The Impact of Self-Image on School Performance and Educational Careers among Ethnic Minority Youth

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What has failed about multiculturalism?

- Policies?
- Idea?
- Experience?
Politics of recognition

- **What is to be recognized?**
  - Ethnicity vs. ethnic culture
  - recognition “regardless” vs. recognition “for”

- **Problems with ethnic culture**
  - Internal diversity of ethnic groups
  - The ethnicity-culture nexus
What constitutes the Roma culture?

- **Codified traditions**
  - folk songs and dances, historical collective narratives, legends, fairy tales, rituals, etc.

- **Schemes of secondary interpretation (secondary frames)**
  - Romanticization of the Romanized world

- **Culture of poverty**
  - culture of deprivation and resignation
Codified traditions

- The problem of the “cunning hero” model
- A distant source of self-esteem
  - Problems with cultural cure
  - Who can impose Roma culture on Roma?
  - The “ecological principle” problem (Habermas)
- Transformations of the cunning hero: Romantic cultural code today
  - A proximate source of self-esteem?
Symbolic representations

Gypsy iconography

Soap opera (Gypsies Go to Heaven)
Symbolic representations II
ethno-punk for intellectuals
Symbolic representations III
ethno-pop for non-intellectuals

Madonna

Isla Bonita
What do Roma kids have to say to this?

What have we seen on a board in a Roma school class.
Claudia Schiffer
Keith Richards
passion
beauty, love

rebellion
self-destruction

easy
money
The mates
Czechoslovak Superstar 2009
Monika Bagárová  Jan Bendig
Media-ted Romantic cultural code

- **Bodily creativity**
  - Art of singing and dancing as ethnically based (for the actors) or framed (for us social scientists) dispositions
    - “Superstars” as symbolic representations
- Emotionality again (Monika)
  - spontaneity
  - sincerity
- Exhibited religiousness (Jan)
  - spirituality
  - fatalism
Romantic binary coding - and its ethnization

- Spontaneity vs. reflexivity
- Directness vs. calculation
- Sincerity vs. hypocrisy
- Emotionality (passion) vs. coldness
- Fate (good luck - bad luck) vs. goal-oriented discipline
- Vulnerable vs. protected
- Exotic vs. ordinary
- Colorful vs. grey
- Communitarian vs. individualistic
- Unbound vs. tied
- Wild (loud) vs. tranquil (quiet)
- Independent vs. dependent
- Childish innocence vs. adult corruptness
- Immediate vs. distant
Romantic code as a cultural opportunity structure

- **Ethnicized culture of immediacy**
  - Orientation to proximate goals
    - Informal money circulation
    - Educational carriers

- **The impact of ethnic self-image**

- **Politics of recognition in practice**
  - Adjusting school environment to “Roma mentality”

- **Ethnization and de-ethnization through cultural coding**