

RACE, JUSTICE, SOLIDARITY:
ADDRESSING ANTI-ROMA RACISM IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

Semester: Spring 2024/2025

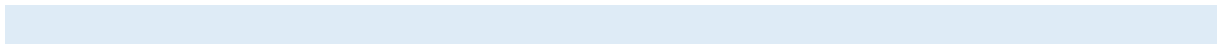
Instructors: Dr. Márton Rövid (rovidm@ceu.edu)

Office hours: By appointment

Place: QS C-322

Time: Thursdays 17.40-19.20

Credits: 2



Course description

The growing literature on racial justice in the field of political theory usually tracks the legacy of colonialism and imperialism, white settlement and African slavery, that systematically privileges ‘whites’ globally, and that needs to be ‘repaired’. The moral grounding and forms of reparations are highly debated not only in academia but in countless political fora. However, both academic and political debates have largely taken place in post-colonial contexts and ignored the enduring forms of injustice Roma people face.

In the course we are going to assess the relevance of normative debates around racial justice for the case of Roma in two steps. First, arguments on the forms, desirability, and feasibility of reparations are reviewed. Some scholars distinguish remembrance, reconciliation, restorative justice, and reparations. The United Nations distinguishes five forms of reparations: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. We discuss the relation between racial justice and democratic solidarity. Second, contemporary academic and political debates on anti-gypsyism are assessed in light of the literature on racial justice. To what extent and under what conditions can social and education policies remedy enduring racial injustice? What is the relation between social inclusion and tackling anti-gypsyism? Who and on what grounds can demand racial justice on behalf of Roma? Who have benefited from the exploitation of Roma and who bear responsibility for past and present forms of oppression? What are the responsibilities of so-called post-socialist states, churches, companies, settlements? To what extent is it desirable and feasible to tackle white privilege in Eastern Europe?

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, student should be able to:

- understand key concepts of race, justice, and solidarity
- form theoretically and historically grounded understanding of the main ways in which anti-Roma racism operate
- critically reflect upon academic and policy papers on Roma people
- present coherent arguments in both oral and written forms in English

Assessment

Each student is assessed through a combination of the following:

1. **Active participation:** 20% of the final grade. Students are required to participate in all seminars, read all mandatory texts prior to the classes, and actively contribute to class discussions. Students shall inform the tutor in advance if they cannot come to a seminar. Please arrive to every class on time.
2. **Class presentations:** 30 % of the final grade. Each student presents two texts by summarizing the main arguments of the author and raising 2-3 questions for class discussion. Each presenter may prepare a handout and/or PowerPoint/Prezi presentation.

- 3. Final project** 50 % of the final grade. The final project may take various forms. Students may undertake a group project in one or more groups related to the topic of the course. The final product may take various forms such as short video, homepage, or policy paper. Students may also submit a research paper of up to 2000 words length on a topic related to the course. The paper should follow the genre of academic essay with appropriate references and a bibliography. The paper shall refer to at least two articles, arguments, debates covered in the course – in addition to the literature relevant for the selected topic. Please include the word count on the title page. All written contributions should be produced exclusively by the student; any text reproduction which is not clearly identified and attributed will have to be considered as plagiarism. 400-500-words outline of the project/final paper should be uploaded in a given Moodle forum by 14 May. Please make constructive recommendations to the other students' proposals by 17 May. The final projects are to be submitted by the 4th of June.

Accessibility

This course has been specifically designed to foster a diverse learning environment. Please kindly inform me about any unseen hurdles that may present a barrier to your learning. Feel free to speak to me at any time about concerns or questions you may have about assignments, activities, or assessments. Any student who feels they may need an accommodation for any type of disability should contact the CEU Disability Services Officer at nyikesn@ceu.edu.

Draft outline

The readings are available in [this online folder](#).

Seminar 1 Introduction 10 April Thursday

Seminar 2 Antigypsyism 17 April Thursday

Mandatory:

Alliance Against Antigypsyism. 2017. "Antigypsyism - a Reference Paper"

Alexandra Oprea and Margareta Matache : "Reclaiming the Narrative: A Critical Assessment of Terminology in the Fight for Roma Rights" in *Dimensions of Antigypsyism in Europe* edited by : Gómez, Ismael Cortés, and Markus End. European Network Against Racism 2019, pp. 276-299.

Optional:

Romano Centro, "Antigypsyism in Austria" 2017.

Seminar 3 Race 24 April Thursday

James, Michael and Adam Burgos, "Race", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2025 Edition), Edward N. Zalta & Uri Nodelman (eds.), <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2025/entries/race>

Selling, Jan: "International Perspective: The Long Road to Liberation" in *Romani Liberation*, Central European University Press, 2022, pp. 15-50

Seminar 4 Recognition 30 April Wednesday

Spinner-Halev, Jeff. "From Historical to Enduring Injustice" *Political Theory* no. 35 (5), 2007, 574-597.

Selling, Jan : "Romani Politics for Historical Justice and the Fight Against Antigypsyism" in *Romani Liberation*, Central European University Press, 2022, pp. 51-81

Seminar 5 Reparations 8 May Thursday

Boxill, Bernard and J. Angelo Corlett, "Black Reparations", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Summer 2024 Edition), Edward N. Zalta & Uri Nodelman (eds.), <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2024/entries/black-reparations> .

Matache, Margareta, and Bhabha, Jacqueline : "The Roma Case for Reparations" in *Time for Réparations*, edited by Jacqueline Bhabha, Margareta Matache, and Caroline Elkins, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021. pp. 253-271.

Seminar 6 15 May Thursday 17.40, D002

[Launch of the thematic issue "Roma and Environmental Justice in Europe" of *Critical Romani Studies*](#)

Seminar 7 20 May Tuesday 18.00 Baranka Park

[Roma Holocaust Commemoration](#)

Seminar 8 Reconciliation 28 May Wednesday 17.40

Bashir, Bashir, and Will Kymlicka. 2008. "Introduction: Struggles for Inclusion and Reconciliation in Modern Democracies." In *The Politics of Reconciliation in Multicultural Societies*, edited by Bashir Bashir, and Will Kymlicka, 1–24. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Optional:

"Executive Summary" and "The Way Forward: Rule Of Law Embedded Trust Building Mechanisms Addressing Antigypsyism" in: *Scaling up Roma Inclusion strategies. Truth, reconciliation and justice for addressing antigypsyism*, Centre for European Policy Studies, 2019, pp. 9-16, 107-127.

Seminar 9 Confrontation 5 June Thursday

Gheorghe, Nicolae: "Choices To Be Made And Prices To Be Paid: Potential Roles And Consequences In Roma Activism And Policy-Making", in: *From Victimhood to Citizenship. The Path of Roma Integration*, edited by Will Guy, Central European University Press, 2013.

Hancock, Ian: "The Romani Genocide During the Holocaust: Resistance and Restitution" in: *Time for Réparations*, edited by Jacqueline Bhabha, Margareta Matache, and Caroline Elkins, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021.pp 219-249.

Seminar 10 Discussing final projects 12 June Thursday