

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON ROMA IN ITALY, WITH A FOCUS ON POLICIES AND SOCIO-SPATIAL CONDITIONS

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Ambrosini, M. e A. Tosi. 2007. *Vivere ai margini. Un'indagine sugli insediamenti rom e sinti in Lombardia*. Milano: Fondazione Ismu (<http://hdl.handle.net/2434/32971>).

——— 2009. *Favelas di Lombardia : la seconda indagine sugli insediamenti rom e sinti*. Milano: Regione Lombardia (<http://hdl.handle.net/2434/52847>).

These are the first – and only, fo far – reports on the socio-spatial conditions of exclusion of Roma and Sinti in Lombardy, which is the richest and economically most developed Italian region. The reports show policy processes and material and social conditions of camps or „favela”, as they are called in the report. Amnesty international recently issued a report on Roma in Milan, denouncing human rights violations happening in the last 15 years.

Bravi, L. 2004. *Altre tracce sul sentiero per Auschwitz*. Roma: CISU.

——— 2009. *Tra inclusione ed esclusione. Una storia dell'educazione dei rom e dei sinti in Italia*. Milano: Unicopli.

Historian Luca Bravi is the first scholar who systematically looks at how Fascists dealt with Roma and Sinti in Italy, especially with regards to the period between 1941 and 1943. In his last work he also analyses the continuity between Auschwitz and recent discriminatory national policies, by talking about the „Auschwitz paradigm”.

——— e N. Sigona 2007. 'Educazione e rieducazione nei campi nomadi: una storia', *Studi Emigrazione*, XLIII (164): 857-874.

This is the only article analysing the idea of 'culture' behind civil society actors dealing with Roma and Sinti in Italy during the 1960s and 1970s, providing consultations to the government. The two authors show brilliantly how a fixed and rigid notion of culture influenced those actors' choices and practices vis-à-vis Roma

Brunello, P. (a cura di) 1996. *L'urbanistica del disprezzo. Campi nomadi e società italiana*. Roma: Manifestolibri.

This book officially opened the scholarly debate on the “nomad camps”. This is a collection of about thirty cases of Italian cities in which Roma live in nomad camps. The author is a social historian, but the contributors are mostly by civil society activists. However, the first chapters include also contributions by scholars such as Piasere and Santino Spinelli.

Cammarota, C. and T. Tarsia (a cura di). 2009. *I Rom e l'abitare multiculturale*. Milano: Franco Angeli.

This book is the first in-depth sociological research on housing of Roma in Italy beyond the nomad camp. It shows the conditions under which a 'mixed' housing project in Reggio Calabria became successful and to what extent this is can be seen as an 'exportable' experience.

Cherchi, R. e Gianni Loy (a cura di), *Rom e sinti in Italia. Tra stereotipi e diritti negati*, Roma: Ediesse.

This book is the first attempt to look at the recent discriminatory national policies against Roma from the point of view of non-discrimination legislation. The collection include also studies by sociologists and historians, but its main contribution is to tackle the issue of Roma in Italy from a legal (non-discrimination) point of view.

Clough Marinaro, I. 2003. 'Integration or marginalization? The failures of social policy for the Roma in Rome', *Modern Italy* 8, no. 2: 203-18.

In this article the author sketches the reasons behind the failure of urban policies for Roma in Rome, in the context of the preparation for the 2000 Catholic Church jubilee. It discusses the emergence of new camps for Roma at the extreme peripheries and how they produced marginality and exclusion.

——— (2008), 'Roma in Italy: Racialization and State of Exception', paper presented at the conference, Racism in Italy: Past and Present, American University of Rome.

This is one of the first paper (see also Sigona and Monasta 2006) talking explicitly about race and racialization in the case of Roma in Italy. Its focus is on Rome and especially on how the nomad camps create a 'state of exception' in which authorities' arbitrariness rules.

Colacicchi, P. 2008. Ethnic Profiling and Discrimination against Roma in Italy: New Developments in a Deep-Rooted Tradition, in *Roma rights* 2, 35-44

In this article the author shows that the 2008 fingerprints policy for Roma in Italy was only one of the several steps of a longer way of systematic, although informal, discrimination which has been carried out by state institutions over the last . This is not a scholarly paper, but its rigour and the amount of details make it very close to a quality scholarly paper.

Desideri, P. 2004. 'Una lingua orale: il romanés dei Rom Abruzzesi. Considerazioni glottodidattiche', in *Atti del Convegno internazionale della cultura adriatica*. Pescara, 6-9 / 10 / 2004.

This is an in-depth description by a linguist of how Abruzzo Roma borrow words from the Abruzzo dialect and how this process influence Roma's learning of Italian as L2.

ECRI (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance). 2002. *2nd Report on Italy Adopted the 22nd June 2001*. Strasbourg: ECRI.

This is the first comprehensive report on racism vis-à-vis Roma in contemporary Italy. As such, it deserves attention and a comparative triangulation with later reports such as EUROBAROMETER 2008 and 2009.

ERRC (European Roma Right Centre). 2000. *Campland. Racial segregation of Roma in Italy*. <http://www.errc.org/db/00/0F/m0000000F.pdf>.

This is the first international report discussing the socio-spatial conditions of exclusion of Roma in Italy. It is a detailed and well-grounded inquiry into specific localities and it includes interviews with both policy-makers and Roma living in nomad camps

Guarnieri, N. 1998. *La minoranza etnico-linguistica Rom abruzzesi. La mediazione culturale dalla* ——— and M. G. Ducati. 2005. *Minoranza etnica Rom: reciprocità e integrazione culturale*. Pescara: Media Edizioni.

A leader of a local and national Romani association (Mr. Guarnieri) carried out a survey on Abruzzo Roma (Abruzzo is a region in Southern Italy in which many Italian Roma live). This is the first quantitative research on Abruzzo Roma, showing their education and conditions of employment.

Lapov, Z. 2004. *Vacaré romané? Diversità a confronto: percorsi delle identità Rom*. Milano: Franco Angeli.

In this book linguist Lapov shows the different dialects of Romani spoken by different Yugoslav Roma. The author starts his inquiry with a report of his fieldwork in the Florentine nomad camps, showing the harshness of its inhabitants' everyday experience. This is the first part of the book, while the second focuses on language dialects and social uses of them.

——— 2007. *The status of the Romani linguistic Minority in Italy*.
www.erionet.org/site/print100021.html.

This is a brief but detailed account of the history of Roma minority in Italy, from the point of view of its linguistic particularities. More precisely, the booklet is a reflection on how dispersed but at the same time bounded is Romani in Italy and why political power did not include it within the historical minority languages in the 1999 first and only law.

Manna, F. 1990. 'I Rom abruzzesi di Pescara', *Etudes et documents Balkaniques et Méditerranéens*. 15: 88-95

Francesca Manna was an anthropologist who worked with Abruzzo Roma and whose work remains the most reliable account of this population. Although her work is now a bit old, she provides the essential historical and socio-anthropological information for any researcher wishing to focus on this population. She studied in particular the funeral rituals and the internal social organization of Abruzzo Roma both in Abruzzo and in a migration context, i.e. Lombardy.

Marcetti, C., T. Mori and N. Solimano (eds). 1993. *Zingari in Toscana. Una ricerca della fondazione Michelucci. 1992-1993*. Firenze: Angelo Pontecorboli editore.

This research is important because it influenced significantly policies in Tuscany. Researchers found out that Yugoslav Roma fleeing ethnic tensions were not nomads! This provided the necessary evidence for policy makers to issue a regional law amending the previous one which had imposed nomad camps. However, the researchers suggested an alternative housing model to the camp which anyway reproduced the essentialist understanding of 'Gypsy culture' as somehow totally different from local culture.

Marta, C. 2000. 'Le politiche per i Rom e i Sinti in Italia', in *Rom e Sinti. Un'integrazione possibile. Italia e Europa a confronto*. Napoli. Atti del convegno. Roma: Dipartimento per gli affari sociali, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri.

In this short article the author sketches the history of the ways in which the Italian government dealt with Roma from the 1950s to the 1990s. It also provides a European framework in which all major EU policies targeting Roma are briefly reviewed.

Monasta, L. 2009. *I pregiudizi contro gli "Zingari" spiegati al mio cane*. Pisa: Edizioni BFS.

This booklet is a handy 'guide' in view of understanding why racism vis-à-vis Roma is so widespread. It shows the 'banality' and lack of elaboration of anti-Gypsyism.

Morelli, B. 2006. *L'identità zingara. Riti miti magie racconti proverbi lingua*. Roma: Anicia.

The author, a Romani artist and ethnologist, discusses some rituals and beliefs of Roma in Abruzzo.

Osservazione.org

Association 'Osservazione' is the major Italian Ngo monitoring discrimination at all levels against Roma and Sinti in Italy. It publishes online outstanding reports on different themes and it works jointly with ERRC, the European Commission, OSCE and the Council of Europe. Its members are highly educated activists who spend time and energies in order to document conditions of exclusion and processes of discrimination.

Però, D. 1999. 'Next to the Dog Pound: Institutional Discourses and Practices about Rom refugees in left-wing Bologna', *Modern Italy*, 4 (2): 207-224.

Anthropologist Però analyses the gap between inclusionary rhetoric of left-wing municipal government in Bologna, and its exclusionary practices. In this article, he describes how a group of Romani refugees, when they became 'visible' as Roma, were immediately sent to a camp in the extreme periphery and how their presence was managed through exclusionary practices.

Piasere, L. 1999. *Un mondo di mondi. Antropologia delle culture rom*. Napoli: L'Ancora.

——— 2003a. Au coeur de l'Occident: l'amour, la mort, la gitane. *Etudes tsiganes* n. 18-19 , Atti di "Histoires tsiganes" , La Rochelle , ottobre.

——— 2003b. Breve storia dei rapporti tra rom e gagé in Europa , in I. D'Isola, M. Sullam, G. Frassanito, G. Baldoni, G. Baldini *Alla periferia del mondo. Il popolo dei rom e dei sinti escluso dalla storia*, Torino: Fondazione Franceschi , , pp. 42-51

——— 2004a. Généalogies tsiganes. *Etudes tsiganes* , n. 18-19 , 98-100

——— 2004b. *Presentazione* , ' parte monografica di "Quaderni di sociologia" n. 36.

——— 2004c. *Italia romani, vol. IV: La diaspora rom dalla ex Jugoslavia* , a cura di C. Saletti Salza, L. Piasere , Roma , CISU.

——— 2005. *Popoli delle discariche*. (Nuova edizione). Roma: CISU.

——— 2006a. 'Che cos'è un campo nomadi?', *Achab. Rivista di antropologia*, VIII: 8-16.

——— 2006b. *Buoni da ridere, gli Zingari. Saggi di antropologia storico-letteraria*. Roma: CISU.

——— 2009. *I rom d'Europa. Una storia moderna* , (Quarta edizione.) , Roma e Bari: Laterza. *folia dell'assimilazione alla corretta integrazione*. Silvi Marina: Opera Nomadi Sezione Abruzzo.

Leonardo Piasere is probably the most famous Italian anthropologist working on Roma (like Okely in UK, or Liegeois in France). His early works focus on kinship and the history of Roma in Italy. Since the late 1990s he shifted towards a more socially conscious perspective and in 2006 he wrote a seminal article explaining how the nomad camp can be heuristically understood within Giorgio Agamben's notion of 'state of exception'.

Picker, G. 2009. *Romani/Gypsy Groupings in the Making. A Comparative Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship between "Eastern" and "Western" Europe. The Cases of Cluj-Napoca, Firenze and Pescara.* Ph.D., University di Milano-Bicocca.

——— 2010. „Nomads' Land? Political Cultures and Nationalist Stances vis-à-vis Roma in Italy.”. In Stewart, M. and Marton Rovid (eds) *Romany Studies. Taking Stock, Looking Forward to a Moment of Transition.* Budapest: CEU Press, 211-227.

——— 2011a. “Welcome ‘in’. Left-wing Tuscany and Romani migrants (1988-2007)”, *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* 16(5): 607-620.

——— 2011b. ‘Inclusione, esclusione, enclusione. Per un’etnografia della governance di rom migranti in Italia’. In Zago, M. and Baldin, S. *Mosaico rom. Specificità culturali e governance multilivello.* Milan: Franco Angeli, 77-87.

My work focuses on both vertical relations (policy-citizens) and horizontal ones (citizens-citizens). Taking the city as context, I look at the ways in which local powers and fellow citizens construct Roma as citizens in Italy and Romania. My findings suggest that the legacy of nationalism gives shape to both representations and practices vis-à-vis Roma. Ultimately, I try to detect a model of “everyday nationalism” which could be applied to both countries and potentially to the whole European context (my first article on Romania (Cluj) is currently under review).

Szente, V.L. 1997. ‘Field Report: Italy’, *Roma Rights* (Autumn): 51-3.

Short but telling report of the widespread condition of social exclusion of Roma, both in housing and in everyday representations of Roma by non-Roma.

Spinelli, S. 2003. *Baro Romano Drom. La Lunga strada dei Rom, Sinti, Kalé, Manouches e Romanichals.* Roma: Meltemi.

Professor of Romani culture and music at the University of Trieste, Santino Spinelli, an Abruzzo Romani performer and musician, wrote this book with the goal of making an inner view on Roma public. The book presents both treats of Romani culture as viewed by the author, and analyses of the relationship between Roma and non-Roma in contemporary Italy.

Sigona, N. 2002. *Figli del ghetto. Gli italiani, i campi nomadi e l'invenzione degli Zingari.* Napoli: Nonluoghi Libere Edizioni.

——— 2003. ‘How Can a ‘Nomad’ be a ‘Refugee’? Kosovo Roma and Labelling Policy in Italy’, *Sociology.* 37 (1): 69–79.

——— 2005. ‘Locating ‘The Gypsy Problem’. The Roma in Italy: Stereotyping, Labelling and ‘Nomad Camps’, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 31 (4): 741-756.

——— and Lorenzo Monasta. 2006. *Cittadinanze imperfette. Rapporto sulla discriminazione razziale di rom e sinti in Italia.* Santa Maria Capua Vetere (CE): Edizioni Spartaco.

——— 2009. ‘The “problema nomadi” visàvis the political participation of Roma and Sinti at the local level in Italy’, in Sigona, N. and N. Trehan, N. (eds) *Romani politics in contemporary Europe: poverty, ethnopolitics and the neoliberal order.* Basingstoke: Palgrave/MacMillan.

While Piasere is probably the most important anthropologist working with Roma in Italy, Sigona is probably the most important sociologist. He is the first scholar who started criticizing the first scholarly work on Roma in Italy, dating 1970s. These studies tended to see Roma either in an inferior position within a supposedly objective civilization continuum, or as idealized free-minded persons. Sigona, realistically and sometimes less academically than his colleagues in other parts of the world, analyses concrete aspects of the segregation of Roma in Italian cities, especially looking at the role of policies in shaping segregation and marginality. He's currently working on a monograph about this issue.

Viaggio, G. 1997. *Storia degli Zingari in Italia*. Roma: Anicia.

This is the first scholarly book on the history of Roma in Italy. Besides its being the first example, its categories of analysis are rather stereotyped and reified, leading to the risk of perpetuating a superficial understanding of the presence of Roma in Italy.

- Vitale, T.** 2007 “Rom e sinti, una galassia di minoranze senza territorio” in A. Rosina, G. Amiotti (a cura di), *Identità ed integrazione. Passato e presente delle minoranze nell'Europa mediterranea*, Milano: Franco Angeli. (Con Elena dell'Agnese).
- 2008a “Etnografia degli sgomberi di un insediamento rom a Milano. L'ipotesi di una politica locale eugenetica”, in *Mondi migranti. Rivista di studi e ricerche sulle migrazioni internazionali*, n. 1/08, pp. 59-74.
- 2008b “Politiche locali per i rom e i sinti, fra dinamiche di consenso e effettività eugenetica”, in Amendola A., Bazzicalupo L., Chicchi F., Tucci A. (eds), *Biopolitica, bioeconomia e processi di soggettivazione*, Macerata-Roma: Quodlibet.
- 2008c “Quale legalità? Rom e gagi a confronto”, in *Aggiornamenti sociali*, n. 3/08, pp. 182- 94 (con P. Arrigoni).
- (a cura di) (2009), *Politiche possibili. Abitare le città con I rom e I sinti*. Roma: Carocci.
- 2009a “Regards croisés. Antitsiganisme et possibilité du vivre ensemble, Roms et gadjés, en Italie”, in *Etudes Tsiganes*, n. 35, (con Enrico Claps e Paola Arrigoni).
- 2009b “Rom e sinti: i dilemmi dell'azione pubblica” in *E.R.E. - Emilia-Romagna-Europa*, 2.
- 2009fc “Sociologia dei conflitti locali contro i rom e i sinti in Italia: pluralità di contesti e varietà di Policy Instruments”, in *Jura Gentium. Journal of Philosophy of International Law and Global Politics*, vol. 9, n. 1.
- 2009g “Da sempre perseguitati? Effetti di irreversibilità della credenza nella continuità storica dell'antitsiganismo”, in *Zapruder. Rivista di storia della conflittualità sociale*, n. 19.
- 2009d “Comuni (in)differenti: i “nomadi” come “problema pubblico” nelle città italiane” in Roberto Cherchi e Gianni Loy (a cura di), *Rom e sinti in Italia. Tra stereotipi e diritti negati*, Ediesse, Roma.
- 2009e . “Governare mediante gli sgomberi e la segregazione dei gruppi zingari” in S. Palidda (a cura di), *Razzismo democratico. La persecuzione degli stranieri in Europa*, Milano: Agenzia X.
- 2010b “Not Always the Same Old Story: Spatial Segregation and Feelings of Dislike against Roma and Sinti in Italian Large Cities and Middle Towns”, in Michael Stewart, Márton Rövid (a cura di), *Multi-Disciplinary Approaches to Romany Studies*, CEU Press, Budapest, 2010 (con E. Claps). In via di pubblicazione.
- 2010c “« Les Roms ne sont pas encore prêts à se représenter eux-mêmes ! » Asymétries et tensions entre groupes Roms et associations « gadjé » à Milan”, in M. Berger, D. Cefai, C. Gayet-Viaud (eds), *Du civil au politique. Ethnographies du vivre-ensemble*, Bruxelles, P.I.E. Peter Lang (con L. Boschetti). In via di pubblicazione.

——— 2010d “Le basi cognitive degli interventi educativi con i sinti. Eredità, continuità, stratificazioni e cambiamenti”, *Animazione Sociale*, vol. 41, n. 5.

Vitale conducted systematic sociological research on policy making and Roma housing in Lombardy over the last ten years. His findings are rather detailed and include an interesting argument about the presence of ‘eugenics’ in the ideas and underpinning principles that policy makers use vis-à-vis Roma. He also edited a book which includes about twenty case studies of local policies vis-à-vis Roma in Italy, that have been successful. His analysis is a detailed and sophisticated one, aiming at finding regularities in the conditions under which successful policies for Roma are possible.

Tavani, C. (2005). ‘Keeping the Criminality Myth Alive: Stigmatisation of Roma through the Italian Media’, *Roma Rights*, no. 1: 45-50.

This is one of the few articles investigating systematically the stigmatization of Roma in the media in Italy. Although not academic, this article shows well the main idiom and the ways in which ‘culture’ and ‘crime’ are parts of a constant symbiosis.

Tosi Cambini, S. (2008), *La zingara rapitrice. Racconti, denunce, sentenze*. Roma: CISU.

This is a ground-breaking work investigating the whole process of Italian court cases in which Romani women were accused of stealing children. The author, an anthropologist trained with Piasere, shows that from 1986 to 2007 no Romani woman has ever been found guilty. This is a ground breaking finding, as media representations give the opposite idea. This is a socio-legal studies essay.