Civic participation of young Roma in the Czech Republic: Barriers and resources

Jan Šerek, Zuzana Petrovičová, and Petr Macek
Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic
Main points of our presentation

there is no simple association between young Roma’s personal economic background and the level of their civic participation
Main points of our presentation

there is no simple association between young Roma‘s personal economic background and the level of their civic participation

there is no simple association between young Roma‘s perceptions of discrimination and the level of their civic participation
Roma in the Czech Republic

estimates 150,000 - 300,000
(1.5 - 3.0 % of the total population)

90 % low socioeconomic status
high unemployment rate

segregation, discrimination
widely spread prejudice
high social distance
Paradox of civic participation

lower socioeconomic status means greater tendency to be seriously affected by public authorities' decisions
Paradox of civic participation

lower socioeconomic status means greater tendency to be seriously affected by public authorities‘ decisions

therefore, people with lower socioeconomic status should have say in authorities‘ decisions
Paradox of civic participation

lower socioeconomic status means greater tendency to be seriously affected by public authorities‘ decisions

therefore, people with lower socioeconomic status should have say in authorities‘ decisions

however, civic participation under the conditions of poverty (and/or discrimination) is a very exhausting business
What is the association between civic participation and economic hardship perceived discrimination in the case of young Czech Roma?
What is the association between civic participation and economic hardship perceived discrimination in the case of young Czech Roma?
Why do young people participate?

**economic hardship** is an important barrier to civic participation on the other hand, it is an opportunity for critical learning about the society (Zaff, Kawashima-Ginsberg & Lin, 2011)
Why do young people participate?

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**awareness of discrimination** can lead to alienation from the society but it can also motivate civic participation (Jensen, 2010)
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*embeddedness* in participatory social structures (van Stekelenburg & Klandermans, 2010)
Why do young people participate?

economic hardship is an important barrier to civic participation. On the other hand, it is an opportunity for critical learning about the society (Zaff, Kawashima-Ginsberg & Lin, 2011).

awareness of discrimination can lead to alienation from the society. But it can also motivate civic participation (Jensen, 2010).

embeddedness in participatory social structures (van Stekelenburg & Klandermans, 2010).

collective efficacy - sense of agency (Bandura, 1997; Beaumont, 2010).
Data

- Processes Influencing Democratic Ownership and Participation (PIDOP)
- 2009-2012
- questionnaire-based data from Czech Roma used

- N = 172 (203)
  - 44 % females
  - age 15-28 (60 % between 15-19)
Have you done any of the following during the last 12 months?

- volunteering
- donating money
- concerts & fundraising events
- wearing signs & symbols

civic engagement
Have you done any of the following during the last 12 months?

- civic engagement
  - volunteering
  - donating money
  - concerts & fundraising events
  - wearing signs & symbols
  - linking political content
  - discussing social issues
  - visiting websites
  - online-based protest
  - joining Facebook group

- online activities
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- volunteering
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- discussing social issues
- visiting websites
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- joining Facebook group

All std. factor loadings > .60

\( \chi^2_{25} = 57.11 \)
CFI = .95
RMSEA = .08
SRMR = .05
Other measures

economic hardship
„Does your income cover everything that your family needs?“
(not at all - fully)

perceived discrimination in the society
„Do you believe there are instances of discrimination against any minority groups in the country where you live?“
(not at all - to a great extent)

embeddedness in participatory social structures
1) social norm of participation (parents) (3 items)
2) social norm of participation (friends) (3 items)
e.g., „My parents would approve it if I engaged politically.“
(not at all - to a great extent)

collective efficacy (6 items)
e.g., „By working together, people from my own ethnic group are able to influence the decisions which are made by government.“
(not at all - to a great extent)
Economic hardship and participation

Does your income cover everything that your family needs?

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[Graph showing Civic engagement and Online activities participation levels]
Economic hardship and participation

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\[ F(3,168) = 7.31, \ p < .01 \]
\[ \eta^2 = .12 \]
Economic hardship and participation

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# Economic hardship and participation

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**Note:**
- **Young people from families with insufficient income**
- **Young people from families with (almost) sufficient income**

Economic hardship and participation
Economic hardship and participation

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young people from families with insufficient income
young people from families with (almost) sufficient income

N = 84
N = 88

Economic hardship and participation

N = 84
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## Correlates of civic engagement

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Economic hardship and participation

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F(3, 167) = 0.79, p = .50
η² = .01
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Online activities

Civic engagement

Collective efficacy

Social norm of part. (parents)

Perceived discrimination

Economic hardship

Online activities

maximum likelihood with robust std. errors

insufficient family income

(almost) sufficient family income
insufficient family income

Online activities
  Social norm of part. (parents)
  Collective efficacy
  Perceived discrimination
  Economic hardship

Civic engagement

(almost) sufficient family income

Online activities
  Social norm of part. (parents)
  Collective efficacy
  Perceived discrimination
  Economic hardship

Civic engagement
Online activities

Civic engagement

Collective efficacy

Social norm of part. (parents)

Perceived discrimination

Economic hardship

Online activities

Civic engagement

**insufficient** family income

- Collective efficacy
- Social norm of part. (parents)
- Perceived discrimination
- Economic hardship

0.08

0.39**

-1.11

0.02

(almost) **sufficient** family income

- Collective efficacy
- Social norm of part. (parents)
- Perceived discrimination
- Economic hardship

Online activities

Civic engagement
insufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Online activities
Civic engagement

(almost) sufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Online activities
Civic engagement

0.08
0.11
0.39**
0.26**
0.37**
0.12
Online activities

Civic engagement

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Online activities

Insufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Civic engagement

(almost) sufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Civic engagement

Economic hardship

**Note:** Insufficient family income is indicated by yellow boxes, while (almost) sufficient family income is indicated by red boxes.
insufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Civic engagement

Online activities

(almost) sufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Civic engagement

Online activities
Online activities
Civic engagement
Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

(almost) sufficient family income

\( \chi^2_1 = 7.00, p < .01 \)
\( CFI = .92 \)
\( RMSEA = .29 \)

(about) insufficient family income

insufficient family income
insufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Civic engagement

Online activities

(almost) sufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Civic engagement

Online activities

$\chi^2 = 8.63, p < .01$

CFI = .89

RMSEA = .32
insufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Civic engagement
Online activities

(almost) sufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Civic engagement
Online activities

$\chi^2_1 = 2.86, p = .09$
$CFI = .97$
$RMSEA = .16$
Conclusion 1

**Economic hardship** (insufficient family income):
Greater civic engagement is associated with the presence of **participatory norms** in one‘s social environment.
**Conclusion 1**

**Economic hardship** (insufficient family income):
Greater civic engagement is associated with the presence of **participatory norms** in one’s social environment.

community and its norms become important since people are more dependent on each other
Conclusion 1

**Economic hardship** (insufficient family income):
Greater civic engagement is associated with the presence of **participatory norms** in one‘s social environment.

Community and its norms become important since people are more dependent on each other

Civic engagement is a natural part of people‘s lives
Conclusion 1

**Economic hardship** (insufficient family income): Greater civic engagement is associated with the presence of participatory norms in one‘s social environment.

- Community and its norms become important since people are more dependent on each other
- Civic engagement is a natural part of people‘s lives

**No economic hardship** (almost or fully sufficient family income): Greater civic engagement is associated with greater awareness of discrimination.
Conclusion 1

**Economic hardship** (insufficient family income):
Greater civic engagement is associated with the presence of *participatory norms* in one‘s social environment.

- community and its norms become important since people are more dependent on each other
- civic engagement is a natural part of people‘s lives

**No economic hardship** (almost or fully sufficient family income):
Greater civic engagement is associated with greater *awareness of discrimination*.

- civic engagement is a deliberate reaction on the problems that one perceives in the society
Online activities

Civic engagement

Collective efficacy

Social norm of part. (parents)

Perceived discrimination

Economic hardship

Online activities

Civic engagement

**insufficient** family income

Collective efficacy

Social norm of part. (parents)

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Economic hardship

Online activities

Civic engagement

(almost) **sufficient** family income

Collective efficacy

Social norm of part. (parents)

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insufficient family income

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Civic engagement

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insufficient family income

(almost) sufficient family income
**insufficient family income**

- Collective efficacy
- Social norm of part. (parents)
- Perceived discrimination
- Economic hardship

**Online activities**

**Civic engagement**

- 

**almost sufficient family income**

- Collective efficacy
- Social norm of part. (parents)
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**Online activities**

**Civic engagement**
**Online activities**

- Collective efficacy
- Social norm of part. (parents)
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**Civic engagement**

- Online activities

**Insufficient family income**

- \( r = 0.10 \)
- \( r = -0.38^{**} \)
- \( r = 0.20 \)
- \( r = 0.11 \)

**Sufficient family income**

- \( r = 0.02 \)
- \( r = 0.27^{**} \)
- \( r = 0.28^{**} \)
- \( r = 0.17 \)
Online activities

Civic engagement

Collective efficacy

Social norm of part. (parents)

Perceived discrimination

Economic hardship

Online activities

Civic engagement

\( \chi^2 = .07, p = .80 \)

CFI = 1.00

RMSEA = .00

** indicates statistical significance at the .01 level.
insufficient family income

Collective efficacy

Social norm of part. (parents)

Perceived discrimination

Economic hardship

Civic engagement

Online activities

\( \chi^2 = 35.93, p < .01 \)

CFI = .50

RMSEA = .69

(almost) sufficient family income

Collective efficacy

Social norm of part. (parents)

Perceived discrimination

Economic hardship

Civic engagement

Online activities

\( \cdot 10 \)

\( \cdot 20 \)

\( \cdot 38^{**} \)

\( \cdot 11 \)

\( \cdot 28^{**} \)

\( \cdot 27^{**} \)

\( \cdot 17 \)
Conclusion 2

**Economic hardship** (insufficient family income): Awareness of discrimination has a **negative effect** on online participation.
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the combination of poverty and perceived discrimination seems to lead to alienation from the public matters
Conclusion 2

**Economic hardship** (insufficient family income): Awareness of discrimination has a **negative effect** on online participation.

...the combination of poverty and perceived discrimination seems to lead to alienation from the public matters...

**No economic hardship** (almost or fully sufficient family income): Awareness of discrimination has a **positive effect** on online participation.
Conclusion 2

**Economic hardship** (insufficient family income):
Awareness of discrimination has a **negative effect** on online participation.

the combination of poverty and perceived discrimination seems to lead to alienation from the public matters

**No economic hardship** (almost or fully sufficient family income):
Awareness of discrimination has a **positive effect** on online participation.

only when combined with reasonable economic conditions, perceived discrimination can motivate young people to participate
General conclusions

Economic hardship does not automatically lead to lower civic participation. Rather, it causes that different factors, affecting civic participation, become important.
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Economic hardship does not automatically lead to lower civic participation. Rather, it causes that different factors, affecting civic participation, become important.

Civic engagement can have very different meanings among young people coming from different economic backgrounds.
General conclusions

**Economic hardship** does not automatically lead to lower civic participation. Rather, it causes that different factors, affecting civic participation, become important.

**Civic engagement** can have very different meanings among young people coming from different economic backgrounds.

**Awareness of discrimination** does not simply lead to lower or greater (online) participation. Only young Roma facing no economic hardship are motivated by greater perceived discrimination.
Thank you for your attention!

serek@fss.muni.cz
insufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Civic engagement

Online activities

(almost) sufficient family income

Collective efficacy
Social norm of part. (parents)
Perceived discrimination
Economic hardship

Civic engagement

Online activities

.44**

.08
insufficient family income

Collective efficacy → Civic engagement
Social norm of part. (parents) → Civic engagement
Perceived discrimination → Civic engagement
Economic hardship → Civic engagement

(almost) sufficient family income

Collective efficacy → Civic engagement
Social norm of part. (parents) → Civic engagement
Perceived discrimination → Civic engagement
Economic hardship → Civic engagement

χ²₁ = 16.67, p < .01
CFI = .78
RMSEA = .46

.44**

.08
**insufficient** family income

- Collective efficacy
- Social norm of part. (parents)
- Perceived discrimination
- Economic hardship

Online activities

Civic engagement

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(almost) **sufficient** family income

- Collective efficacy
- Social norm of part. (parents)
- Perceived discrimination
- Economic hardship

Online activities

Civic engagement

**.44**

**.08**