

## BOOK REVIEWS

In spring 2021 a book *ROMA MINORITY YOUTH ACROSS CULTURAL CONTEXTS: TAKING A POSITIVE APPROACH TO RESEARCH, POLICY AND PRACTICE* was published by Oxford University Press (Dimitrova, R., Sam, D. L., & Ferrer-Wreder, L. Eds.). The international, multidisciplinary and multi-sectorial expert contributors to this book with 13 chapters addressing the complexities of Roma life in a variety of cultural settings, and explores how key developmental processes and person-context interactions can contribute to optimal and successful adaptation.

Part A describes the status quo providing: a brief historical overview of major socio-demographic, cultural and contextual characteristics of Roma populations across different countries as relevant background for empirical work on Roma children and youth (Chapter 1); the Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework and comprehensive literature review of what is known about Roma youth in the United States (Chapter 2); an overview of policy and program development pursued for Roma youth in various countries as well as evidence on good practices and initiatives for Roma (Chapter 3). The significant contribution of PYD based approach to research and practice for Roma youth is addressed as to provide a comprehensive approach on these communities and their children.

Part B presents theories on adaptation, well-being and adaptation, focusing on strengths-based PYD model and traditional frameworks in minority groups with a strong and particular emphasis on Roma youth. The outstanding features includes: a theoretical set up for the study of Roma children and youth based on current definition and operationalization of PYD in the fields of human development and applied developmental science (Chapter 4); a quantitative data among Roma

youth living in post-communist countries (Chapter 5) to address the question of how positive outcomes, personal strengths and contextual resources are experienced by these youth; a critical state-of-the-science overview of the literature on Roma youth and their developmental trajectories and outcomes, as well as promising future directions for research and policy on positive development of Roma and other ethnic minority youth groups are provided (Chapter 6). This section give illustrations of how the PYD approach has been applied through descriptive and intervention research to other, non-Roma, ethnic minority groups as well as needed advances in policy and practice with Roma.

Part C presents empirical findings on PYD and well-being of Roma youth across various countries. This section gathers unique empirical contributions on Roma youth and communities in a number of countries of settlement such as Bulgaria (Chapter 8), Germany (Chapter 7), Hungary (Chapter 10) and Serbia (Chapter 11). The chapters focus on the notion of identity formation as core developmental asset in promoting PYD and optimal development among youth, while also highlighting the need to expand on promoting mechanisms of PYD among Roma. Special attention is devoted to cultural specifics as well as universal relevance of the findings to the human and adolescent development in other similarly oppressed minority groups.

Finally, policy implications and discussion on existing mismatch between Roma needs and governments inclusion efforts are offered as to provide practitioners with suggestions on improving life conditions of the next generation of Roma in a global perspective (Chapter 12).

I recommended this book to researchers, practitioners, students, policy makers, and others involved in the process of changing the discourse on marginalized and deprived groups, and contributing for improving their developmental outcomes.

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