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# Lives, Images, Audiences, Intentions: Participatory Visual Anthropology in a Hungarian Romani Neighborhood

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# Lives, Images, Audiences, Intentions

Participatory Visual Anthropology in a  
Hungarian Romani Neighborhood

Krista Harper, PhD  
UMass--Amherst

# Images

“The most photogenic minority group in Europe”

- Since 19th C: “romantic Gypsy”
- Since interwar period: documentary, “social problems”
  - Renewed interest since 1970s
- 1950s and 1960s: “Gypsy worker”
- Post-1989: pop culture images
- All usually produced by non-Roma

# Photovoice research process

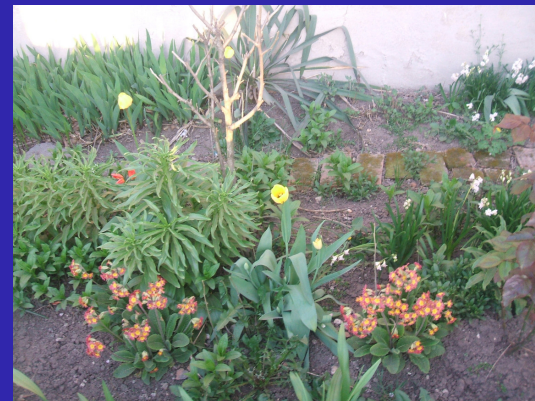
- Community-generated photography
- Group discussion of images
- Seeking wider public audience



# Photovoice team in Hungary



# Environment: Values and Issues



# Health: Values and Issues



# Individuality





# Photo Exhibitions



# Lives

- Documentation of lived experiences and “sense of place”
- Reflection on, discussion of images
- Further work: digital community archive of family photos



# Intentions: Our project goals

- To challenge stereotypes
- To assess environmental and health conditions
- To gain access to decision-making
- To organize individual and collective actions toward a more livable, just, and sustainable future.

# Audiences



# Concluding thoughts

- Toward a visual public anthropology
- Productive tension between
  - “documentary” impulse and
  - photograph as socially-produced object
- Contact me at [kharper@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:kharper@anthro.umass.edu)

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