

In Dialogue for Equality and Inclusion

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Our journeys..

RESEARCH, PASSION, AND INTERDISCIPLINARY PARTNERSHIPS

SOCIOLOGY

ETHNIC STUDIES

POLITICS

EDUCATION

THEOLOGY

MATHEMATICS

FILOLOGY

ECONOMY

ENGINEERING

GENDER STUDIES



CREA

(Center of Research on Theories and Practices that Overcome Inequalities)

SOCIAL IMPACT

A persistent challenge to be addressed

Many of the estimated **10-12 million Roma in Europe face prejudice, intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion** in their daily lives. (European Commission, 2011; Council of Europe, 2010, ERRC, 2014)

Disproportionately present in special education **up to 75% of children in special education schools**

In some regions of Europe, **the 35 % of Roma children aged 7 to 15 are not attending school.** (Vargas & Gómez, 2003, Flecha, 2014, European Commission, 2011, Open Society Institute, 2008)

Only 15 % of Roma aged 20-24 complete upper-secondary general or vocational education (FRA, 2014).





Research, Passion & Interdisciplinarity

Dialogic interactions

Interactive Groups



Safe and supportive
learning
environments

Dialogic Gatherings



Family and
community
involvement

**Schools as Learning
Communities**



Interactive Groups



Dialogic interactions in the classrooms with diversity of adults

Valls, R., & Kyriakides, L. (2013). The power of interactive groups: how diversity of adults volunteering in classroom groups can promote inclusion and success for children of vulnerable minority ethnic populations. *Cambridge Journal of Education*, 43(1), 17–33. doi: [10.1080/0305764X.2012.749213](https://doi.org/10.1080/0305764X.2012.749213)

Dialogic Gatherings



Profound and meaningful dialogues: safe and supportive learning environments

Schools as Learning Communities

Making possible the 'untested feasibility' (García-Carrión, 2016)



Transforming difficulties into opportunities

462 R. Flecha and

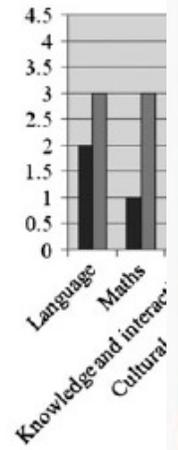
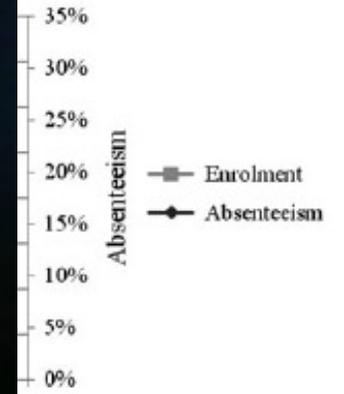


Figure 1. Average scores in the School, 2008–09/2009–10



Enrolment and Absenteeism between 2006–07 and 2008–09.

Flecha & Soler, 2013

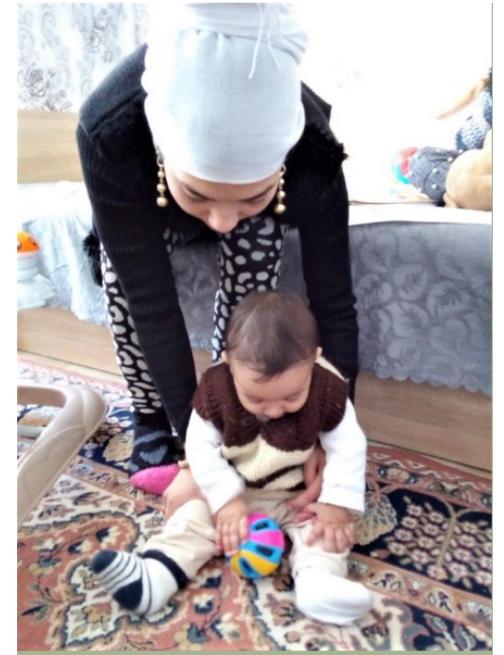


Making a difference through research informed educational actions



Supporting first-time parents and their infants and toddlers: the Nurse Family Partnership program Bulgaria

- The Trust for Social Achievement
- Plovdiv & Sofia (Bulgaria)
- Regular home visits
- support and guidance during pregnancy and early childhood (<2)





What we know from ECD literature: adversity in early life can have long lasting consequences

- Early childhood is a critical stage in life
- Gaps in child development (inequality) emerge very early on and tend to widen when remain unaddressed
- Romani children particularly at-risk

Nurturing care and support for parents are crucial ways to buffer stressors

- Improvements in e.g. Nurturing care & nutrition can attenuate adversity!
- support for parents = important vehicle



Doing interdisciplinarity..



From doing research “on”

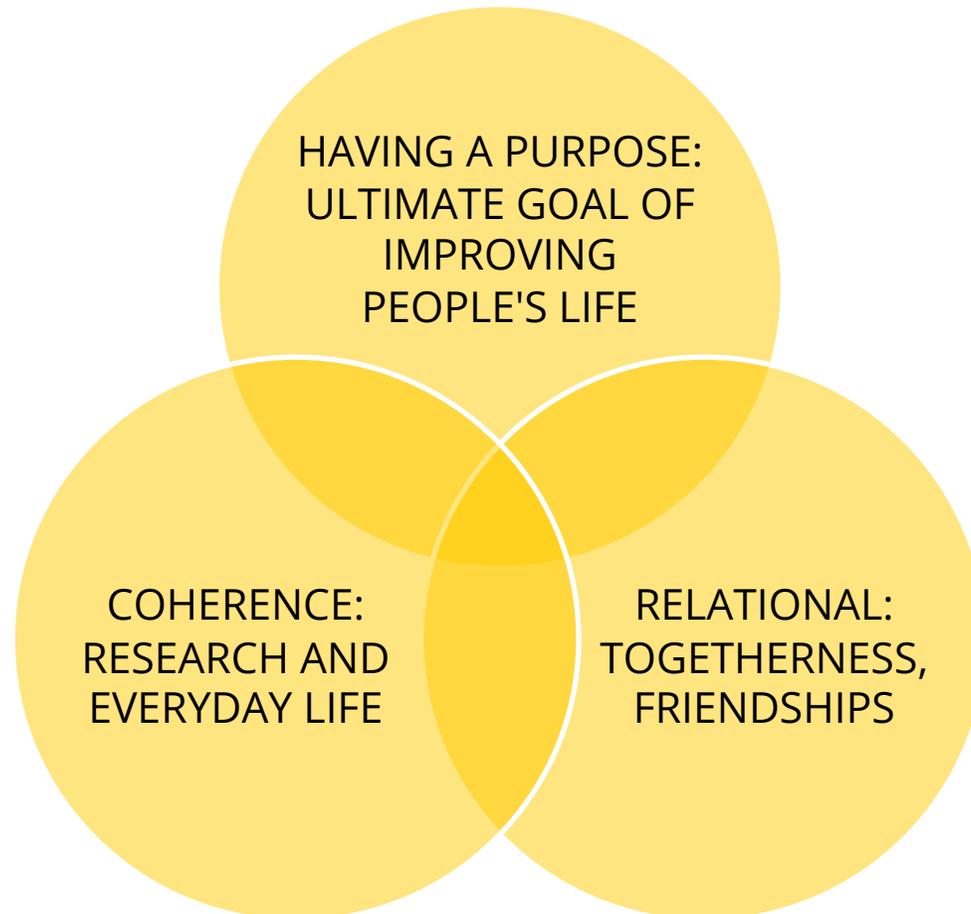


to research “with”



CO-CREATION

Maintaining passion: dialogic & interdisciplinary research





Leaving no one behind

Taken as personal mission and focus of research

- Who benefits from our science?**
- Epistemic pluralism**

“Sometimes, global solidarity seems nothing more than an echo from the past”

Ellen Mangnus

“Lotsverbondenheid” – How do we stay connected?

Positionality & engaging in ethically justified ways

