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**Structure versus Agency: A Cross-National Examination of
Discrimination and the Internalization of Negative
Stereotypes**

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The worst thing we can do with words, is to surrender to them.

G. Orwell

Stereotypes exist, as they allow for instant orientation through classification (Fiske and Taylor 2013; Ridgeway 2011; Schneider 2005). They often emerge unconsciously and can take both positive or negative forms. Negative stereotypes in particular are extremely troublesome, as they have a tendency to lead to internalization and discrimination (Weiner and Craighead 2010; Derks, Inzlicht & Kang 2008; Fiske et al. 1998). This can happen in any context containing the possibility for marginalization based on social identity (Massey and Owens 2014; Inzlicht and Schmader 2012; Steele et al. 2002). Both discrimination and the internalization of negative stereotypes are associated with detrimental mental and physical health outcomes (Massey and Owens 2014; Inzlicht and Schmader 2012; Vick et al 2008; Stuber, Meyer and Link 2008; Speight 2007).

A key mechanism in the above picture is the role of differential between-group resource availability (Smart-Richman and Lattanner 2014). This is because resource inequalities can heighten group boundaries. Heightened boundaries increase the likelihood of experiencing discrimination, enabling the internalization of negative stereotypes (Ridgeway and Correll 2006; Lamont and Molnar 2002; Runciman 1966). Through this mechanism, racial and ethnic stereotypes may become self-fulfilling prophecies (Penner and Saperstein 2008). As such, income inequalities become reified into powerful cultural and symbolic social determinants (Hatzenbuehler, Phelan and Link 2013; Pickett and Wilkinson 2011; Carter 2007).

Most empirical studies treat stereotypes as individual level variables, simply relating it to other individual level phenomena. As such, it is unclear how population level structural factors - such as between-group, country-level income inequality - play a part in their persistence (Hatzenbuehler, Phelan and Link 2013). While it is important to understand how individuals internalize negative stereotypes, it is also consequential to discern how macro-level conditions play a part (Angermeyer et al. 2014; Pascoe and Smart-Richman 2009; Gee 2008). It is imperative to further examine how the above pieces (between-group resource inequalities, negative stereotypes, discrimination and individual level status characteristics) work in a diverse population, leading to the internalization of negative stereotypes. As research on stereotype internalization and status processes has advanced in differing academic domains, there is a

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3 paucity of information when it comes to the examination of the tangible linkages between the
4 two (Phelan et al. 2014). Stereotype internalization has mainly been constructed as emerging
5 from individual level interaction (Omi and Winant 2014; Lucas and Phelan 2012).¹ As such, little
6 is known about how these phenomena are embedded in, and are perpetuated by population level
7 factors, such as group educational attainment levels, group-level income inequalities and
8 country-level political and economic contexts (Nagel 1996).
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14 The Roma population serves as a great case study for the examination of the linkages
15 between status inequalities, discrimination, and the individual difference moderators of negative
16 stereotype internalization. The Roma of Europe number over 12 million individuals, forming a
17 highly marginalized, yet diverse transnational minority (Isin and Saward 2013; Spirova and
18 Budd 2008). They experience extremely high unemployment and poverty rates, low levels of
19 educational attainment, high rates of infant mortality and lower life expectancy than the majority
20 populations in the countries they reside in (Isin and Saward 2013; Spirova and Budd 2008;
21 Vermeersch 2006).
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28 This paper uses data specifically collected to study their situation across Europe, allowing
29 for a comparative framework. With over 54,000 respondents in my data set, I am able to examine
30 how the markedly different social and economic contexts of the countries they reside in frame
31 the placement of stereotypes in their contextual and structural determinants. The Roma
32 respondents in my data come from six EU and six non-EU countries. This presents the
33 opportunity to better isolate how macro level factors may influence both the experience of
34 discrimination and the relative internalization of negative stereotypes. In support of this, I find
35 that there is a great amount of variation across the countries. For example, Roma men in
36 Slovakia make 20% less income than men from Slovakia's majority population. In Serbia, Roma
37 men make 55% less per month than do Serbian majority men. The novelty of my model is its
38 focus on linking population-level stratification processes with the psychological influence of
39 stereotypes, providing an important contribution linking the micro and macro levels of these
40 phenomena. I show that the internalization of negative stereotypes is facilitated by the interplay
41 of individual and structural level factors.
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54 ¹ Some notable exceptions to the above individual-level perspective can be found in recent literature: Lamont and
55 colleagues (2016) show that there are group-specific nuances when it comes to how individuals respond to
56 discriminatory incidents; Hughes et al. (2016) examine how racial identity influences self-esteem in African
57 Americans, and Massey and Owens (2014) test the link between stereotype threat and institutional characteristics.
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3 I begin by first revealing that the relationship between stratification and the
4 internalization of negative stereotypes is more nuanced than what has been illustrated so far in
5 controlled experimental research settings. The subsequent section examines the direct effects of
6 status processes on the internalization of negative stereotypes. I additionally highlight the
7 specific sociodemographic factors which may serve to protect the marginalized from
8 psychological harm. The final section of the article offers an analysis and interpretation of these
9 results, drawing on recent research on status and stigma processes and my own work with the
10 Roma. My research questions include:

- 11 (1) What sociodemographic characteristics influence the likelihood of negative stereotype
12 internalization?
- 13 (2) How does the interplay between structural and individual level factors affect the
14 above internalization?

25 **Background**

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29 A large body of research points to marginalized individuals being more likely to replicate
30 patterns of oppression they are experiencing. This replication leads to the internalization of
31 negative stereotypes and projection toward other members of the marginalized groups they
32 belong to (Wilkins, Mollborn and Bó 2014; Bailey et al. 2011; Bulhan 2004; Padilla 2001;
33 Berger and Zelditch 1998; Banaji and Hardin 1996; Blair and Banaji 1996; Goffman 1963).
34 Perhaps not surprisingly, these findings are highly contested, as the results from controlled, lab-
35 based experimental research studies have been mixed. Select social identity theorists have
36 pushed back, asserting that minority group members should internalize lower levels of negative
37 stereotypes (Crocker and Major 1989; Tajfel and Turner 1986). But, as it turns out, this is highly
38 influenced by the subgroup one belongs to. For example, African Americans tend to internalize
39 lower levels of negative stereotypes than European Americans (Gray-Little & Hafdahl 2000). On
40 the other hand, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans tend to internalize
41 more negative stereotypes than European Americans (Twenge and Crocker 2002). However, the
42 Roma present a conundrum: They have resided in Europe since the middle ages, but one would
43 expect that their stereotype internalization rates would likely be very different than of the
44 Europeans who are not routinely discriminated against in their home countries. Thus, the large
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3 body of current research still needs grounding in population-level empirical evidence, through
4 attention on how sociodemographic variables affect this process in different contexts.
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7 To explain the above, existing research on the topic asserts that societies are based on a
8 small number of primary categories, which are often deployed to indicate group belonging (Fiske
9 and Taylor 2013; Ridgeway 2011; Schneider 2005). These categories allow for instant
10 classification, serving to either facilitate or impede class mobility (Fiske and Taylor 2013;
11 Bourdieu 1985). A key contributor to the allocation of individuals into in-groups and out-groups
12 is the role of differential between-group resource availability (Lamont and Molnar 2002;
13 Runciman 1966). Stratified social differences thus emerge from structural between-group
14 economic cleavages, leading to the formation of group status beliefs, with deeply embedded
15 opinions regarding the competence and the abilities of the various group members (Ridgeway
16 and Correll 2006; Ridgeway et al. 2009, 1998; Berger and Zelditch 1998; Ridgeway and
17 Balkwell 1997; Ridgeway 1991). In a vicious cycle, differences lead to socioeconomic
18 inequalities, yet inequalities also lead to perceived differences and stereotypes (Kimmel 2000).
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27 Link and Phelan's (2014) concept of "stigma power" bridges the gap between micro-level
28 constructs of stigma and agency (Goffman 1963), and the above population-level status
29 hierarchies. The authors position stigma as a macro-level "resource that allows people to obtain
30 ends they desire" (Link and Phelan 2014, p. 15). "Stigma power" therefore becomes a societal
31 phenomenon, and similarly to Bourdieu's symbolic power, serves the interests of the dominant
32 group (Link and Phelan 2014, Bourdieu 1986). As such, social status differences and stigma
33 processes are closely intertwined (Kimmel 2000). The stigmatizers benefit by achieving wealth,
34 power and status through the exercise of stigma, rewarding performances that comply with the
35 dominant world view. Concurrently, the stigmatized may partake in "defensive othering" and the
36 internalization of negative stereotypes towards one's one group in order to make their
37 subordination more tolerable (Pyke 2010). Link and Phelan (2014) assert that there are "close
38 parallels between processes characterizing stigmatization and the status processes that contribute
39 to systemic stratification" (p. 20). They assert that like status, stigma is also rooted in shared
40 social expectations, positing that stigma can occupy multiple levels, from interpersonal to macro-
41 levels.
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53 In this framework, internalization of negative stereotypes can occur as soon as one is
54 categorized by status, framing future expectations regarding performance and behavior. This
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3 internalization exists on a continuum: marginalized group members individually encounter
4 different levels of discrimination, leading to varying amounts of negative stereotype
5 internalization (Crocker and Major 1989; Poupart 2003). Existing research examining how
6 marginalized groups cope with prejudice notes that individual reactions to discrimination vary.
7
8 The magnitude of the psychological distress one may experience after discrimination depends on
9
10 multiple factors: the recognition of the act itself (Cooley 1902), feeling in control (Ruggerio &
11 Taylor 1997), the length of time one is exposed to discrimination (Williams, Shore and Grahe
12 1998; Williams et al. 2003), whether one feels that the stigma against their own group is justified
13 (Major and Crocker 1993), and the individual coping mechanisms deployed after the incident
14 (Burkley and Hart 2008; Branscombe, Schmitt and Harvey 1999). Here, it is important to note
15 that despite being related constructs, stereotypes and discrimination are distinct. Stereotypes
16 often emerge unconsciously and can be both positive and negative (with the negative form often
17 referred to as stigma). Discrimination is the behavior that stems from these internal attitudes
18 (Weiner and Craighead 2010; Fiske et al. 1998; Oakes and Haslam 1994; Lippmann 1922). Thus,
19 between-group resource availability, stereotype internalization and discrimination are closely
20 intertwined, yet very distinct phenomena.
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31 As the literature above illustrates, between-group resource inequality is an important
32 contributor to the formation of negative stereotypes. Yet, its consideration is also important for
33 more macro-level reasons. We can think of long-standing, state-sanctioned between-group
34 resource inequalities as a form of structural discrimination (Bourdieu 1994, Wacquant 2009) or
35 structural violence (Farmer 2010). Both concepts reflect the institutional reproduction of long-
36 term marginalization, and the ways in which poverty and inequality 'get under the skin' (Singer
37 and Erickson 2011). Collectively, the literature implies that population level structural factors
38 (such as highly entrenched between-group income inequality) play a substantial part in how
39 marginalized populations experience discrimination and stereotypes. Therefore, we must pay
40 attention to country-bounded status structures. The specific topography of a state's economic
41 system, with its symbolically sanctioned resource inequalities, plays a central role in the
42 formation and persistence of status and stigma processes. With this in mind, we must consider
43 how resources acquired through both physical and symbolic capital – such as income, education,
44 occupation, migration status, geographic location, age, gender and health – may influence the
45 relationship between stratification and the internalization of negative stereotypes.
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Modeling Inequality, Discrimination, and Negative Stereotypes

Data

The data are comprised of in-person interviews with 41,334 Roma and 13,326 non-Roma individuals in twelve European countries conducted in a partnership between the United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, European Commission and the European Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights. In 2011, these organizations coordinated efforts to examine the situation of the Roma in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia. These countries represent a wide range of political, economic and social contexts, in both EU and non-EU states. The sample was collected through random sampling and is nationally representative for Roma living in areas more densely populated by members of their ethnic group. The non-Roma sample serves as a benchmark for the Roma.² Of the Roma population, a randomly selected adult sub-sample (N=4651) was asked questions about their views on stereotypes and experiences with prejudice.

The interviews were carried out face-to-face in the respondent's homes by trained fieldworkers in the national language. Up to three household members were interviewed in every household: the head of household answered questions regarding the demographic profile of each household member and the overall status of the household; the children's primary caregiver was queried about childcare and educational details; and a randomly selected adult respondent was interviewed concerning individual attitudes. The response rates for the Roma varied from 56% in Moldova to 90% in Croatia. The survey contains questions covering the socioeconomic situation of every member in the household. Additional topics include health, housing circumstances, neighborhood infrastructure, civic pride, citizenship status, stereotypes, human rights awareness, experience of discrimination, and migration history. For this study, I restricted the sample to only the adult Roma randomly selected to be queried about stereotypes and discrimination (N=4651).

Dependent Variable: Internalization of Negative Stereotypes

² Anon. 2012. "Roma Household Survey Methodology." *UNDP*. Retrieved January 20, 2015a (http://issuu.com/undp_in_europe_cis/docs/integrated_roma.web_1)

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5 The dataset contains several variables that can be used as proxies for negative stereotypes
6 toward the Roma. The interviewer prefaced them with: "Below is a set of statements reflecting
7 certain opinions, stereotypes and prejudices about the Roma. We would like to know your
8 opinion about them. Please tell us which of them you find justified and which - not." The
9 statements include: 1. "Roma are dirty/not clean." 2. "Roma are lazy." 3. "Roma steal." 4. "Roma
10 are abusing the system." Respondents had the option of responding to the negative stereotypes
11 presented with "finding them totally unjustified" or "finding them justified". I consider
12 respondents who report finding at least one of the four negative stereotypes 'justified' as having
13 internalized a negative stereotype towards their own ethnic group. I base my internalization
14 measure on established research that suggests that those who recognize other's negative view of
15 their own ethnic group as justified are more likely to also confirm, experience and internalize
16 negative stereotypes (Steele & Aronson 1995; Davies, Spencer, & Steele 2005; Massey and
17 Owens 2014; Ruggiero and Taylor 1997).

18
19 Of the over 4600 randomly asked adult Roma respondents, nearly 27% report
20 internalizing at least one of the negative stereotypes listed above. The first three categories (dirty,
21 lazy, steal) are most prevalent (with approx. 30% of the respondents internalizing one or more).
22 The category of system abuse is the least internalized. The internalization of negative stereotypes
23 is coded as a categorical variable, comprised of those who have internalized at least one negative
24 stereotype and those who have not. This makes sense for multiple reasons. While the individual
25 stereotypes are all negative, they are qualitatively slightly different from each other. The various
26 factors that may cause respondents living in different contexts to run the risk of internalizing one
27 over the other are unknown. Thus, it would be irresponsible to lump them all together as a
28 continuous measure representing low to high rates of internalization. It is also undeniable that
29 internalizing at least one negative stereotype toward your own ethnic group is troubling, and
30 warrants examination.

31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 *Independent Variables: Between-Group Income Inequality and Ethnic Discrimination*

51 Using data directly from the survey, I capture the above country-level income inequality
52 by calculating the difference between the median monthly household wages for both Roma men
53 and women by country, as they relate to non-Roma men's wages for the same country. Figure 1
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3 shows this distribution. I also considered using official income inequality statistics by country. I
4 choose to proceed with my measure, as in addition to the results being extremely similar, the
5 direct consideration of the income difference of the Roma and the non-Roma living in close
6 proximity to them is likely a more salient determinant of their everyday interactions, than a more
7 removed measure incorporating areas of a country they may never visit.
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13 [Figure 1.]
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17 The consideration of structural discrimination as captured by country level between-
18 group income inequality is necessary when it comes to understanding the high levels of ethnic
19 discrimination experienced by the Roma. This measure is particularly salient for them, as
20 Ladanyi and Szelenyi (2001) show that the economically disadvantaged of Eastern Europe are
21 more likely to be classified as belonging in the marginalized Roma ethnic group. This is because
22 racial perceptions are fluid (Omi and Winant 2014) and greatly influenced by socioeconomic
23 status (Penner and Saperstein 2008). To examine how between-group income inequality may
24 influence everyday interaction, I consider whether the respondents have experienced ethnic
25 discrimination in the recent past. To do so, I rely on the survey question of: "In the past 12
26 months (or since you have been in this country) have you personally felt discriminated against
27 because you are Roma?" The respondents were asked this question at the end of the last survey
28 module, removing the possibility that asking about potentially painful experiences of ethnic
29 discrimination could have primed the stereotype-related responses described above. Figure 2
30 shows the country-level percentages for this measure.
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42 [Figure 2.]
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46 *Other Covariates*

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48 In In order to account for individual level factors that could influence the internalization
49 of stereotypes, I control for variables that were shown by previous literature as influential. These
50 are: gender (categorical: male/female), age (adults only, categorical: 18-29, 30-49, 50+),
51 household income (continuous on log scale), employment status (categorical: employed,
52 unemployed), educational attainment (categorical: incomplete primary, primary education only,
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3 incomplete secondary, secondary only, higher than secondary school), occupation (categorical:
4 farmer, unskilled worker, skilled trades, professional), marital status (categorical: married,
5 divorced, separated, widowed, cohabiting, single), self-reported health (categorical: good, fair,
6 poor); migration status (categorical: household migrated in the last 5 years, household has not
7 migrated) and geographic location (categorical), measured by urban or rural residence and
8 current country. Table 1 shows the distributions of these controls.
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15 [Table 1.]
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18 *Analysis*

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20 The statistical analyses proceed in three stages. First, I present descriptive statistics of
21 variations between respondents who have experienced ethnic discrimination and those who have
22 not. I provide both simple descriptive (unadjusted) comparisons and group comparisons adjusted
23 for differences in covariates through binomial logistic regression analyses. Logistic regression
24 analysis interrogates whether the log odds of the internalization of at least one negative
25 stereotype is associated with the recent experience of ethnic discrimination, while controlling for
26 the effects of the covariates above. To account for non-independence among observations and
27 the assumption of independence in sampling required by logistic regression analysis, in the third
28 stage, I use hierarchical linear modeling to investigate the association between individual and
29 structural economic discrimination, as this is captured by long-standing, state-enabled population
30 level income inequality (Hox et al. 2010; Raudenbush and Bryk 2001). This method is
31 appropriate, as my data is hierarchically structured into individuals belonging to different levels,
32 with respondents within the same group sharing the same country-level economic environment
33 (Hox et al. 2010, Merlo 2003; Goldstein et al. 2002).
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36 My multilevel logistic model is grounded in a fixed component which measures the
37 magnitude of associations between the variables, allowing for a random intercept showing the
38 differences between second-level components and the variances in the different levels, following
39 the guidance of Sniders and Bosker (2012) and Kreft and Leeuw (1998). The random
40 coefficients are measures of the random effects derived from variability between units, shown as
41 variation between the country level intercepts in fitted regression lines (Kreft and Leeuw 1998).
42 At the individual level, this model examines how the log odds of internalizing stigma is modified
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by the predictor variables. At the country level, to interrogate how state structures enable the existence of income inequality between specific populations, I introduce a variable measure of income inequality between the Roma and the non-Roma.

My goal in the model building process consists of ensuring that my variable selection is guided by the existing theoretical frameworks detailed earlier in this paper, while also maintaining a strong focus on parsimony. Although I initially simplified the multilevel models by trimming insignificant parameters, reporting the full models allows for consistency across the explanatory variables and for the discussion of significance tests. The model is represented by the equation:

$$\ln\left(\frac{p_{ij}}{1-p_{ij}}\right) = \beta'x_{ij} + \gamma'z_j + u_j + \gamma_{ij} \text{ where } \ln\left(\frac{p_{ij}}{1-p_{ij}}\right) \text{ is}$$

the natural logarithm of the odds that a respondent i internalizes at least one negative stereotype. x_{ij} is the matrix of explanatory variables at the individual level; and z_j is the matrix of country-level income inequality; β and γ are vectors of parameters, respectively associated with individual and country level variables. The random effect u_j , which captures the correlation between observations, is assumed to be normally distributed with mean of zero and variance σ^2_u . The model relies on constant intercept β_0 and u_j , variable between the countries, having a normal distribution with mean zero and variance σ^2_{u0} . This allows for the calculation of the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC), partitioning variance across the two levels of the model to determine variance in stigma power as it is attributable to the country level as compared to the individual level (Taylor 2010). I conduct analysis using the statistical software Stata13.

Results

The results are presented in four parts. First, I describe the overall composition of the adult Roma sample in my dataset. The following section examines how the recent experience of discrimination affects the internalization of negative stereotypes and how this relationship varies by context. Next, I identify the sociodemographic factors of influence when it comes to the likelihood of internalizing negative ethnic stereotypes. Last, I interrogate how the joint repercussions of structural and individual level discrimination influence this internalization.

Sample Characteristics

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5 Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics for the Roma adult sample. The sample
6 population is nearly evenly split between the sexes, with 50.4% being female. Reflecting current
7 knowledge, we find that the population is younger: 41.7% are between the ages of 18-29,
8 approximately 37% between the ages of 30-49, and 21% over the age of 50. Over half of the
9 adult sample is currently married. Only 23% have never been married. 60% live in an urban
10 location. The educational attainment levels of the sample are quite low, with approximately 11%
11 having completed secondary education or higher. Only 24.5% of the sample is employed. Of
12 these, the largest percentage are unskilled workers (64.28%). 27.78% consider themselves in a
13 skilled trade. Contrary to popular stereotypes about the population, only 3.5% of the total Roma
14 households have moved (from a different city or from a different country) in the past five years.
15 Nearly 61% of the sample report being in good health, while the rest are in poor or fair health.
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26 [Table 1.]
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29 Figure 1 illustrates the between-group, country level income inequality between the
30 Roma and non-Roma. There is a great amount of variation, both between the genders and across
31 the countries. In Moldova, Romania and in Bulgaria, Roma men and women make the same
32 amount of money. However, they make 40 to 50 percent less than the majority men in these
33 countries. On the other hand, Roma men in Slovakia make 20% less money than men from
34 Slovakia's majority population. On average, Roma women in the same country make only 48%
35 of what non-Roma men make.
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41 [Figure 1.]
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44 *Discrimination and Stereotype Internalization* 45 46 47

48 Figure 2 presents the country level percentages of ethnic discrimination and internalized
49 negative stereotypes among the Roma. As the figure shows, country-level ethnic discrimination
50 and the internalization of negative stereotypes closely parallel each other. In countries with high
51 levels of ethnic discrimination, the Roma also internalize more negative stereotypes. There is a
52 considerable amount of variation across countries. Of the overall adult Roma respondents, 27%
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3 have internalized at least one negative stereotype toward their own ethnic group, ranging from
4 25% to 37% of the total respondents per country.
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8 [Figure 2.]
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11 Over 12% of the Roma report experiencing ethnic discrimination in the past year. There
12 are vast country-level differences in reported discrimination levels. In nearly every country,
13 Roma respondents report having recently experienced discrimination due to their ethnicity. The
14 internalization of negative stereotypes and discrimination are closely intertwined, even across
15 markedly heterogeneous populations and contexts. Montenegro is the only exception here.
16 26.33% of the Roma respondents have internalized negative stereotypes here, but only 3.39%
17 report experiencing ethnic discrimination.
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24 *Sociodemographic Factors of Influence* 25

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29 Next, I turn to the task of identifying sociodemographic factors of influence when it
30 comes to the likelihood of internalizing negative ethnic stereotypes. Table 2 contains the results
31 of logistic regression analyses, interrogating whether the log odds of the internalization of at
32 least one negative stereotype is associated with the recent experience of ethnic discrimination,
33 while accounting for the effects of sociodemographic variables. To provide a more intuitive
34 understanding of the results, I convert these log odds into odds ratios.
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41 [Table 2.]
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45 Results show that when it comes to the internalization of stereotypes, the recall of ethnic
46 discrimination is detrimental. The odds of internalizing negative stereotypes toward one's own
47 ethnic group are over 11 times higher when a person experiences ethnic discrimination.
48 Additionally, the odds of internalizing at least one negative stereotype increase as the Roma
49 progress through the educational system. This is consistent with existing work on the subject of
50 educational institutions playing a part in larger systems of dominance, through which
51 marginalized populations experience both explicit forms of discrimination and persistent
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3 microaggressions, increasing the likelihood of stigma internalization (Kohli and Solórzano 2012;
4 Sue et al. 2007; Dixson and Rousseau 2005; Feagin and Sikes 1995). Migration is not a
5 significant predictor in the model.
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8 As expected, there is significant country-level variation when it comes to the
9 internalization of stigma. Roma in the Czech Republic and Croatia have the highest odds, with
10 Romania, Montenegro and Moldova following closely behind. Figure 3 illustrates this logistic
11 relationship visually, showing the per-country log odds of internalizing at least one negative
12 stereotype after the experience of discrimination.
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18 [Figure 3.]
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22 Women and those who are divorced, widowed or never married have a much higher
23 probability of internalizing negative stereotypes compared to those who are married. Figure 4
24 illustrates the relationship between gender and the internalization of stereotypes, taking context
25 into account.
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30 [Figure 4.]
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34 Taking a closer look, we find that while women in general have a higher likelihood of
35 internalizing negative stereotypes, the statistical significance of this relationship is influenced by
36 geographic context. Specifically, holding other variables constant in the model, of the twelve
37 countries, this relationship is statistically significant only in Albania, Croatia, Macedonia,
38 Moldova, Bulgaria and Serbia. Those in poor health also internalize more negative stereotypes
39 toward their own ethnic group.
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46 *Stereotype Internalization in Economic Context* 47 48

49 [Table 3.]
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53 Table 3 shows results of the multilevel models, illustrating that the consideration of
54 between-group income inequality matters when it comes to discrimination shaping the
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3 internalization of negative stereotypes. This is true for both Roma men and women. To honor the
4 differences in income inequality between the genders, I run 2 models: one considering the
5 income inequality between Roma men and majority men, and the other considering the same
6 income inequality between Roma women and the men of the majority population. While we cannot directly
7 compare logit coefficients across these models, it is interesting to note that the probabilities of
8 internalizing stigma remain significantly positive, reaffirming that having experienced recent
9 ethnic discrimination leads to a higher likelihood of internalizing negative stereotypes. However,
10 structural inequality shapes this process by modifying the magnitude of this effect, with the
11 overall influence of individual level discrimination decreasing. This reinforces previous findings
12 that ethnic stigma and racial perceptions are mediated to a large degree by macro-structural and
13 socioeconomic processes (Penner and Saperstein 2008; Ladanyi and Szelenyi 2001).
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17 The multilevel results also show, that with country-level income inequality in the mix,
18 women have a much higher probability of internalizing negative stereotypes than men. Women
19 aged 30-49 are also significantly more likely to internalize negative stereotypes. Being widowed
20 or never married remains a risk factor for both genders. Those in poor or fair health are more
21 likely to internalize negative stereotypes. The odds of internalizing negative stereotypes are 1.04
22 times higher for those living in urban areas. Additionally, as the Roma progress through the
23 educational system, their risk of internalizing negative stereotypes increases.
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40 Figure 5 illustrates the relationship between education and the internalization of
41 stereotypes, while controlling for the other variables in the men's multilevel model (results not
42 shown for women as they were very similar). Here, we see that despite an overall small
43 percentage of the Roma of Europe achieving higher than secondary education, they are also more
44 likely to internalize negative stereotypes. Unlike the lower educational attainment levels, this is
45 statistically significant in the model.
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51 Discussion 52 53 54 55 56 57

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3 One of the most destructive effects of discrimination is the internalization of negative
4 stereotypes. However, our understanding remains incomplete without an examination of the
5 interplay between the macro and micro-level factors that influence the likelihood of internalizing
6 negative stereotypes. This study made an effort to address this gap, by systematically linking the
7 concepts of discrimination, negative stereotype internalization and status. This was accomplished
8 through a specific focus on how individually experienced discrimination and structural income
9 inequality shape the internalization of negative ethnic stereotypes.
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15 The dynamics discussed require the consideration of agency and power: stereotypes
16 require buy-in, and persistent income inequalities require deep societal control over employment
17 and educational opportunities. Paying homage to Bourdieu's multilevel model of the social
18 world provided an apt framework for the interrogation of the ramifications of structural
19 discrimination. This study enriches the oft individual-level focus of the existing psychological
20 literature on stereotype internalization. My results support Bourdieu's assertions when it comes
21 to the benefits from education being unequally distributed between groups, as different groups
22 possess varying amounts of cultural and social capital required successfully navigate and
23 manipulate this system (Bourdieu 1986). The odds of internalizing at least one negative
24 stereotype increase as the Roma progress through the educational system. In order for
25 educational institutions to cease to be a mechanism of symbolic violence against the Roma,
26 future research and policy efforts need to focus on ensuring that educational achievements enable
27 class mobility and health for all.
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38 Researchers and policy makers have long-grappled with how to best ensure that
39 education can serve as a route to socioeconomic mobility for the Roma too. Currently, only one
40 percent of the Roma are able to enter a university, and this is not because of a lack of want, nor is
41 to because they value education less (Bhabha et al. 2018). As a recent study conducted in
42 collaboration between the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at
43 Harvard University (Harvard FXB) and the Center for Interactive Pedagogy in Belgrade notes,
44 Roma pupils across Europe still face significant discrimination while attending school. This can
45 occur as often as nearly every day according to the respondents queried (Bhabha et al. 2018).
46 Yet, this work also points at important sites of intervention when it comes to achieving more
47 positive higher education outcomes. These include access to discrimination-free early childhood
48 development services, adequately funded schools for Roma pupils, increasing parental education
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3 levels, and having non-Roma allies to help when Roma pupils do experience discrimination
4 (Bhabha et al. 2018). While none of the above ensures that educational institutions will fully
5 cease to ensure that the Roma do not internalize the negative stereotypes they are subjected to,
6 nevertheless, many countries in Europe are actively taking steps in the right direction to allow for
7 eventual equity (Fuller et al. 2015).
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12 13 *Limitations and implications* 14

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17 Though this study is a great first step, it needs to be supplemented by further
18 ethnographic work exploring the reasons as to *why* particular Roma respondents internalize
19 prevalent negative stereotypes toward their own ethnic group. My ongoing qualitative research
20 with Hungarian Roma refugees points to the reasons for this internalization being both
21 socioeconomic status and context dependent. Exploring this ‘why’ question in the future will be
22 imperative for a more complete understanding of the processes that link structural and individual
23 level discrimination and the internalization of stigma.
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29 It is important to remain mindful that in environments characterized by high levels of
30 inequality, both the stigmatizers and the stigmatized are adversely affected when it comes to
31 their overall social, psychological and physical health outcomes (Hatzenbuehler 2011; Wilkinson
32 and Pickett 2009; Phelan et al. 2008; Ridgeway and Correll 2006; Castro and Farmer 2005;
33 Parker and Aggleton 2003; Ridgeway and Balkwell 1997). It is vital that future work pays equal
34 attention to the processes that also influence the majority population’s internalization of negative
35 stereotypes.
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41 While the data was collected through a random sampling process following current best
42 practice standards for dealing with the sensitive subject of ethnicity, it cannot fully capture the
43 experiences of all the Roma (Ivanov et al. 2012). Though only 2% - 3% of the Roma population
44 complete university³, future researchers also need to study these outliers, while also continuing
45 to focus on the many ongoing successful educational initiatives targeting the Roma.⁴
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50 Lastly, we need to ask what would be a ‘low’ level of stereotype internalization and
51 discrimination experience in a population, and what could be considered high. In my sample,
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54 ³ <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/06/03/only-tiny-minority-roma-enter-higher-education-europe>

55 ⁴ <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/cheer/researchprojects/rise/impactevent>; <http://www.errc.org/press-releases/ngos-visit-hungary-to-find-successful-practices-on-roma-education-and-desegregation>
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3 over 12% retroactively report experiencing ethnic discrimination, and nearly 27% have
4 internalized negative stereotypes. This is troubling, as I interpret this as nearly a third of my
5 sample risking the curtailment of their life chances due to stereotype threat. In an ideal world, no
6 one would experience any discrimination. However, in order to dig into these results a bit more,
7 future data collection efforts need to ask more nuanced questions when it comes to the
8 discrimination measure. In order to ensure that the recall of discrimination is not under-reported,
9 the surveyors themselves need to come from the Roma community. Though this dataset
10 represents the highest quality multi-country data currently available on this population, future
11 data collection efforts need to directly enlist Roma leaders and academics, focused on collecting
12 longitudinal data on the population.
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22 *Theoretical and Methodological Contributions*

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26 Despite the above limitations, this study presents multiple contributions to the literature. I
27 show that when it comes to a better understanding of the lived experience of disadvantage,
28 structural economic marginalization - as measured by between-group inequality and framed by
29 geographic context - matters greatly. There is a considerable amount of heterogeneity between
30 the 12 countries under examination when it comes to the internalization of stigma. Yet, I caution
31 against grouping these countries into stable categories of more or less stigma toward the Roma,
32 as there is considerable ebb and flow in this phenomenon across time. Romania serves as a good
33 example for this. Before 1864, the Roma were enslaved in Romania, then murdered by the Nazis.
34 During the Ceausescu dictatorship, they were included in both the employment and educational
35 systems, improving their overall economic standing.⁵ However, after the fall of the dictatorial
36 regime, over 90% of Romania's Roma again found themselves in extreme poverty.⁶
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45 The examination of the multiple social, political and economic factors that influence
46 changes in population level internalization of negative stereotypes across time and geographic
47 context serve as fertile ground for future research on the subject. A worthwhile next-step would
48 be the consideration of how migration might play a part in discrimination and stereotype threat.
49 As only 3.5% of my respondents have migrated any time in the past five years, due to the
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54 ⁵ <https://kopachi.com/articles/roma-in-romania-valeriu-nicolae/>

55 ⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-romania-roma-property-feature/roma-fear-there-is-no-place-for-them-as-romanians-cities-modernize-idUSKBN16T043>

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3 temporal mismatch between how the migration related question and the discrimination related
4 question was asked, it was hard to determine if their experience of discrimination occurred in
5 their current country of residence. Future data collection efforts focusing on this population need
6 to ask a more comprehensive set of migration-related questions. The low migration rate of my
7 sample points to two possibilities: It potentially pushes back against a very prevalent public
8 discourse about the Roma, which often portrays them as being perpetually on the move.
9 Alternatively, it is also possible the overall sampling strategy of the survey is biased against
10 migrant populations. Both possibilities require further research with more complete longitudinal
11 data sources on the subject of migration and ethnic discrimination.
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Future research needs to re-visit the issue of gender when it comes to how structural
variables affect the experience of discrimination and the internalization of negative stereotypes.
People at the intersection of multiple disadvantages are particularly vulnerable: women in
general have a higher likelihood of internalizing negative stereotypes, but women who are
divorced, widowed or never married have a much higher probability of internalizing negative
stereotypes than those who are married. However, when holding other variables constant in the
model, of the twelve countries, this relationship is statistically significant in six of the twelve
countries. This calls for future comparative qualitative research for a better understanding of the
differences between women's lived experiences in the various European Union member
countries.

Stigma as a Resource, Stigma as a Process

My findings support recent theoretical work on stigma and processes of social
stratification being closely intertwined (Link and Phelan 2014). Multilevel analyses results show
that the interplay between structural and individual level factors is important when it comes to
understanding stereotype internalization. I find that between-group income inequality directly
and significantly influences the likelihood of experiencing discrimination and the internalization
of negative stereotypes.

In short: (1) We know that minority group membership serves as a marker of lower
status, while lower status also leads to a higher likelihood of being categorized as belonging to a
marginalized minority group (Penner and Saperstein 2008; Ladanyi and Szelenyi 2001). (2)

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3 Structural economic marginalization additionally leads to stigma, and the higher likelihood of the
4 stigmatized directly being discriminated against – linking the tangible memory of ethnic
5 discrimination to the macro level phenomena giving rise to it (Wilkinson and Pickett 2009;
6 Marmot 2005). (3) Negative stereotype internalization emerges from the direct knowledge of the
7 stereotype in question. It is shaped by experiences with individual level discrimination, which in
8 turn is connected to status processes. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect structural between-
9 group income inequality to directly influence the social psychological process of stereotype
10 internalization (Hatzenbuehler 2014; Phelan et al. 2008; Castro and Farmer 2005; Parker and
11 Aggleton 2003).

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13 This study rests on the conviction that when conducting research on the internalization of
14 negative stereotypes, data permitting, it is important to maintain focus on both individual and
15 population level processes, as this is the only way to identify holistic intervention strategies. This
16 perspective serves as a contribution to the existing literature. My results show that in highly
17 unequal environments, factors that we often think of as protective – such as higher education –
18 may carry unintended consequences when it comes to the internalization of negative stereotypes
19 (Mirowsky and Ross 2003). In such contexts, policies that only focus on individual level factors
20 without also addressing structural inequality-based processes will fall short in providing equally
21 protective psychological health benefits to the marginalized populations they seek to target.

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23 My results provide evidence showing that structural discrimination has an effect on many
24 of the sociodemographic factors influencing the likelihood of internalizing negative stereotypes.
25 This analysis serves as an important first step in tracing the contours of the simultaneous effects
26 of individual and structural discrimination on the internalization of negative stereotypes, drawing
27 attention to the necessity for an explicit inclusion of theory to guide study design and
28 interpretation. My results underscore the need for further population level research on
29 psychosocial processes as they are connected to processes of stratification. Research on this
30 subject has significant health and social policy implications.

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Table 1. Sample Characteristics (%)

<i>Respondent Characteristics</i>		
	Experienced Discrimination	12.36
	Internalized Stereotype	26.93
	Female	50.4
<i>Age</i>		25.2
	18-29	41.71
	30-49	37.03
	>=50	21.26
<i>Marital Status</i>		
	Married	51.17
	Divorced	3.26
	Separated	1.85
	Widowed	5.93
	Cohabiting	14.7
	Never Married	23.02
<i>Urban</i>		60.05
<i>Highest Education Attained</i>		
	None or Incomplete Primary	53.4
	Primary	30.25
	Incomplete Secondary	4.9
	Secondary	10.86
	Higher	0.23
<i>Income(mean)</i>		
	Log monthly household income	7.65
<i>Occupational Category</i>		
	Farmer	2.42
	Unskilled Trades	64.28
	Skilled Trades	27.78
	Professional	5.52
<i>Employed</i>		24.52
<i>Migrant</i>		3.51
<i>Self Reported Health</i>		
	Good	60.98
	Fair	16.64
	Poor	22.37

Table 2. Logistic regression predicting the internalization of negative stereotypes

		Odds	s.e.
	Experienced Discrimination	11.65**	0.1
	Female	1.69**	0.12
<i>Age</i>	18-29		
	30-49	1.18	0.14
	>=50	1.07	0.17
<i>Marital Status</i>	Married		
	Divorced	2.18**	0.21
	Separated	1.09	0.35
	Widowed	1.4**	0.16
	Cohabiting	1.25*	0.12
	Never Married	1.78**	0.28
<i>Urban</i>		1.05*	0.1
<i>Highest Education Attained</i>	None or Incomplete Primary		
	Primary	1.27**	0.11
	Incomplete Secondary	1.03	0.21
	Secondary	1.14	0.14
	Higher	8.17**	0.49
<i>Income(mean)</i>	Log monthly household income	1.03	0.01
<i>Occupational Category</i>	Farmer		
	Unskilled Trades	1.15	0.27
	Skilled Trades	1.2	0.28
	Professional	1.46	0.04
<i>Employed</i>		1.12	0.11
<i>Migrant</i>		1.21	0.28
<i>Self Reported Health</i>	Good		
	Fair	1.17	0.12
	Poor	1.11	0.12
<i>Country</i>	Albania		
	Bosnia& Herzegovina	0.67	0.31
	Bulgaria	1.39	0.24
	Czech Republic	2.65**	0.17
	Slovakia	0.34**	0.33
	Montenegro	1.17	0.27
	Croatia	1.47	0.24
	Hungary	1.19	0.2
	Macedonia	1.13	0.22
	Moldova	1.09	0.26
	Romania	1.81**	0.22
	Serbia	1.23	0.24
<i>_cons</i>		1.16**	0.35
<i>AIC (BIC)</i>		1643.65 (1785.43)	
** p<0.001; *p<0.05		(N = 4651)	

Table 3. Multilevel regression results predicting the internalization of negative stereotypes

		Male Roma vs Male Majority		Female Roma vs Male Majority	
		Odds	s.e.	Odds	s.e.
	Experienced Discrimination	1.66**	0.17	1.66**	0.01
	Female	1.11**	0.01	1.11**	0.01
<i>Age</i>					
	18-29				
	30-49	1.03	0.02	1.04**	0.02
	>=50	1.01	0.02	1.01	0.02
<i>Marital Status</i>					
	Married				
	Divorced	1.17**	0.03	1.15**	0.03
	Separated	1.07	0.04	1.06	0.04
	Widowed	1.11**	0.02	1.12**	0.02
	Cohabiting	1.02	0.01	1.02	0.01
	Never Married	1.16**	0.03	1.15**	0.03
<i>Urban</i>		1.04**	0.01	1.04**	0.01
<i>Highest Education Attained</i>					
	None or Incomplete Primary				
	Primary	1.01	0.01	1.01	0.01
	Incomplete Secondary	1.01	0.03	1.02	0.03
	Secondary	1.04**	0.02	1.05**	0.02
	Higher	1.42**	0.1	1.44**	0.1
<i>Income(mean)</i>					
	Log monthly household income	1.01	0.001	1.01	0.003
<i>Occupational Category</i>					
	Farmer				
	Unskilled Trades	1.01	0.04	1.02	0.04
	Skilled Trades	1.01	0.04	1.01	0.04
	Professional	1.06	0.05	1.01	0.05
<i>Employed</i>		1.01	0.01	1.01	0.01
<i>Self Reported Health</i>					
	Good				
	Fair	1.05**	0.02	1.04**	0.01
	Poor	1.03**	0.02	1.03**	0.01
<i>Migration</i>		1.02	0.03	1.01	0.03
<i>Country level income inequality</i>		1.25**	0.01	1.30**	0.02
	_cons	1.31**	0.05	1.41**	0.06
	ICC	0.31		0.36	

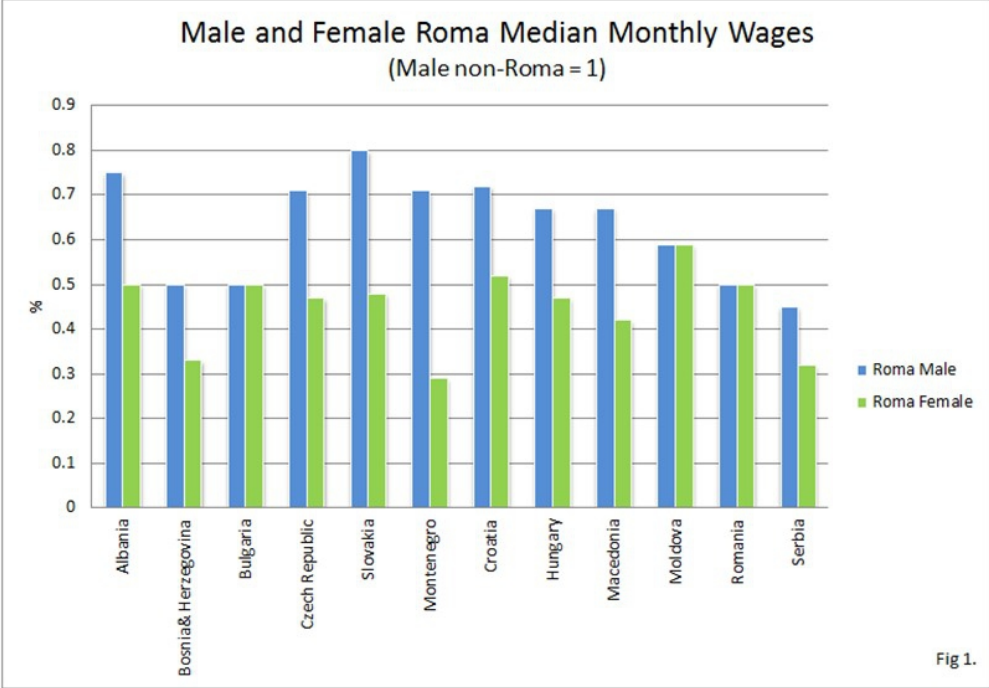
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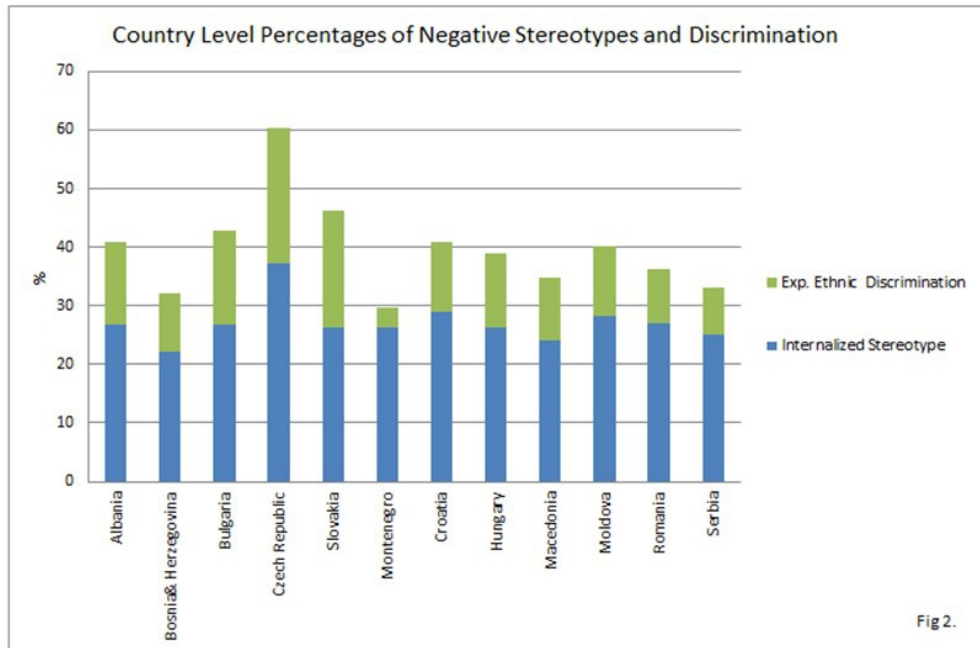
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Male and Female Roma Median Monthly Wages

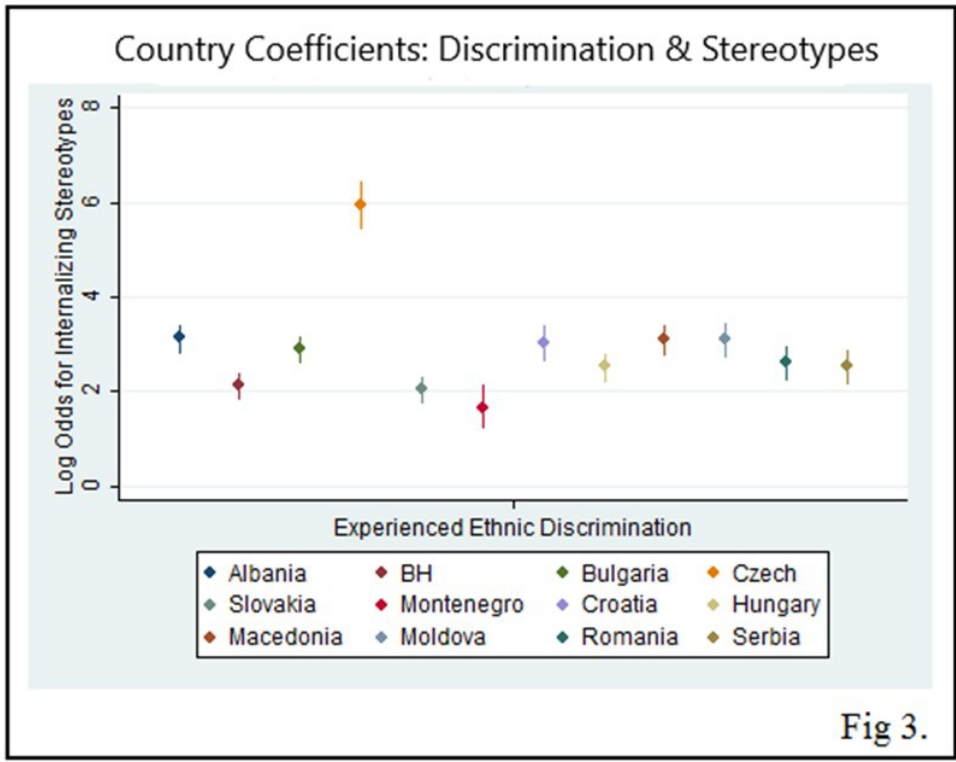
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Country Level Percentages of Negative Stereotypes and Discrimination

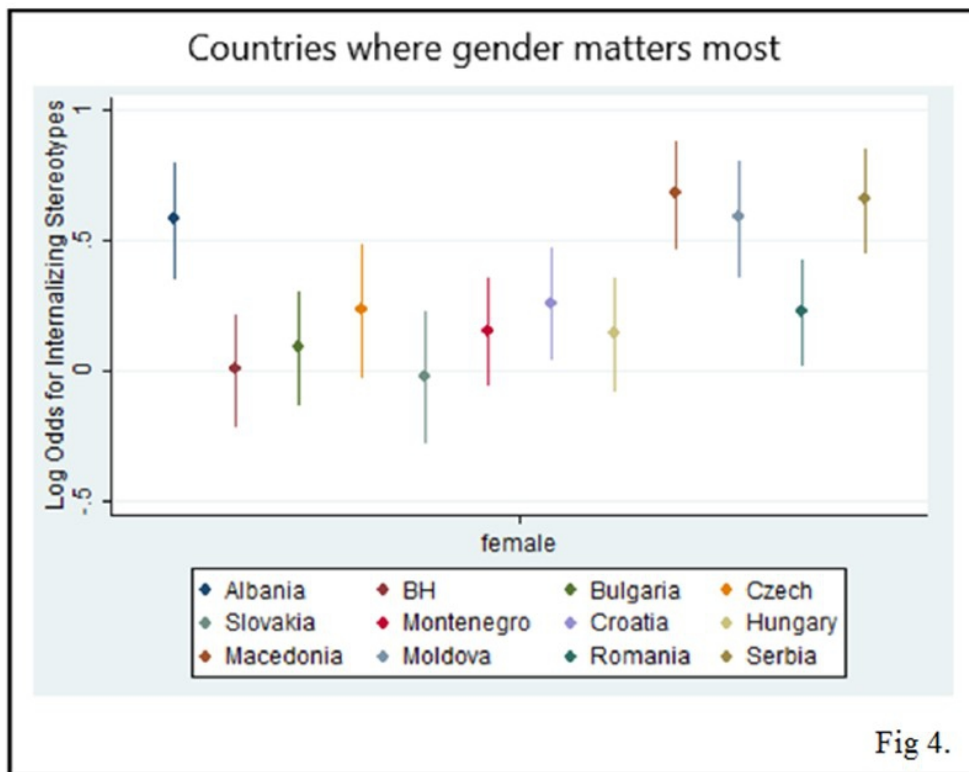
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Country Coefficients: Discrimination and Stereotypes

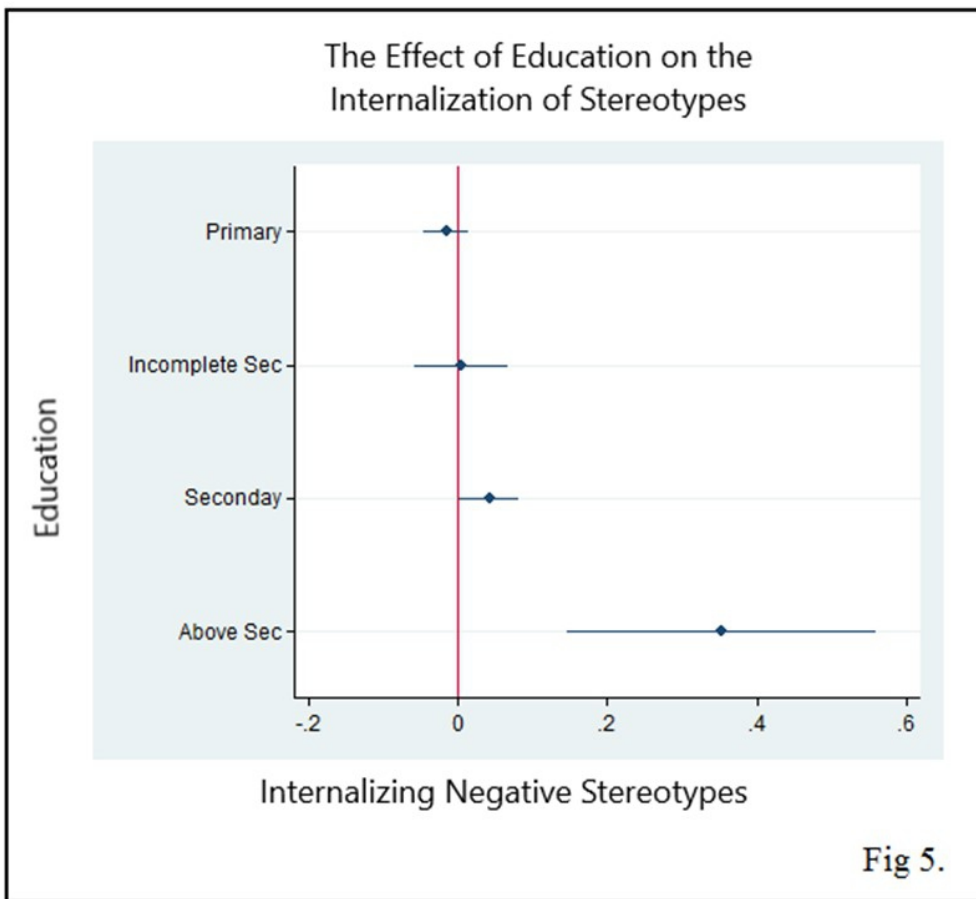
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Countries where gender matters most

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The effect of education on the internalization of stereotypes

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