskulska - architect from studio „Architektoniczki” - info@architektoniczki.com
 | Jacek Sterczewski - sociologist, podcaster from Wrocław - https://jaceksterczewski.pl/bio/
 | Kultura Równości – LGBT association from Poland - <https://kulturarownosci.org>.
 biuro@kulturarownosci.org

Reflection

Relation between the thesis' topic and the topic of the studio Planning Complex Cities

The 'Planning Complex City' studio was a great choice for the development of my thesis. I am deeply concerned about the current situation and future prospects of young people in Poland, particularly those who are part of the queer community. In this trajectory, my focus is on the relationship between spatial planning and socio-political dynamics. The research analyses the opportunity of "queering" principles in planning and governance. The studio's emphasis on participation and civic engagement directly supports my research aims. Gaining expertise in this area is not only personally enriching, but will also be essential for fostering dialogue and cooperation with the queer community in my graduation project. I came to realise topics that are emotionally intense and to keep motivated I think it is important to stay engaged with the community and problem itself. One example could be participation in workshops, events and discussions, which positively influence research -

building confidence, broadening resources, learning possible actions, staying motivated with the topic and importance of it.

In conclusion, the 'Planning Complex City' studio provided the ideal platform for me to refine my skills, deepen my understanding and forge meaningful connections, all of which are crucial to the successful completion of my thesis on queer inclusivity in the urban landscape.

Relation between the thesis' topic and the master track of urbanism

The thesis seamlessly aligns with the master's program's focus on urbanism, emphasising critical inquiries within the context of local conditions and cultures. Specifically centred on Poland, the research explores the imperative of cultivating queer inclusivity and diversity in urban environments. This involves investigating the spatial manifestation of social phenomena, with a dedicated focus on typology and the influence of planning decisions, norms, and strategies. The study critically examines how formal and informal power relations impact the spatial dynamics of cities, particularly affecting gender-marginalised groups. It also delves into the political dimension of practice, reflecting on the role of the urban planner in shaping inclusive and diverse urban landscapes. This research aligns with the program's goal of advancing knowledge on sustainable and equitable urban development. By addressing Poland's unique context, it emphasises the importance of tailoring urban solutions to local conditions, in line with the department's commitment to understanding the complex relationship between the built environment and citizens' well-being.

Scientific Relevance

Analysing the situation and role of the queer community in the environment is not a new discourse within urbanism and architecture studies, yet there are still some missing gaps. My project will rely on the existing literature on this topic and deepen the understanding of the living conditions of the queer community. It will enrich knowledge about gender inequalities and heteronormative norms in planning in the Polish context. Using methods such as intersectionality or participation, the project aims to develop arguments about the spatial implications of societal norms.

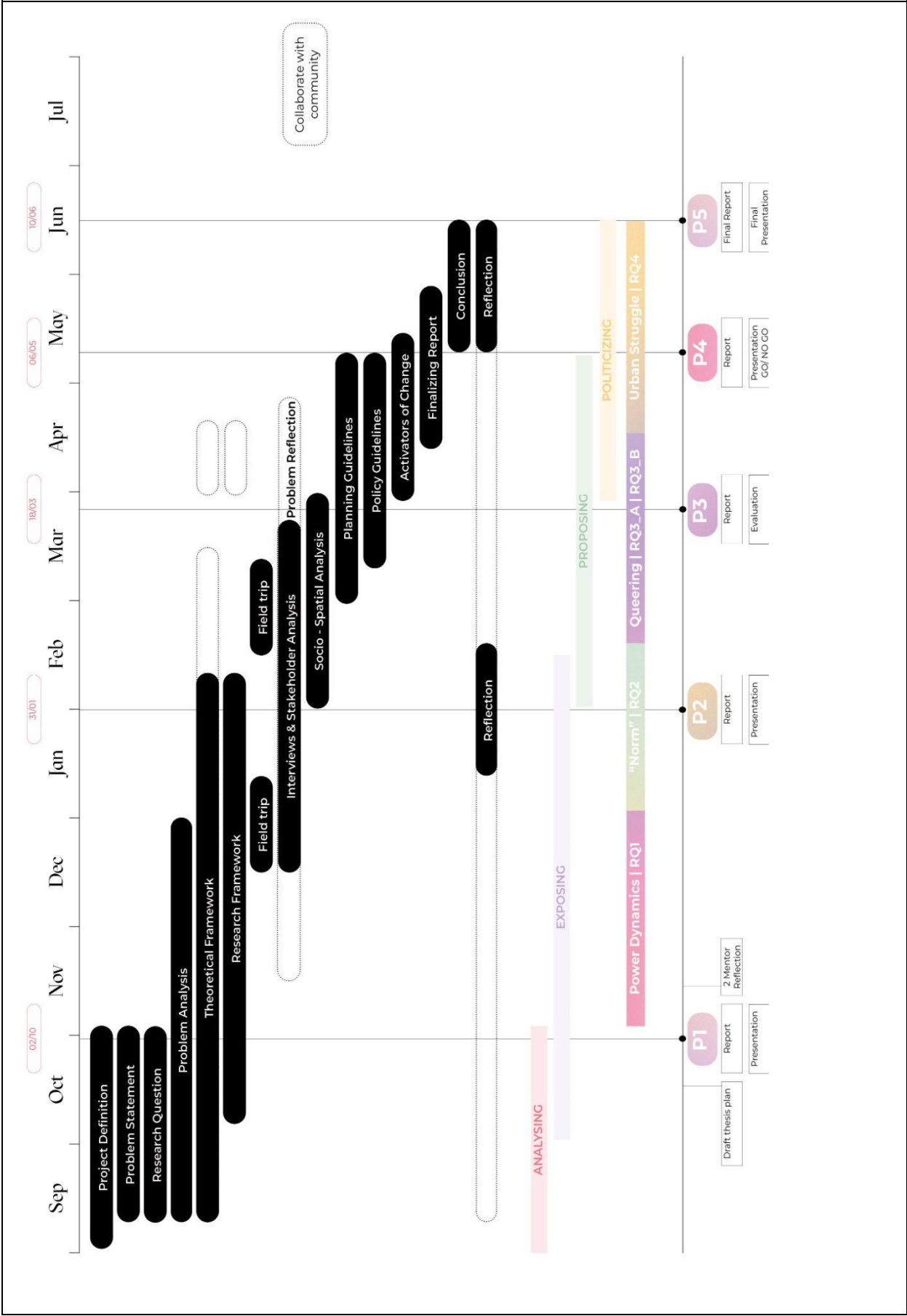
In my case study it will be important to consider democratic and participatory principles of spatial planning. Researching case studies from Poland can enrich data and information on gender issues in spatial planning in this country. It will also highlight the need for planning as a critically engaged practice and a tool for minority advocacy.

Societal Relevance

This final research project can contribute to ongoing debates about gender inequality (conflicting uses of space, norms of the 'public'), queering urbanism and spatial justice. It can provide a different perspective on what public space is, as well as the influence of non-physical places (role of media, internet).

It aims to create a more inclusive, diverse and safe environment for all bodies. Queerness battles against normativity and shaming pressures. This research project questions best practices, 'normal' life and oppressive systems focused on profit and consumption. The word 'queer' also has political connotations. It touches on issues of social equality and solidarity. This project aims at rethinking the system and fairness for all.

Thesis Plan



Appendix

Power

In order to understand the socio-political dynamics at play in Polish society, it will be important to develop an understanding of power relations. For this purpose, Foucault's works "The Eye of Power" (1980) and "The Subject and Power" (1982) will be analysed. This will help to show the interdependence between socio-spatial dynamics and their reflection in space. In works by McAuliffe & Rogers (2018) on agonistic pluralism and works by Faranak Miraftab on Insurgency (2016) or Invented & Invited spaces (2004), this research will look for ways of dealing with social conflicts and possible approaches to spatial dilemmas.

Production of Space

One of the concepts used in this project is Henri Lefebvre's "production of space". It is a theoretical framework that explores how space is a dynamic social product influenced by social, economic, and political processes. Lefebvre introduced this idea in his seminal work "The Production of Space," published in 1974 (Lefebvre, 1991). His work also introduced the concept of the "right to the city," emphasising the idea that citizens should have the power to shape and participate in the creation of urban space. He argued for a more participatory and democratic approach to urban planning and development.

Critical Urban Theory

Peter Marcuse in his work 'From Critical Urban Theory to the Right to the City' (2009) continues and builds on Lefebvre's thoughts. He proposes an approach of 'Expose – Propose – Politicise'. It will also work as an important framework for this research.

Expose – analysing the roots of the problem through clear analysis. It is important to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the existing system, nature of the problem (Brenner et al., 2009).

Propose – importance of work with those actually affected in order to develop proposals, targets, strategies. Examine changing socio-political dynamics, socio-spatial inequalities and institutional arrangements. Formulate responses that address the root of the problem.

Politicise – clarify political action implications of what was exposed and proposed, supporting proposals by informed action (Marcuse, 2009).

Intersectionality Approach

The intersectional approach serves as a crucial lens for research and analysis in the development of this thesis, ensuring a comprehensive consideration of marginalised groups, biases, and oppressions. It rejects the reduction of identity to categories such as gender, age, sexuality, race, and ethnicity, emphasising the compound nature of identity (Castán Broto & Neves Alves, 2018). Without adopting this approach, addressing collective projects of emancipation and inclusion becomes challenging (Doan, 2023). Therefore, incorporating intersectionality into the research framework is important for an effective examination of social dynamics.

Queer Theory

Heteronormativity based on binary categorization creates exclusion (Butler, 1990). Queer identities are opening doors to a new realm of understanding ourselves. Queer theory can be useful in analysing complexity and indeterminacy. It approaches spatial dimension as a

field engaged in consistent transformation (Corny, van den Heuvel, 2017). For this project it is important to recognise the difference between 'queer space' and 'queered space' and why it will be important to delve into the second one in this project. 'Queering' suggests relational focus, process, performance, and act. Queering space in that sense can serve as a driver of change within the dominant system challenging societal norms, unleashing marginalised desires (Shane, 2005). Approaching a graduation project with a 'queering' lens is a lesson and challenge in itself, in unlearning the way the world was explained to the author (me) through most current lived experience.

Participation & Disobedience

There is a particular interest in actions of insurgency and opportunities created in spaces by queer communities and activists. For this research it will be important to interview engaged citizens and learn from their actions, listen to needs and identify opportunities for democratic expression in space. Works on participation, insurgency by Miraftab (2004), Doan (2023) and Frediani & Boano (2012) will help to create this part of the task with theoretical background.