

The young Roma females in the Czech Republic: between (post)socialist surveillance and fast-track integration



Aims

- explore the impact of educational pathways of the Roma on their individual narratives
- recognize the internal dilemmas and coping strategies (available and potential) of the young Roma females

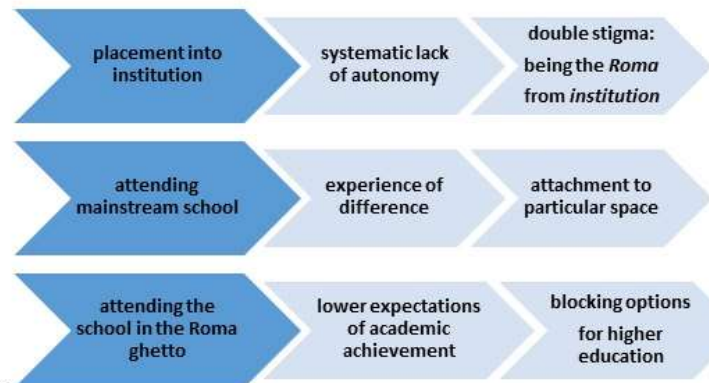
Theoretical framework: *surveillance by whiteness*

Contemporary education as array of socialist surveillance strategies
Disfranchisement of the Roma females

Methodology and Data

- individual narratives of the Roma females who experienced different strategies
- retrospective analysis of the education for the Roma
- discussing the collective history with the respondents

Educational pathways of the Roma and their outcomes



Still missed collective coping strategies

- accepting the history of the Roma as mutually connected with the history of the Czechs
- revising the (post)socialist strategies in terms of white supremacy

Core internal conflicts

Conditional identity:
"I am the Roma but..."
Separation of individual narrative from collective history:
"Discrimination happened but not with me"

Individual coping strategies

Black humor about whiteness

"You know the abbreviation BC (Bachelor degree) means for me 'white Gypsy' (*Bilá Cigánka*), and at moment when I would get Master Degree (*MGR*) I would be 'outstandingly gifted Roma' (*Mímořádně Geniální Romka*)" (D., 34 years old, social worker)

Resistance

"I am in the habit of smoking near bicycle stop in front of UNI – the Czech people believe that Gypsies want to steal bicycles... I am just waiting when they start to 'prevent' it, and stop them by showing my student ID" (I. 32 years old, speech therapist)

Images:

1. Bědná situace rumunských Romů se prý zlepšuje [The poverty of the Romanian Roma is decreased] Týden.cz 14.09.2012
2. The fellowships for the higher schools' Roma students <http://www.romskastipendia.cz/index.php/stipendia/stipendia-pro-vysokoskolaky/aktuality>
3. The day care centre for the Roma pre-school children <http://www.iqrs.cz/> IQRoma service, Brno, Czech Rep.
4. Roma Pride 2014: V Praze se sešli Romové k Pochodu hrdosti. [The Roma pride in Prague, 2014] Foto: František Kostlán
5. Romské ženy v Ostravě protestovaly proti nechtěné sterilizaci [The Roma women contested against forced sterilization] romove.radio.cz