

THE SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FORCED MIGRATION

A Multi-Media Educational Tool

Summer 2020

Free Movement and Belonging in Europe: The Situation of the Romani Peoples

Target audience: advanced and lifelong learners

Keywords: belonging, borders and borderlands, Europe, race, Romani Peoples, terminology

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Image: Poster for Romnja* Power Month 2020, organised by [RomaniPhen](#), an association based in Berlin, Germany.

A *Deutsche Welle* headline from 2013 reads: “[Roma migration bothers ‘borderless’ EU.](#)” This title sums up the hypocrisy of Europe’s “free-movement” rhetoric in the Schengen Area. The right to “move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States” as outlined by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is not granted to all Europeans. Time and again, the Romani people, the largest ethnic minority of Europe, are denied the right to free movement as well as many other human rights. On a deeper level, there is a rejection of Roma as being European even when they

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have been a part of Europe for centuries, are citizens of EU countries, and are native speakers of their country's languages. In her book *European Others*, Fatima El-Tayeb explains how whiteness is weaponized as a tool of differentiation: some populations are "defined as inherently 'non-European' because of a racialized cultural difference linked to a non-European origin (an origin that, as is the case of Roma and Sinti, might lie centuries in the past)." The Roma illustrate perfectly that for many Europeans, there is the perception that there are no minorities in Europe, only "migrants."

This bibliography attempts to reverse that assumption and to put into question the ways in which Europeans are implicitly thought of as White, while "race" is supposed to be a non-issue in Europe. I'd like to critically think about who we define as European, and to bring to light the discrimination and persecution that Roma people face, something that many Europeans are willfully ignorant of. Ultimately the goal is to learn about Roma history and culture through Roma self-representation and positive counter-narratives. The examples here span EU and non EU countries including Hungary, Spain, Montenegro, Romania, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

**Disclaimer: This selection is somewhat limited by the English language but I encourage European readers to research the history of Roma in their countries.

[*Judgment in Hungary* \(2013\), directed by Eszter Hajdú](#)

[*#YoNoSoyTrapacero #YoNoSoyTrapacera* \(Video\), Fund. Secretariado Gitano, 2015](#)

["Forced migration of Roma and the current asylum crisis," European Roma Rights Centre, September 22, 1999](#)

["The situation of Roma EU citizens moving to and settling in other EU Member States," European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, November 9, 2009](#)

This first section highlights the discrimination and persecution that Roma face in Europe today. This includes hate crimes, systemic discrimination in the courts, by police and by the medical field, unfair migration and asylum policies, and racist dictionary definitions.

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Fatima El-Tayeb, *European Others: Queering Ethnicity in Postnational Europe*, (2011)

Home Away from Home (2017), directed by Sami Mustafa

Margaret Matache and Krista Oehlke, "A Critical Analysis of Roma Policy and Praxis: The Romanian Case," in *Realizing Roma Rights*, edited by Margareta Matache, Jacqueline Bhabha and Andrzej Mirga, 2017

European Others, which for me was the most impactful resource, should help us think critically on who we define as European. The other two sources in this section show some attempts at reducing inequalities in the field of education, but that without real political will behind these policies, virtually no progress has been made.

RomArchive

Romawood

European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC)

Roma Oral History

Finally, these sources are European Roma-led projects and organizations that promote self-representation and positive counter-narratives, through film, music and historical narratives.