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**Title:** The Roma in Central and Eastern Europe - Inequality and Its Consequences

*Abstract*

This presentation builds around the Roma minority's experience with social and political inequality in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Research in stratification shows that for the Roma, the social costs of the post-communist transition have been especially high, including due to historical processes involving this minority in the region. Using various data sources, such as United Nations Development Programme reports on the Roma (2003; 2006), the *Poverty, Ethnicity and Gender in Eastern Europe, 2000* (PEGEE) study (principal investigator Ivan Szelenyi), as well as primary data on Romanian Roma elite (author's interviews), I illustrate the location of the Roma in the social structure with regard to formal education, occupation and income –the main dimension of social stratification, and with regard to their political representation in national legislatures. To understand these findings, I discuss institutional and individual-level drives of social inequality as it pertains to the Roma in post-communist Europe. Next, I focus on poverty and ethnic tensions as some of the main consequences of inequality. The presentation ends with discussions on the reciprocal relationship between correlates of inequality, and the Romani mobilization as agent of change.