

How can we better combat discrimination based on "race" or ethnic origin? Exploring and addressing the root causes

Colloquium organised by the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI)

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What is antigypsyism?

“Antigypsyism is a **historically constructed**, persistent complex of customary racism against social groups identified under the stigma ‘gypsy’ or other related terms, and incorporates:

1. a **homogenizing and essentializing perception** and description of these groups;
2. the **attribution of specific characteristics** to them;
3. **discriminating social structures** and violent **practices** that emerge against that background, which have a degrading and ostracizing effect and which reproduce structural disadvantages.” (*Alliance against antigypsyism, 2016*)

How was antigypsyism shaped, disseminated and normalized?

- Who shapes knowledge and iconography on Roma?
- Role of arts and culture
 - v Iconography of Roma representation in arts and culture
 - v Stigma and “Othering”
 - v Orientalism and exotification
 - v Two types of stereotypes – one common logic
- Role of knowledge-production
 - v Knowledge-production as an exclusive monopoly of non-Roma
 - v Scientific racism
 - v Problematic legacy of ethnography
- Role of policies and politics – long history of antigypsism



FEATURES OF ANTIGYPSYISM

Antigypsyism is a psychological, social and political phenomenon

From right-wing to mainstream

Positive and negative

Malevolent and benevolent

Implicit or explicit

Systemic character of oppression

Role of the state

ANTIGYPSYISM
MANIFESTS
ITSELF ON
DIFFERENT
LEVELS

INSTITUTIONAL
LEVEL

INTERPERSONAL
LEVEL

INTRAPERSONAL
LEVEL

What is unique about antigypsyism?

➤ “Reasonable antigypsyism” (van Baar, 2014)

“The argument goes that you are rightfully entitled to act against the Roma and treat them differently, because they cause inconvenience, indulge in criminal activity and can generally be expected to cause trouble. It is not ‘we’, but ‘they’ who violate rights and fail in their duties. This ‘reasonable anti-Gypsyism’ manifests itself throughout politics and wider society.”

- high level of social acceptance
- general leniency towards antigypsyist attitudes and practices
- moral stigma attached to other forms of racism is largely absent for antigypsyism
- Impunity
- Normalization of antigypsyism



COUNTERING RACISM - ERIAC lessons from countering antigypsyism





COUNTER-MEASURES: HOW TO TACKLE ANTIGYPSYISM?

- Antigypsyism is a multifaceted phenomenon which requires a diversified set of instruments, including:
 - criminal justice
 - equality measures and affirmative action
 - awareness raising
- REACTIVE VS. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

REACTITVE MEASURES

- What to do when racism occurs?
- Legislative reform
 - Commission on Antigypsyism (Germany, 2019-2021) and appointment of Federal Government Commissioner against Antigypsyism (as of 2022)
 - Commission against Antiziganism (Sweden, 2014-2016)
 - Anti-gypsyism law (Romania, 2020 and Spain, 2022)



Preventing racism – strategies

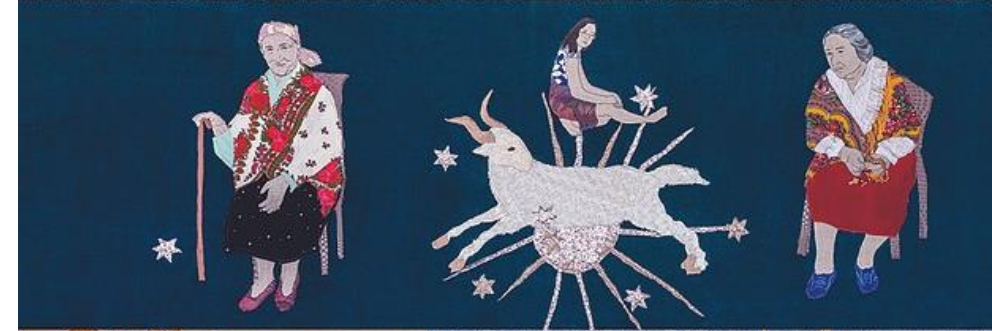


EDUCATING MAJORITIES

- [2020 Council of Europe Recommendation on the inclusion of the history of Roma and/or Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials](#)
- Writing Roma into history of Europe
- Role of shared cultural heritage
- Who are “we”? Narrative of the nation/ Europe in times of historical revisionism



COUNTER-DISCOURSES AND COUNTER-IMAGES: IMPORTANCE OF SELF - REPRESENTATION

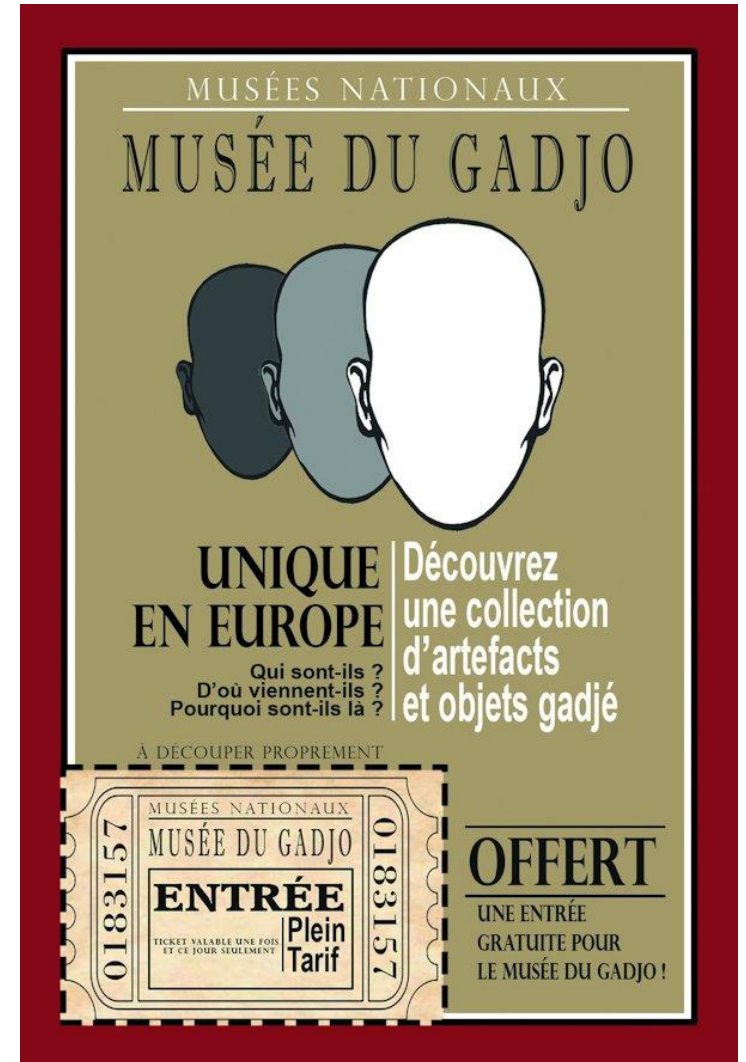




RECLAIMING IMAGES: CULTURAL REAPPROPRIATION

REVERSING THE GAZE ("Barvalo", MUCEM 2023)

- "GADJO MUSEUM" – installation by Gabi Jimenez
- curatorial innovation, intervention
- satirical approach
- parody of an ethnographic museum
- „gadjology"
- distorted, untrue representation of cultures
- decolonization of museums



FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Racism is not a 'minority issue' – it is a majority problem! It is a phenomenon of our societies, which has its origin in how the social majority view and treat those whom they consider 'Other'
- Understanding the cause and effect
- Racialization of socio-economic problems
- Understanding racism as a key structural driver of exclusion
- Countering racism requires systemic responses!
- Role of arts and culture in preventing racism



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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