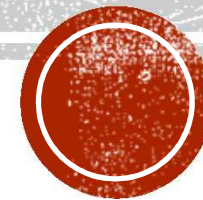# CONSTRUCTING ROMA MIGRANTS:
EUROPEAN NARRATIVES AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

STEFANO PIEMONTESE, Central European University and Autonomous University of Barcelona & TINA MAGAZZINI, University of Deusto

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK

IMISCOE Research Series (www.springer.com/series/13502)

INTEGRIM project (www.integrim.eu)

International Conference on Migration (Granada 2015)

**PRACTICAL AND CONCEPTUAL CHALLENGES
OF EU "ROMA INTEGRATION" POLICIES
RAISED BY "ROMA MIGRATION"**

- Roma mobilities and Roma policies: an ambivalent relation

- Incoherencies *within* the policies for Roma

background

- "Roma ethnicity" as an organizing principle for redistributive policies

- Recognition of "Roma" as a transnational minority
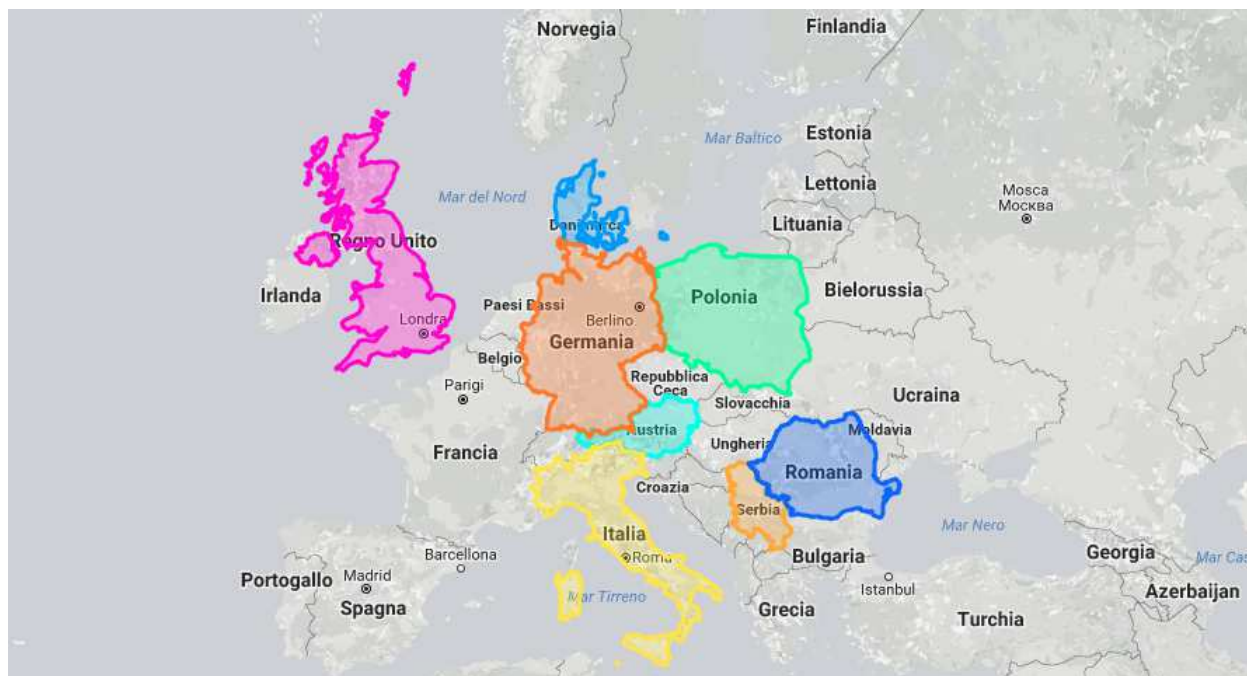
problems

- Roma-targeted approach applied in countries with different diversity-management traditions

- Coexistence of 'national' and 'immigrant' Roma within the same policy framework

1. Conceptual and methodological dilemmas of studying 'Roma' migration

2. A 'Roma' European crisis road-map

3. Intra-ethnic solidarity in a context of migration

4. Conformism or inadequacy of social inclusion policies for the 'Roma'? Missed opportunities at the European and national levels

FRAMING CHAPTERS

- Methodological issues, legal and policy debates, and the role of solidarity in a context of migration

- A comparative approach

- Intersections between: ethnic identity policies, migration policies and welfare policies

BENEVOLENT INCLUSION and SECURITIZATION POLICIES

- Incoherencies *between* benevolence and securitization policies

  o Roma as vulnerable group needy of protection

  o Administrative restriction to freedom of movement

MOBILITY AS A LITMUS TEST OF PRIVILEGE

- Among the commitments that Western Balkan governments submitted to in the course of the accession process was an agreement to 'facilitate the swift return of irregular migrants'

- «The origin of the problem, that is to say the movement of a population that is nowhere accepted and lives in abject conditions, is that we did not establish a European regulation to keep that population where it ought to live, in Romania.» Francois Hollande, Canal+, February 12, 2012.

- «That's the irony of it. Roma were put on the agenda because of migration, but migration is not dealt with in the strategy» (Nicolae Gheorgae, cited in From Victimhood to Citizenship)

In the end, each one of us is a migrant of sorts. It is only when the migrant stops being the other, and we embrace the reality of migration, taking on board all the joys and trepidations that they face, that we shall build the open society, that beckons us. It is as much about facing our own fears and prejudices. About letting go of our internal demons. About accepting that agency and ambition, so celebrated in Wall Street, is a common attribute. It is about believing that this planet is for us all. For us and our children's children, to be shared to the full.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

«The present-day combination of the annulment of entry visas and the reinforcement of immigration controls has profound symbolic significance. It could be taken as the metaphor for the new, emergent, stratification. […] It also reveals the global dimension of all privilege and deprivation, however local»

(Bauman, 1998 *Globalization: the Human Consequences*).