

Spaces of Resistance of Sinti and Roma Women during the Nazi Persecution

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Abstract

The paper aims to look at the various spaces Romani women used to resist the Nazi persecution and help the persecuted. Different spaces can be differentiated according to the means of social interaction and context of exercising power on the persecuted, such as the public – including legal remedies, in concentration camps, in the partisans or in hiding. Looking at these spheres, the different facets of resistance and their situated embeddedness becomes evident.

It is argued that the socio-spatial context was a distinctive feature for the forms of resistance and agency Romani women could make use of. I aim to analyze the various spheres Romani women used to resist the Nazi persecution and help the persecuted. Different spaces can be differentiated according to the means of social interaction, such as the public, in hiding or in the camps. Looking at these spheres, the different facets of resistance and their situated embeddedness as well as the crucial role of the social network in this specific space becomes evident. For instance, there was a fundamental difference whether Romani women were outside a camp and fighting for the release of their husbands and sons from a concentration camp or whether they were inside a camp themselves and fighting for their own as well as their family members survival.

Thus, a kaleidoscopic expression of resistance will be given through this analysis of space and positionality. A common feature of all the different spheres is the networks of resistance and forms solidarity that shall be highlighted in more detail.