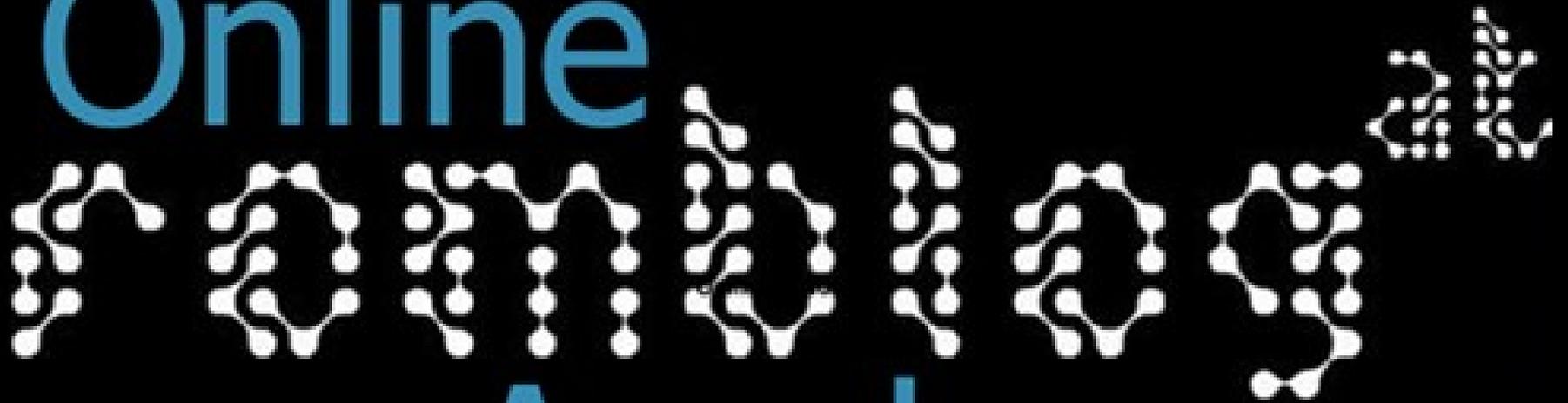


Online



Academy

Identity

What is Identity?

- Complex, not simple
- Identity: Every part of identity is an entire identity in its own right
- The unique composition of ones manifold identities is the identity that makes a human an individual
- Socialization, History, Cultural Heritage, individual Experiences and Interests, Values, Ideology, Limits, Senses...
- Ressource of Empowerment and Self-Consciousness

Unification and Division

- There are parts of our identities that overlap, which unify us. We form groups with other people who we share one or more parts of our identities with.
- There are parts of our identities that we do not share. We can respect that without doing valuation on that parts into superior and inferior.
- Putting a value-label on other peoples identities is what causes division.
-
- Treating others peoples identities as equal and with respect, even when they are different helps forming community.

How to identify Romani Identity?

- All known groups share the experience of identity-loss
 - to variable degrees
 - due to violence (e.g. forced assimilation, pressure to integrate into a dominating society, oppression, persecution, obliteration)
 - due to pressure to hide their identity or the identity of their children for safety concerns and hopes for an escape from marginalization
- All known groups have preserved parts of a common Romani identity
 - visible in shared language or fragments of language
 - observable in common traditions, values or other parts of cultural heritage
- Complete loss of identity is a regular observation in groups or part of groups that are of Romani heritage with people finding out later in life or by accident that they are Romani
- The struggle for (re-)defining identity is a regular observation in groups or part of groups that are of Romani heritage
- Intersectionality is the standard for Romani people

How to use Romblog Academy on Romani Identity

- Intersectional visibility of Romani people highlights diversity among and between Romani groups
- We do not define Romani identity, we let Romani people define their identities themselves
- Regularly updated with posts that give hints on what Romani identity can or could mean
- **Take a look at the profiles and platforms behind the tagged posts!**
- Who you, as a Romani person want to be or as who you want to identify stays up to yourself
- All identity-labels are random
- All identities are equally valid Romani identities. Contact us if you feel there is something or someone missing!
- No space for White Gaze – We came to **mess** with your stereotypes.
- We don't do trauma-porn here.

Why does Romani Identity need to be gate-kept

- How to identify who is Romani and who is not? How to give a space where Romani people feel safe and seen without gate-keeping? How to protect Romani spaces from Gadge appropriation?
- Problem: Gadge trying to take resources from Romani people (and other marginalized groups) by „self-identifying“ as Romani people
- Status Quo: We need to gate-keep Romani Identity in order to protect our communities from Gadge who take advantage of the little resources and spaces we have; we need to gate-keep in order to ensure appropriate and authentic Romani representation and expertise where it is most urgently needed
- **The criteria for representation: a) Romani people who openly self-identify as Romani-people b) Romani people who are connected to and well-known in the national/international activist-community by a trustworthy reputation and thus c) likely experienced socialization as a Romani person consciously or subconsciously**
- **Problem: Romani people who do not openly self-identify as such or have done so for a long time and Romani people who have unfortunately lost their ties to the community and / or are not well established among activists are gate-kept as well**

Intersectionality and the Wheel of privilege

- Intersectionality: One person's identity consists of many partial-identities. Thus, a person can belong to more than one group of humans who they share one or more identities with. In consequence, people often experience more than one form of discrimination and/or marginalization at once.
- Wheel of privilege: Incompletely, but well-understandable shows how intersectionality leads not only to multiple marginalization, but also how those who are the least intersectional bear the most privileges
- Privileges are unevenly distributed, even among Romani people. While Romani groups as a whole are on the bottom of societies scale of dehumanization, there is a privilege-gradient between Western- and Eastern Romani groups as well as between genders, skin-colours, citizenships, legal rights, education-levels, housing, body-ability, wealth, etc..
- Romani Leadership by the means of leading by example must acknowledge the unevenly distributed privileges and seek to even them out by Romani people becoming aware and empowered to share their privileges within each other and within other marginalized communities.