

The impact of welfare conditionality on Roma migrants in the UK

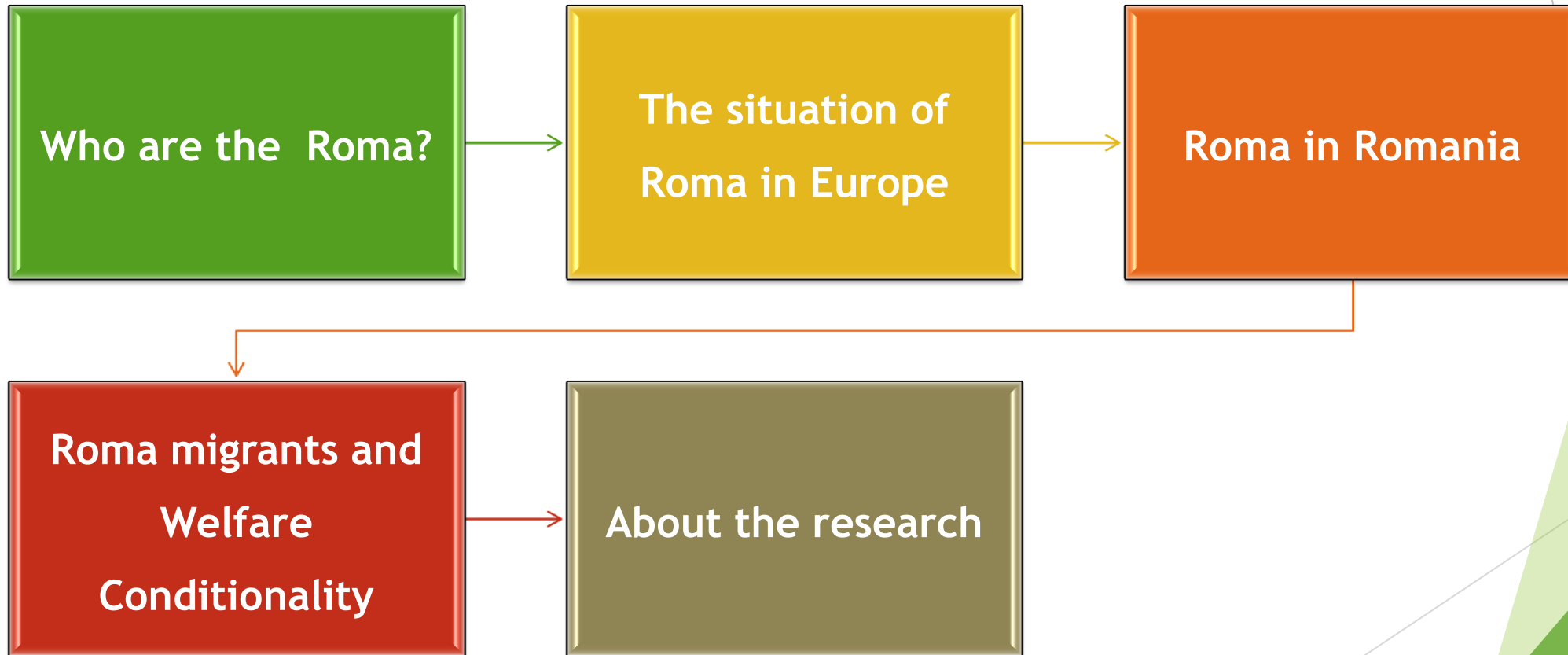
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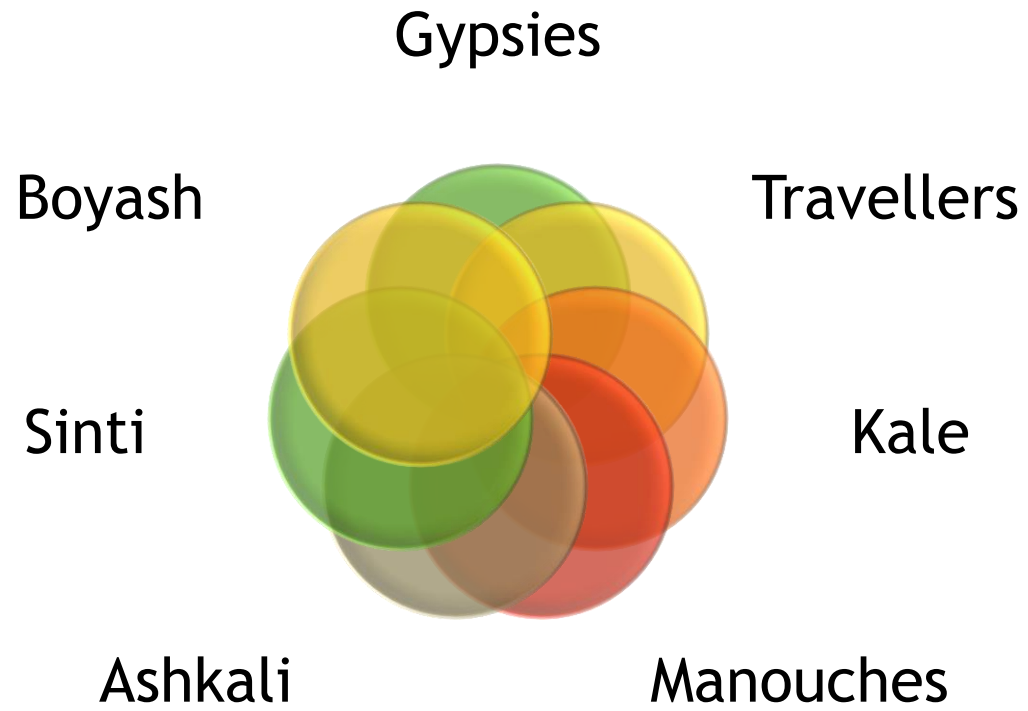
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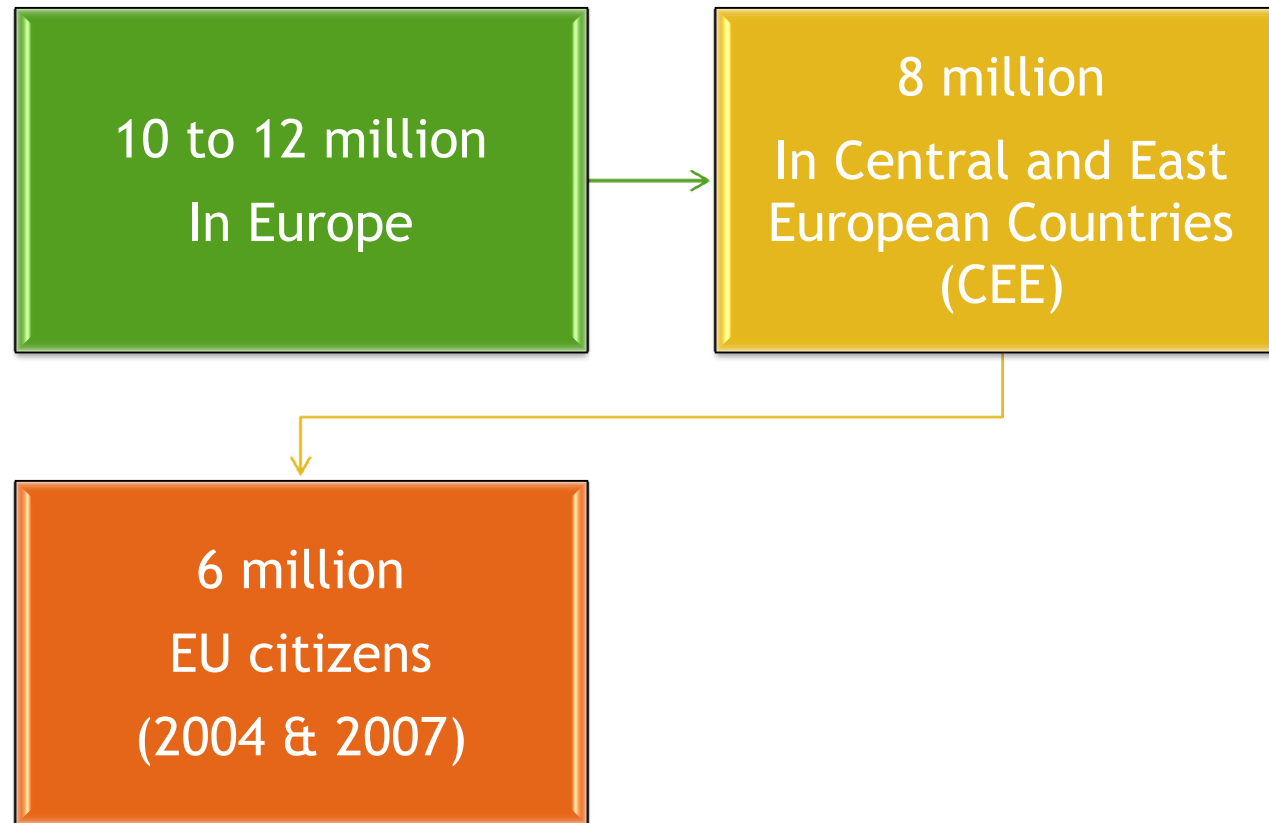
Summary



Who are the Roma?



Roma population



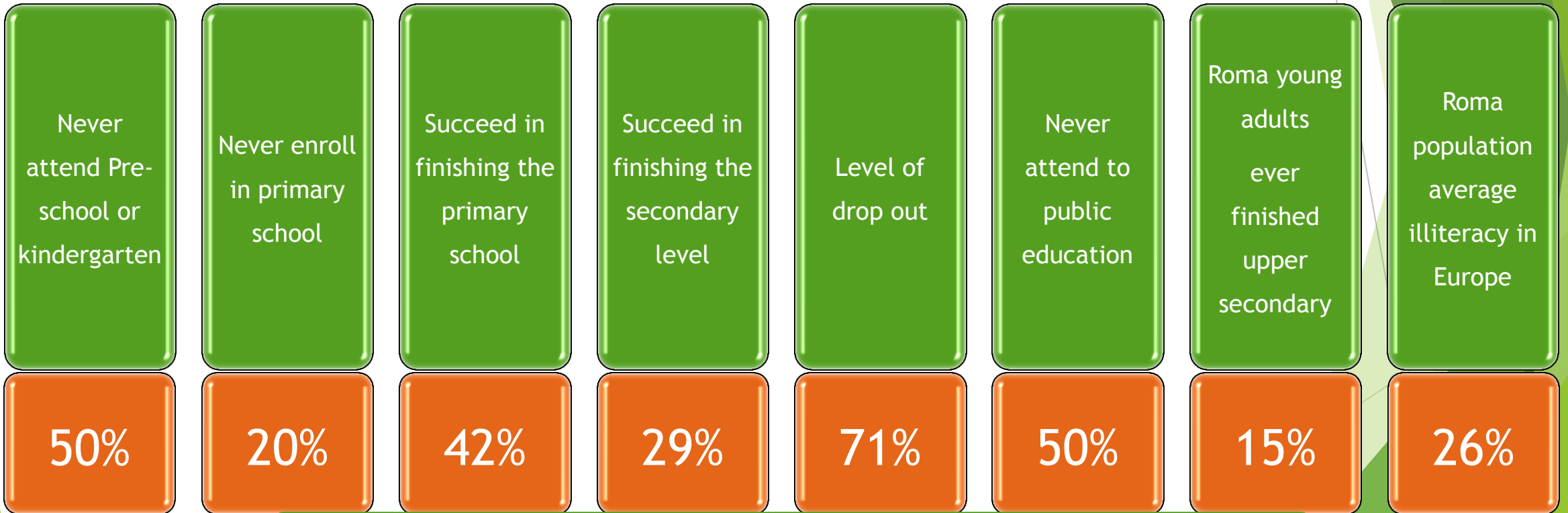
European Countries (CEE) with largest population of Roma

Rank	Country	Roma Population	Percentage of Population
1	Turkey	2,750,000	3.71%
2	Romania	1,850,000	8.56%
3	Bulgaria	750,000	9.74%
4	Spain	725,000	1.60%
5	Russia	720,000	0.51%

(Council of Europe Roma and Travellers Division, 2008)

Roma situation in Europe - Education

‘Roma children are either segregated into Roma-only classes, unjustly considered unfit for normal classes (and shunted into schools for disabled children) or - even worse - they cannot attend school at all’ (Council of Europe Assembly Doc. 12174, 2012)



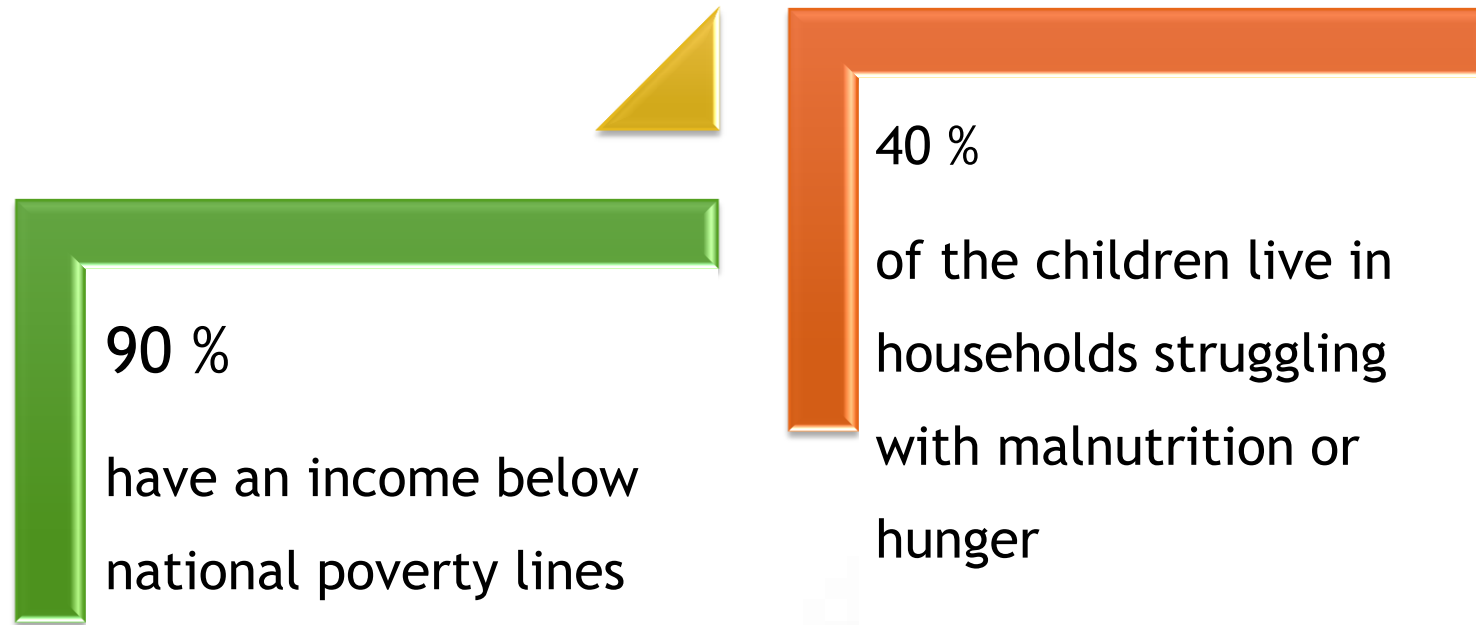
1% of all Roma in Europe succeed in finishing higher education level

Roma situation in Europe - Unemployment



(Patterns of Roma employment in Europe, Vera Messing, 2014)

Roma situation in Europe - Poverty



(The Situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States: Survey Results at a Glance, 2012)

Roma situation in Europe - Housing

45 %

of households
don't have
electricity or
indoor
facilities:
kitchen, toilet,
shower or bath

55%

of household
are not
connected to
the sewage
system or
electricity

25%

of Roma from
East European
Countries live
in shacks

More
than two
persons live in
one room

(‘Housing discrimination against Roma in selected EU Member States’ and ‘Housing conditions of Roma and Travellers in the European Union’ by European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2009)

Roma situation in Europe - Housing

‘In Hungary and Slovakia, 60% of Roma live in segregated neighborhoods, and their children are taught in segregated schools or classes’
(Katalin Kovacs, 2015: 783)

privatization
of houses

forced
settlement

cultural
suppression

forced
removal

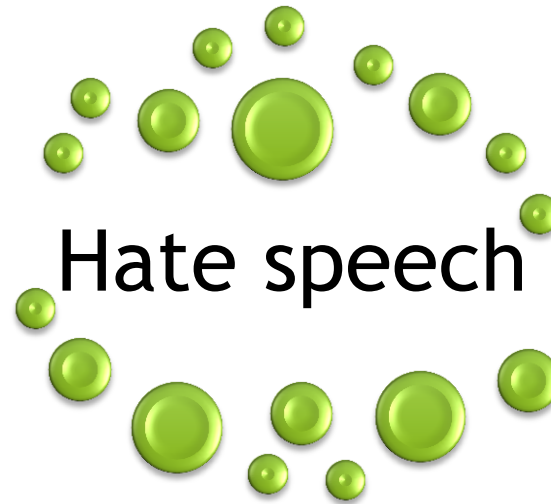
access to
other
housing

socio-spatial
segregation

creation of
ghettos

‘In recent years Romani communities have been relocated next to garbage dumps, sewage treatment plants or industrial areas on the outskirts of cities.[...] In Bulgaria more than 70 per cent of urban Roma live in segregated neighborhoods.’
(Amnesty International, 2013)

The impact of these factors



‘Targeting an individual or group of individuals based on certain characteristics, stigmatises the victim in that assigns a set of constituents features that are generally seen as profoundly undesirable and designates a form of the expression target group is designed outside the normal social relations’

(Hate Speech. Is there a case for banning?, Bickhu Parekh, 2006)

The impact of these factors



‘Racialization or ethnicization stand out as a moral and ethical argument for unleashing the power and the right of majority to insult, judge, ignore, misunderstand, label or consider other humans as being inferior’

(Black Skin, White Masks, Franz Fanon, 1952)

Factors



‘[...] the processes which push people to the edge of society, which limit their access to resources and opportunities, curtail their participation in normal social and cultural life leaving them feeling marginalized, powerless and discriminated against’

Hugh and Working Group, 2009

Factors



‘[...] any limitations or restrictions of individual rights or access to public opportunities within society settings, represent a form of ‘structural violence’, which has consequences at both on physical and psychological level’

(Pathologies of power. Farmer, 2003)

Racism and ethnicization

‘The poison of racism seeping into the psyches of people of color, until people of color believe about themselves what whites believe about them - that they are inferior to whites’

(Virginia Harris and Trinity Ordoña, 1990)

INTERNAL



INTERPERSONAL



INSTITUTIONAL/STRUCTURAL



IDEOLOGICAL/ CULTURAL



The impact of these factors



‘[...] personal well-being is put at risk because they lack sufficient resources, are at risk of being in debt, suffer poor health, experience educational disadvantage and live in inadequate housing and environment’

Hugh and Working Group, 2009

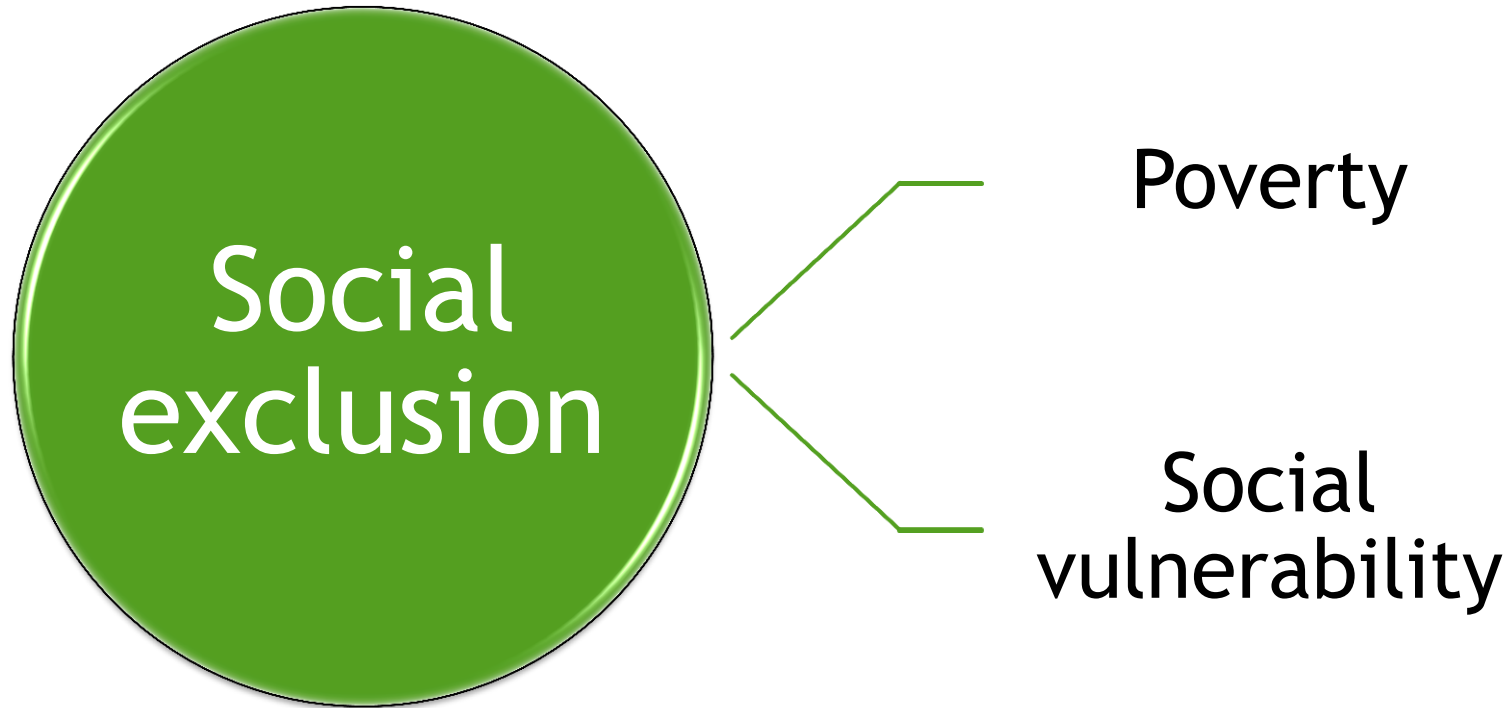
The impact of these factors



‘[...] when people lack the basic necessities for survival. For instance they may be starving, lack clean water, proper housing, sufficient clothing or medicines and be struggling to stay alive’

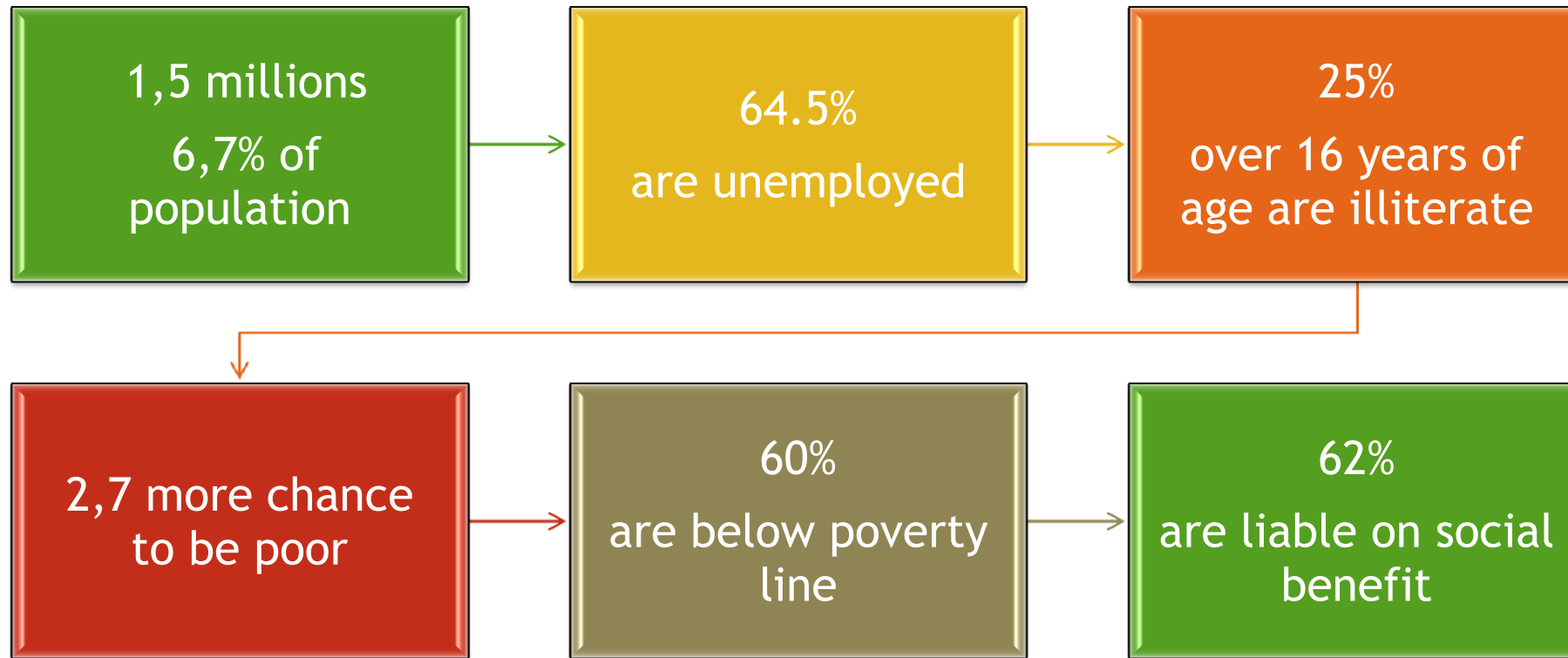
Hugh and Working Group, 2009

The causes



“powerlessness and voicelessness, vulnerability and fear’ (World Bank, 2001)

Roma in Romania



(‘Between social inclusion and migration Open Society Foundation - Romania. March, 2012)

Education

2%

Attending
nursery
(Roma Inclusion
in Early
Childhood
Development
Services , 2010)

20%

Attending
kindergarten
(Roma Inclusion
in Early
Childhood
Development
Services , 2010)

18,1%

The highest school
dropout rate in
Europe
(Eurostat, 2014)

19,7 %
(6 times higher than
in case of other
children)

The highest rate
of non-attendance
at the pre- school
and primary
education
nationwide 2011-
2013
(Early school
leaving - causes
and effects, 2013)

2%

Roma population
successfully
complete tertiary
education
university

Health

40%

Children suffering from severe malnutrition

(Roma Inclusion in Early Childhood Development Services , 2010)

45,7%

Children have never been vaccinated

(Roma Inclusion in Early Childhood Development Services , 2010)

Only 52,2%

Have health insurance

(Romanian Government Strategy for inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority for the period 2015-2020, 2015)

Only 27 %

Have access to vital drugs

(Romanian Government Strategy for inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority for the period 2015-2020, 2015)

15-20 years lower than the majority population

Life expectancy

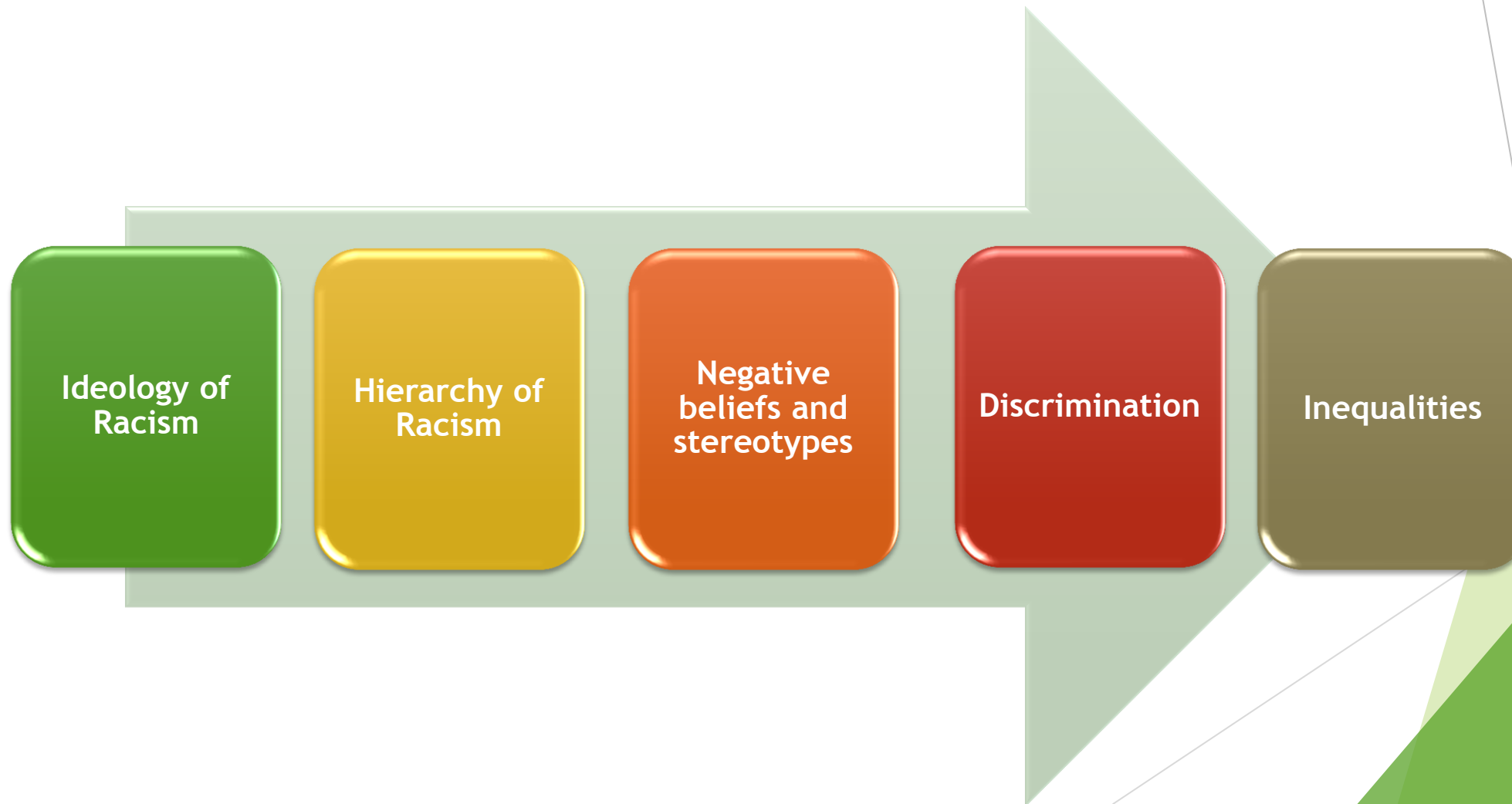
The public discourse

The linguistic construction of social reality is a powerful tool in creating categories and sorting them into 'conflictual opposites'

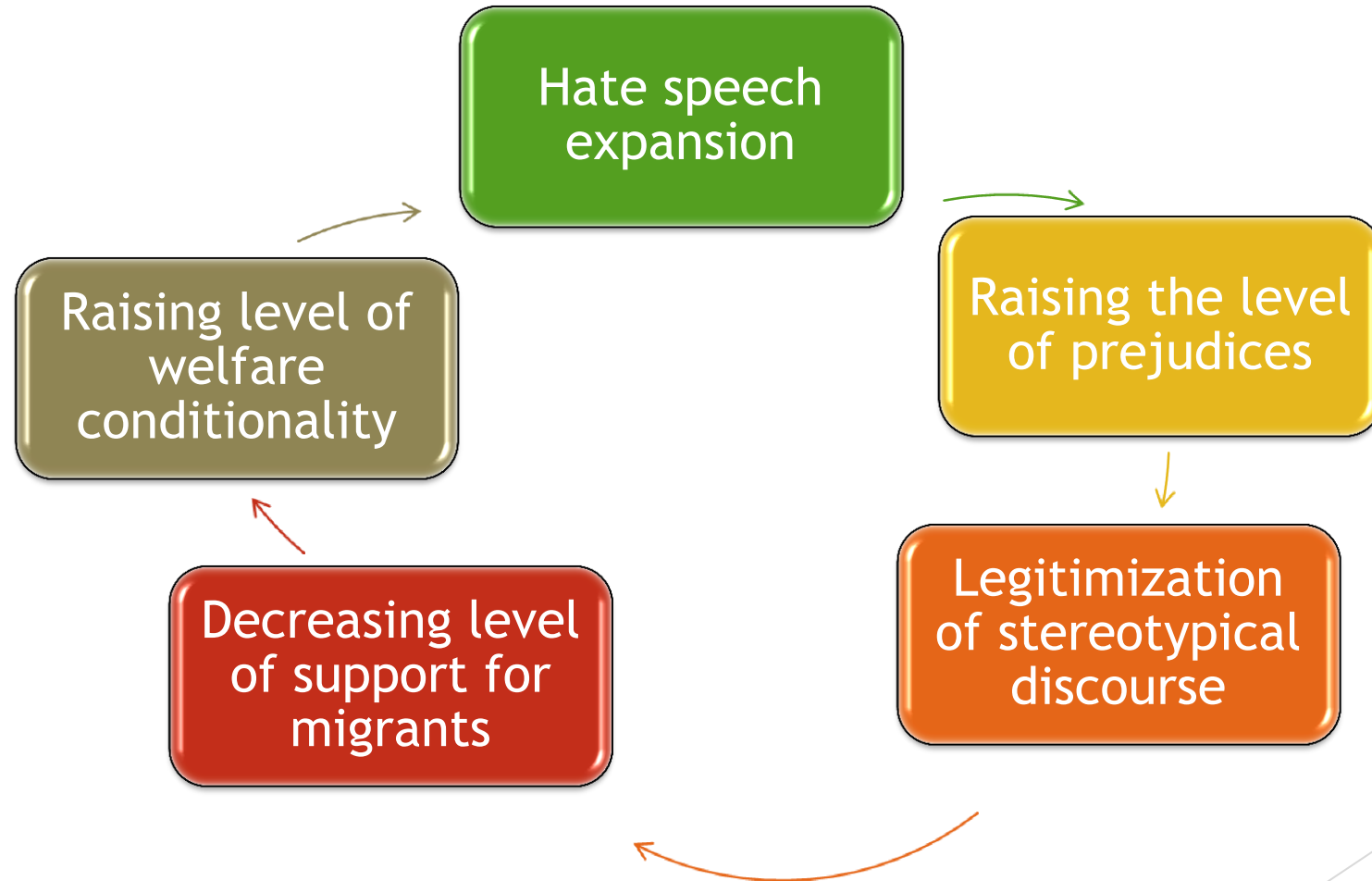
(Language in the News, Discourse and Ideology in the Press, Fowler, R., 1991)



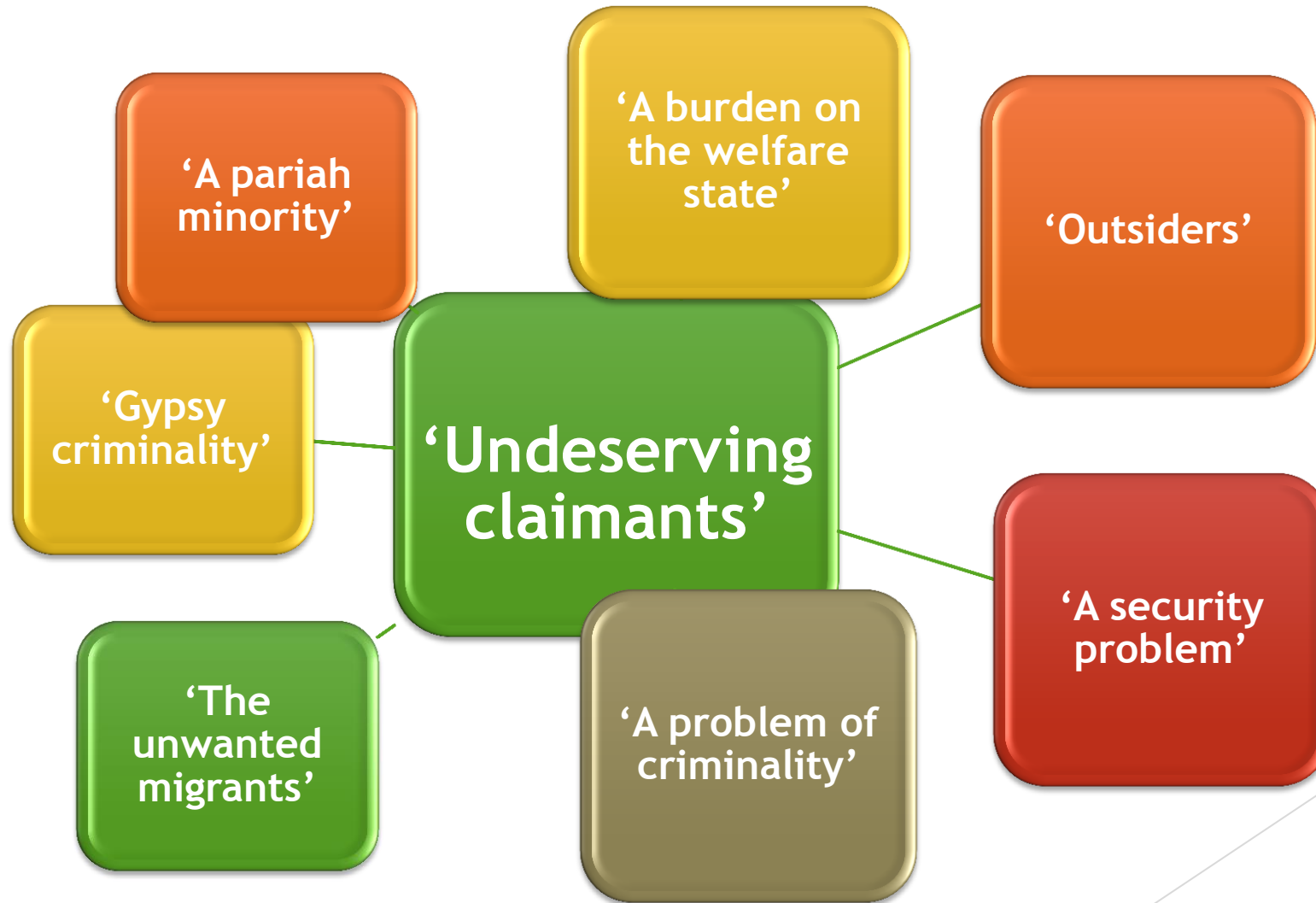
The racism trajectory



The consequences of negative political, media and public perceptions around Roma



Roma migrants as 'welfare tourists'



France

‘The majority [of Roma] should be delivered back to the borders. We are not here to welcome these people’

(Manuel Valls [minister of the interior and member of the National Assembly], 2013)

‘It's not France's job to deal with the misery of the whole world’

(Michel Rocard's [former Socialist Premier], 2013)

‘Maybe Hitler didn't kill enough of them’

(Gilles Bourdouleix [member of National Assembly], 2013)

Norway

‘At the borders, police can [under existing laws] stop organized groups of Roma, Bulgarians or French because we know from experience that these people disrupt the peace and it has also been proven that many of them engage in criminal activities’

Per Sandberg [member of Parliament and deputy leader of the Progressive Party], 2013

What is the impact?



‘[...] since 2000, immigrants in the UK have been contributed more in public funds in taxes than they were claiming in benefits, in effect enabling the government to pay out social benefits to local population.’ (Dustmann and Frattini, 2014)

The aim of the research

To explore the articulation of social stigmatization and racialization of Roma migrants in relation to British welfare conditionality arrangements and the impact of welfare conditionality arrangements on Roma migrants.

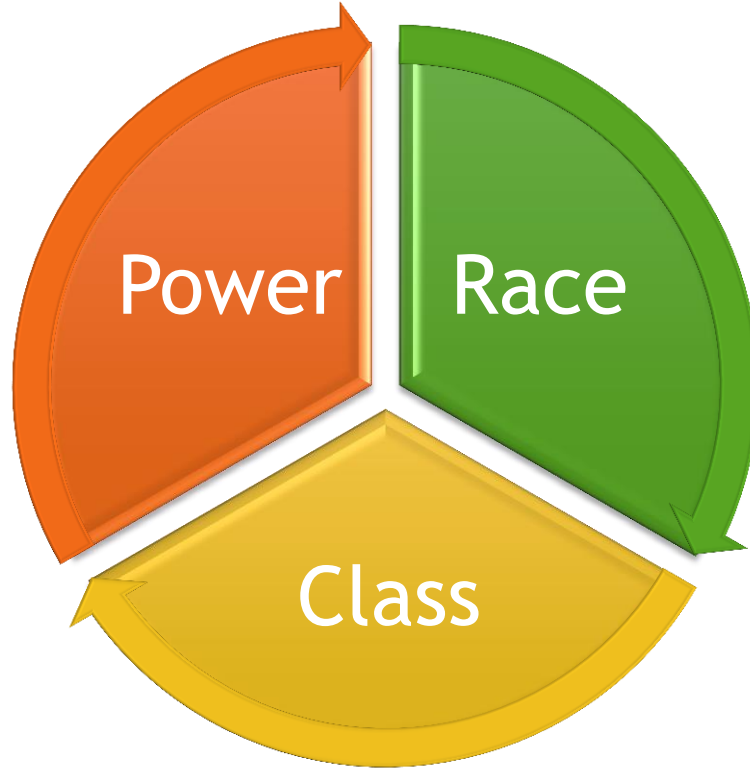
The research questions

Do conditional welfare leads to alterations in social participation and integration of Roma migrants in British society?

Do Roma migrants stigmatization may impact on how they experience conditional welfare arrangements?

How welfare conditionality practice and bureaucracy deals on one hand with the associated attributes of stigma that Roma migrants are carrying and on the other hand with their social vulnerability?

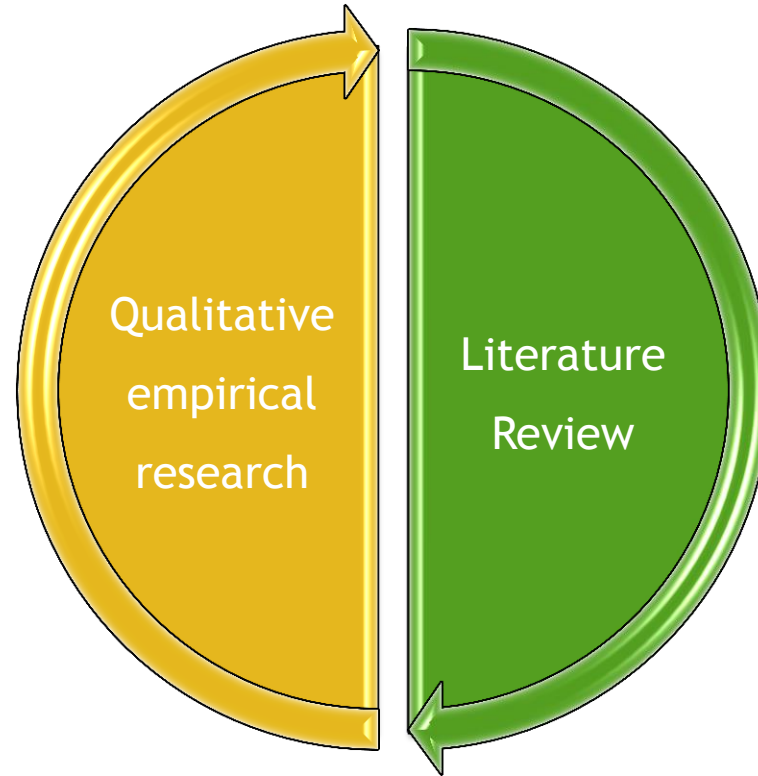
The theoretical perspective



‘[...] the nineteenth century distinction between the deserving and the undeserving poor seems to be alive and kicking’ (‘The case for elitism: public opinion and public policy’

(Rudolf Klein, 1974: 410)

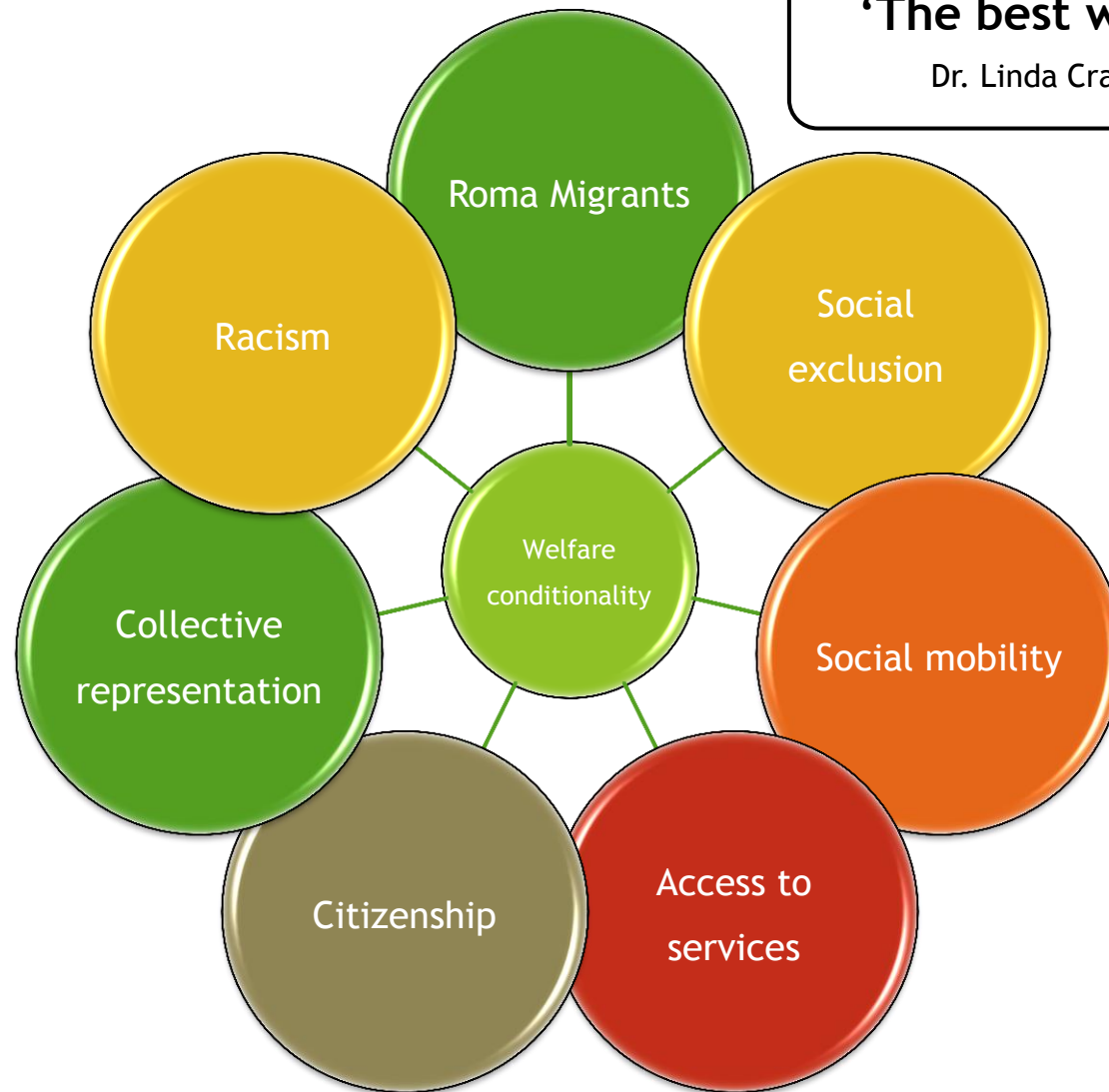
Research methodology



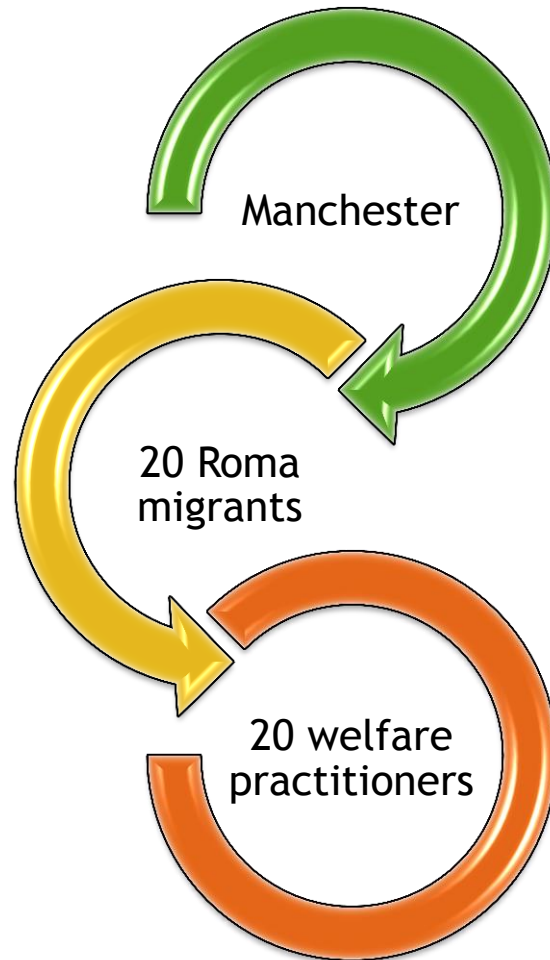
Research methodology

‘The best way to choose it is not to choose.’

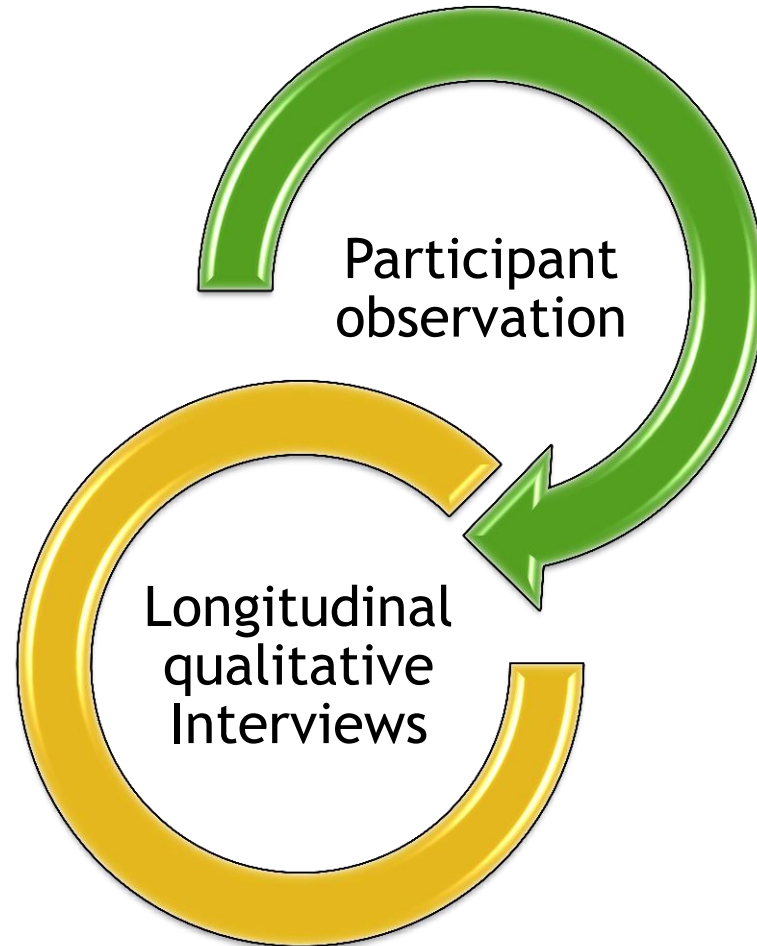
Dr. Linda Crawford, a faculty member in Walden’s PhD program



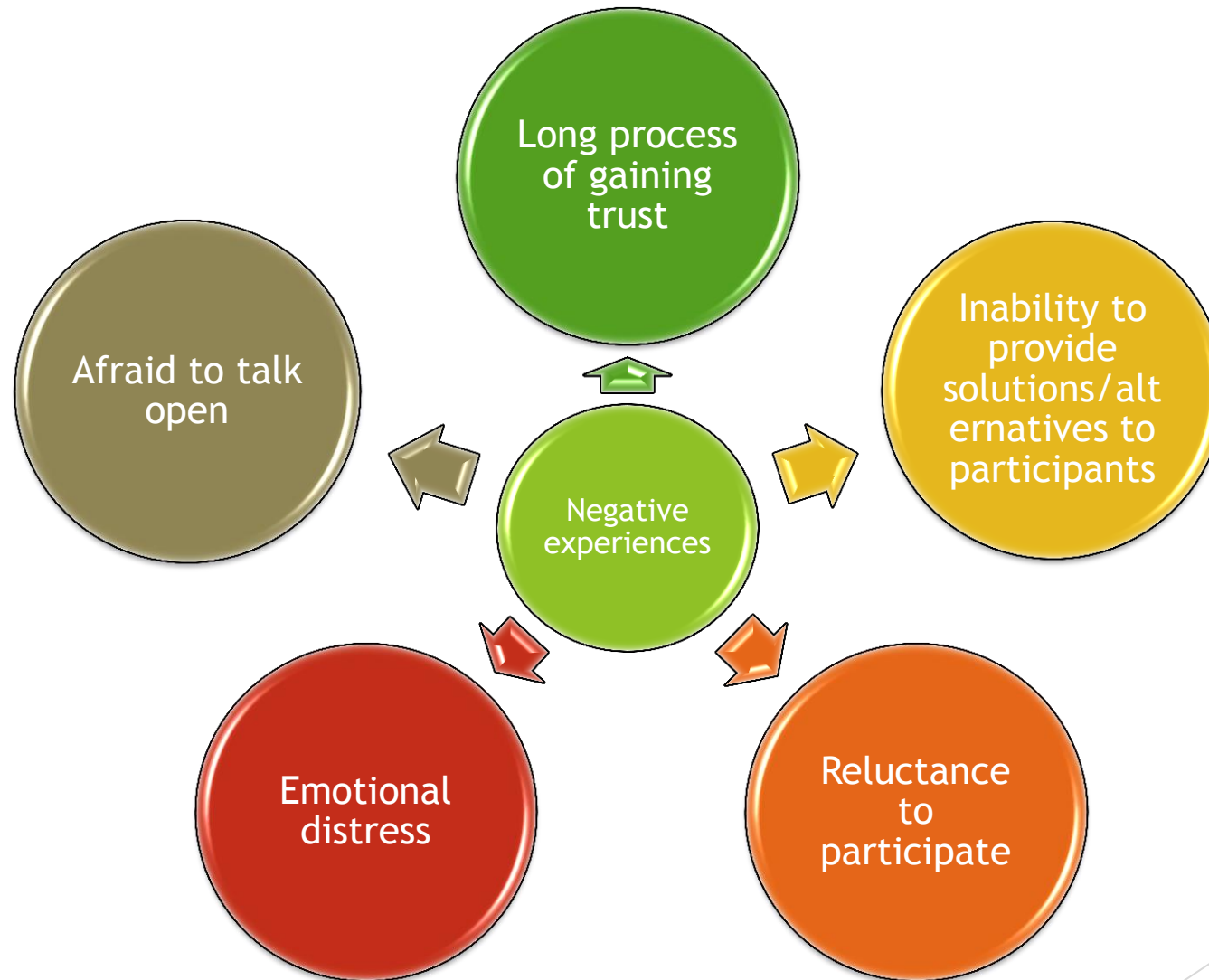
Location and sample



Mix of qualitative research methods



Challenges coming from Roma migrants



Challenges coming from welfare practitioners



Questions, Comments and Criticism



**Thank
you**

