

Overcoming Health Inequities of Hidden Roma from a Social Justice Perspective

Marta Escobar-Ballesta, Manuel García-Ramírez & Daniela Miranda
CESPYD – University of Seville

2017 SCRA Biennial Conference
Ottawa, Canada



SCRA
SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY
RESEARCH AND ACTION

Hidden, forgotten and silent



European Roma health inequities

HEALTH INEQUITIES	
<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower life expectancy (up to 15 years lower) • Negative view of health • Worse eye and ear health • More accidents <p>Adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silent diseases (cardiovascular, bone, joint and chronic diseases) • Infectious diseases (TB, hepatitis and skin diseases) • High prevalence of alcohol and drug abuse • Mental disorders (x6) 	<p>Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher rate of infant mortality • Low rate of vaccinations • Low regular paediatric check-ups • Malnutrition • Inadequate child growth <p>Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obesity • Low gynaecological prevention (early pregnancy) • Mental health problems • Teenage pregnancies

Objective

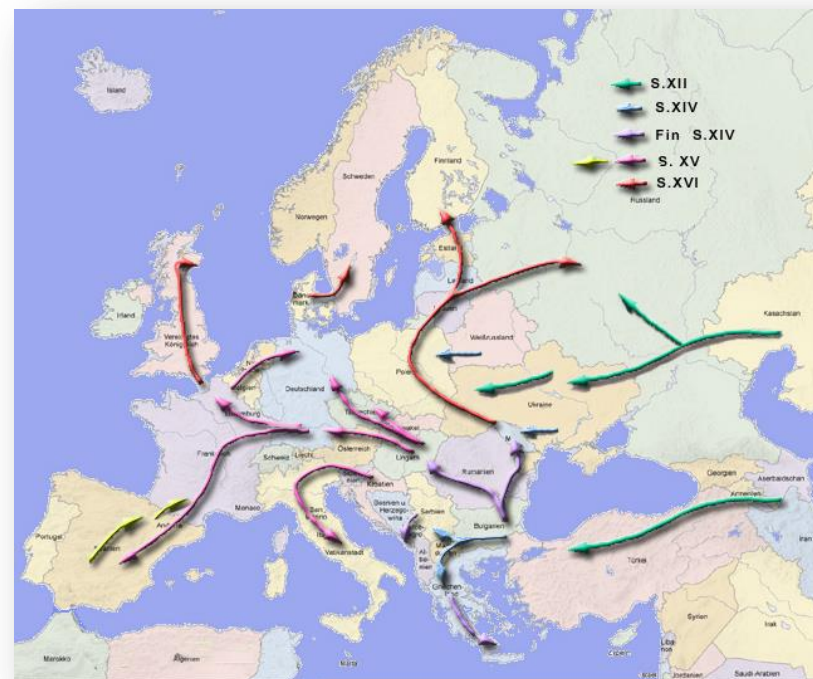
- To show how Roma suffer from health inequities due to their condition as hidden community.
- To present Liberation Psychology as a social justice alternative to this challenge.

Content

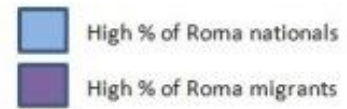
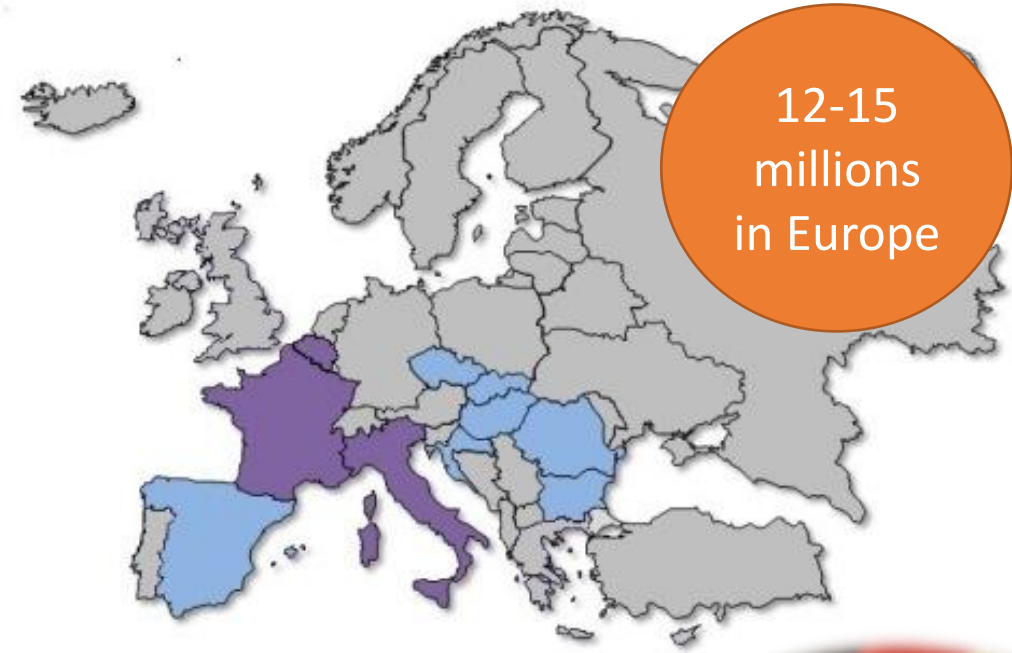
- The Roma: a systematically hidden community
- The consequences of being hidden
- Unveiling the Roma from a social justice perspective
- The experience in Polígono Sur, Seville, Spain

The Roma: A systematically hidden community

A history of thriving against rejection



Nothing has changed



Viktor Orban, President of Hungary

García-Ramírez, M. Escobar-Ballesta, M., & Lizana, T. (2015). Progress report of the implementation of the NRIS in the field of health in Spain. International Organization for Migrations. https://publications.iom.int/es/system/files/pdf/nris_spain.pdf

Loved and hidden in Spain

The Roma are the main ethnic minority in Spain

Spanish population: 47,129,783

Estimated Roma: 700,000 – 900,000

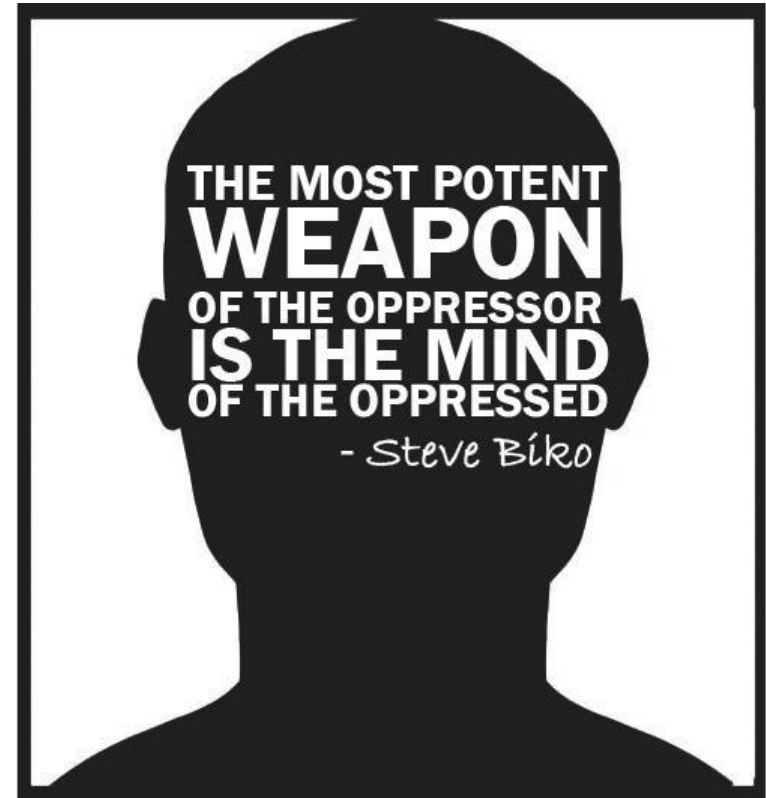


The consequences of being systematically hidden

Consequences of being hidden - and hid

A mutual process that occurs in the Roma and non-Roma (us Vs. them)

- Homogenized - social cohesion and sense of community
- Infrahumanized
- Invisible
- Target of stereotypes and legitimized myths
- Interiorized oppression



Health consequences for the hidden Roma



Indicador	Datos 2006 (PG) (edad ajustada)	Datos 2014 (PG) (edad ajustada)	Mejor Salud (2006 vs 2014)	Reducción de la desigualdad en salud (PG vs población general)
ADULTOS	%	%		
Autopercepción de salud	♂63.2	♂65.3	♂	♂
	♀48.9	♀55.5	♀	♀
Tabaco (consumidores)	♂51.6	♂54.1	♂	♂
Sobrepeso y Obesidad	♀61.6	♀62.6	♀	♀
Visitas ginecológicas	♀24.4	♀16.4	♀	♀
NIÑOS	%	%		
Sobrepeso y Obesidad	♂45.1	♂58.5	♂	♂
	♀40.1	♀42.2	♀	♀
Visitas al dentista (nunca)	♂17.4	♂14.8	♂	♂
	♀10.5	♀11.8	♀	♀

Policies do not impact at local level since they cannot reach the most vulnerable Roma

Unveiling the Roma from a social justice perspective

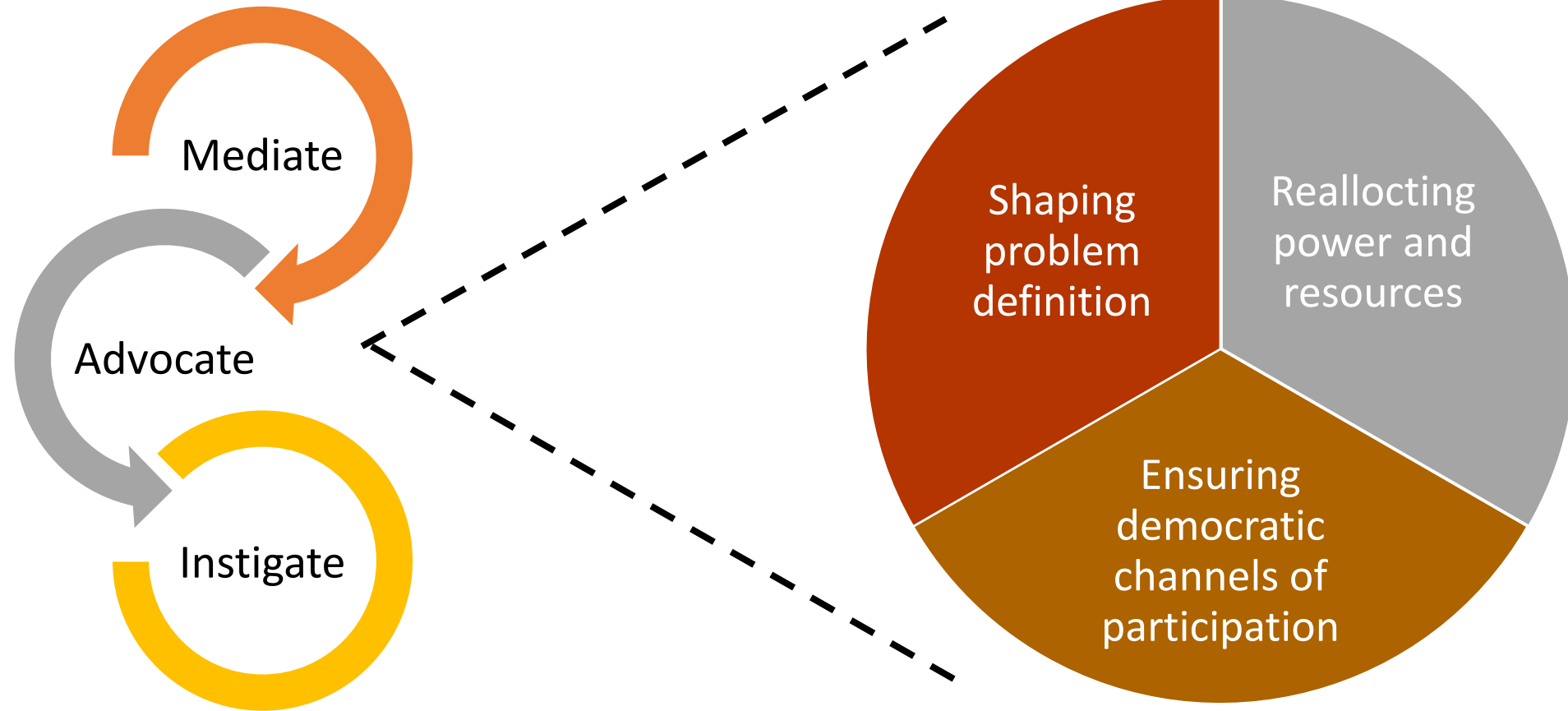
Unveiling the Roma from a social justice perspective



Liberation psychology

Giving the voice and power back to the the most silenced and invisible Roma so they can build their own vision of themselves, the world and their relationship with it outside from their hidden community.

Unveiling the Roma from a social justice perspective



Balcázar, Garate-Serafini & Keys (2004). The need for action when conducting intervention research: The multiple roles of community psychologists. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 33, 243-54.

Nelson (2013). Community psychology and transformative policy change in the Neo-liberal era. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 52, 211-223.

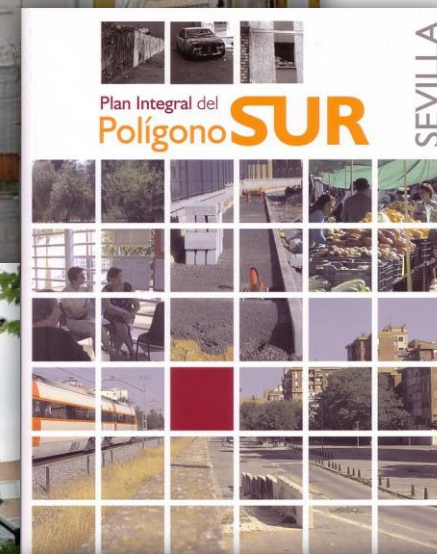
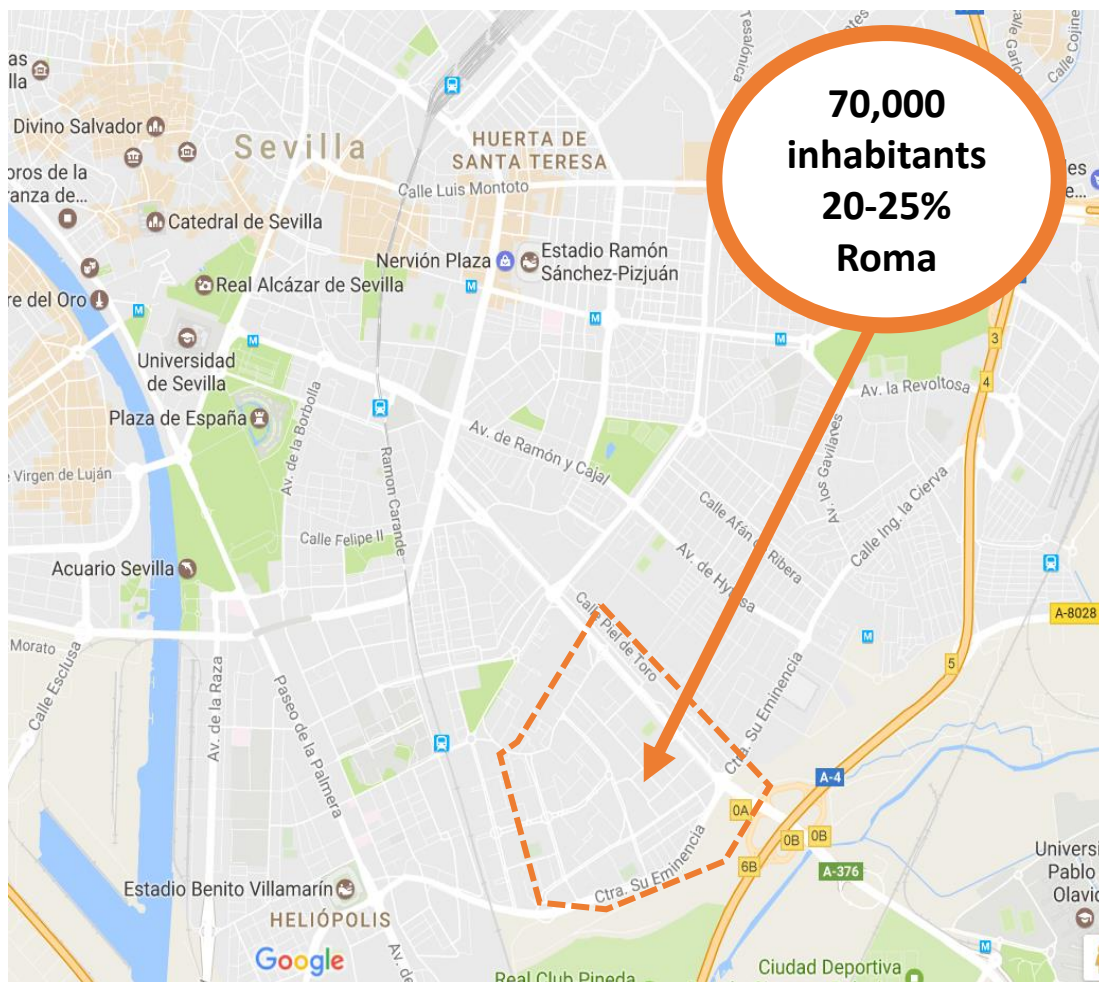
Unveiling the Roma from a social justice perspective

Identifying....

- the mechanisms through which the Roma are hidden
- the mechanisms to bring them to light

The experience in Polígono Sur, Seville, Spain

The district of Polígono Sur, Seville



A multilevel advocacy partnership

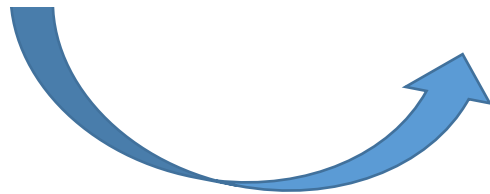


Assessing Roma responsiveness in local policies

➤ Are local policies, plans and programs Roma-sensitive?

Search of all health PPP in Polígono Sur and content analysis.

Instrument to assess Roma responsiveness.



Feedback from neighbors and policymakers in a meeting *ad hoc*

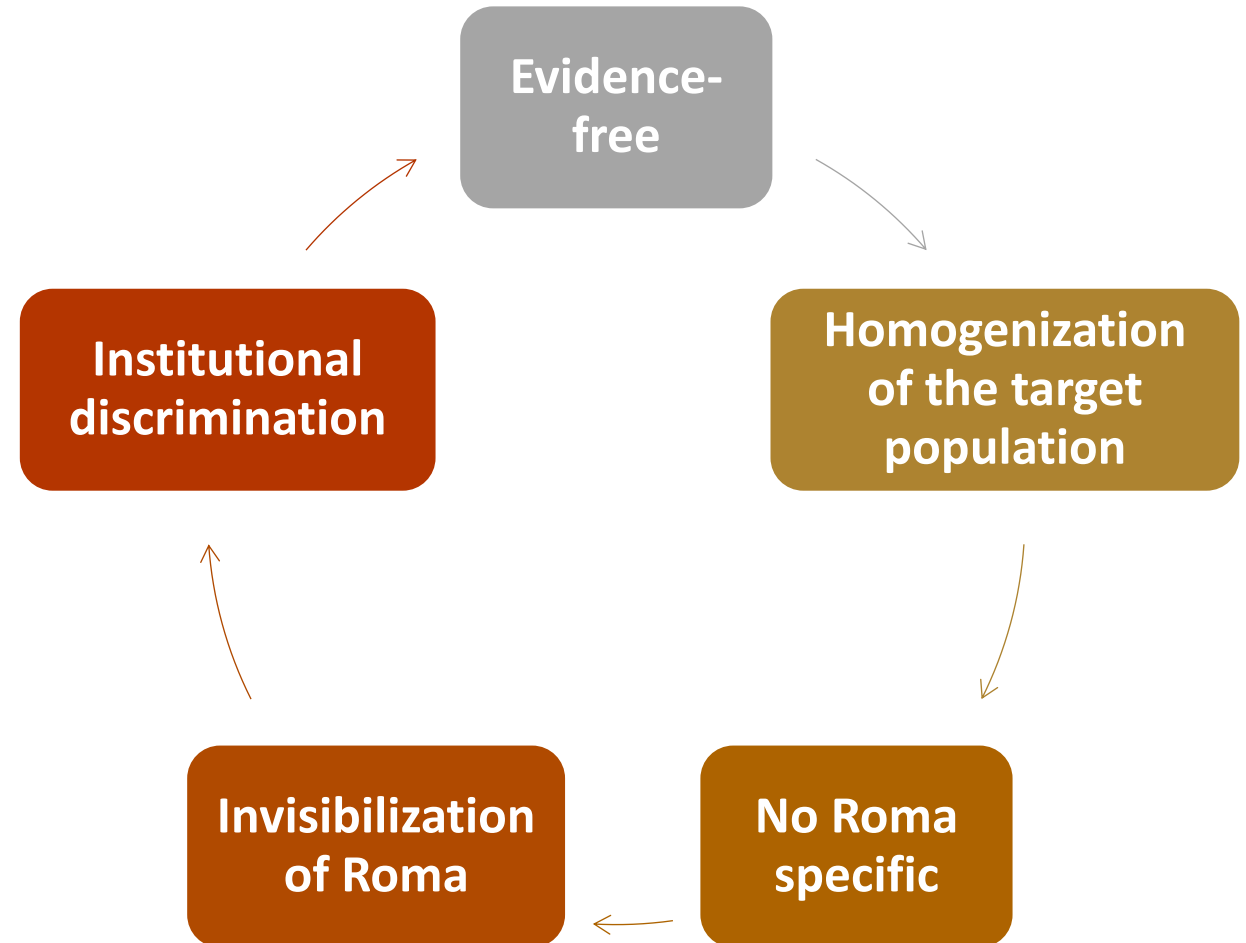
Category	Indicator
Entitlement	Components of health service Entitlement requirements
Accessibility	Utilization of at-risk Roma groups (type, context, provider, objectives, time) Accessibility barriers Identify Roma non-users of services RP health mediator
Responsiveness	Health inequities identified by the NRIS-H's OP Health service satisfaction of at-risk RP Mechanisms to confront barriers and more sensitivity to Roma at-risk groups Mechanisms for professionals to adapt services for at-risk RP Mechanisms to adjust health services to respond to particular needs of Roma users
Achieving and Sustaining Change	Participation of at-risk RP in the implementation of programs Collaboration between stakeholders

Assessing Roma responsiveness in local policies

➤ **Are local policies, plans and programs Roma-sensitive?**

Although awareness on inequities, adaptation of resources, integral intervention and stakeholder collaboration

- No specific measures for the Roma (**Equality over equity**)



Mapping local Roma responsiveness

- **Location of areas of high Roma density**
- **Location of Roma community health assets (Morgan & Ziglio, 2010)**
 - First contact and interview with key stakeholders
 - Questionnaire professionals within organizations (n=40)
 - Values, adaptations, sensitivity
 - Questionnaire Roma neighbors (n=200)
 - Residency, use of services, sensitivity of services

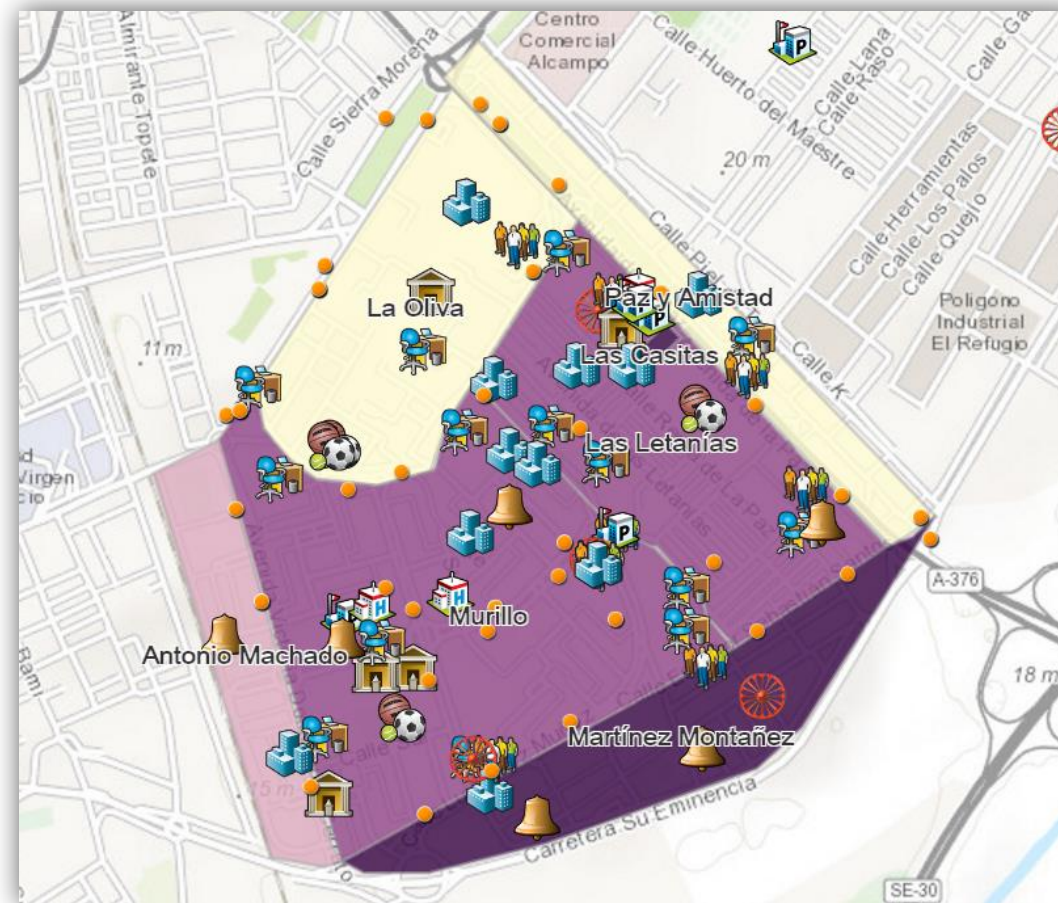
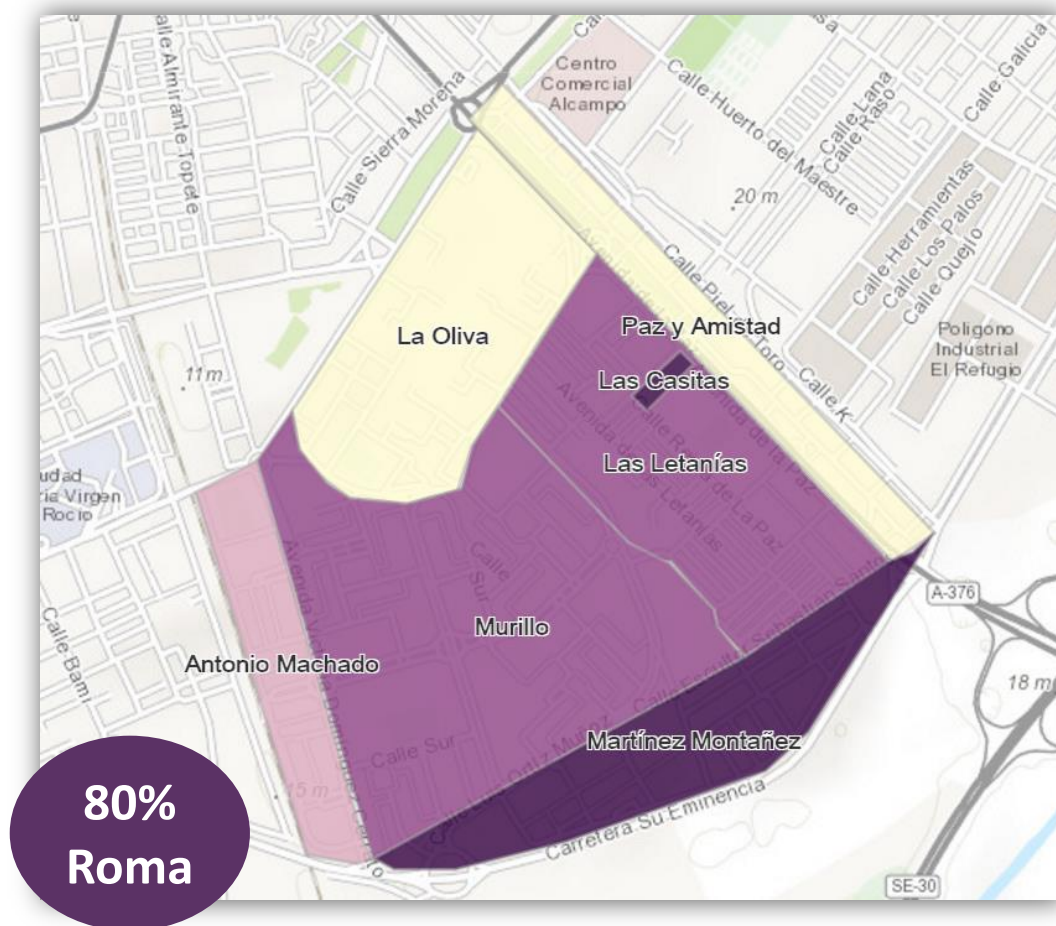


Morgan, A., & Ziglio, E. (2010). Revitalising the Public Health Evidence Base: An Asset Model. In Health Assets in a Global Context (pp. 3-16). Springer New York.

Miranda, D., Oreja-Duran, I. & Escobar-Ballesta, M. (2016). Evaluación del Componente de Salud de la Estrategia Nacional de Integración de la Población Gitana en el Polígono Sur. International Organization for Migrations

The most excluded Roma are literally hidden

<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=820626892ce54d8db989fb187df4c05d>



Lessons learned and applicability

Lessons learned

Traditional research/policy-making have failed:

- **Opressive discursive** is seen/sold as liberating thus stealing hidden communities' voices and making them more hidden, more invisible. Vicious circle.
- **Evidence-free** policies that do not comply with distribution of power or resources to not be accountable for that (e.g., zero growth areas)
- Policies do not recognised **neither social determinants of health nor cultural determinants**.

Need for equitable policies that acknowledge differences and evidence-based and participatory methods. Liberation psychology allows this by:

- **Giving their voices back**
- **Actively including them in working groups**
- **Advocating together**

Applicability to other challenges

- **Paralellism** between the Roma and the refugees.
- Roma were refugees in Europe 1,000 years.
- **Vulnerable groups within HC:** trafficked women, unaccompanied minors, or non-deported people who are stranded.
- In order to survive, all HC develop **strong, positive and negative sense of community, niches of resistance, strategies and behaviors.** Living as undergrounds.
- **Consequences** for the rest of society
 - Public health issues
 - No compliance with rules

Overcoming Health Inequities of Hidden Roma from a Social Justice Perspective

Marta Escobar-Ballesta, Manuel García-Ramírez & Daniela Miranda
CESPYD – University of Seville

2017 SCRA Biennial Conference
Ottawa, Canada



SCRA
SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY
RESEARCH AND ACTION