

IQ Tests with Roma children in Nazi Germany and in contemporary modern Europe

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Point of departure

- On November 5, 1943 , the young researcher Eva Justin defends her Doctoral Thesis and obtain the doctoral degree (Doctor of Philosophy) in the field of Anthropology from the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the Fridrich Wilchelm University in Berlin. The title of the dissertation is "The Life History of Alien-raised Gypsy Children and Their Descendants"
- Opponents of the dissertation are Prof. Dr. Eugen Fischer, Prof. Dr. Richard Thurnwald and Dr. Robert Ritter.
- The dissertation is written under the supervision of Robert Ritter, who at that time is Director of the Department of Racial Hygiene and Population Biology in Berlin.

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- The Department of Racial Hygiene and Population Biology at that time had the task to identify the criteria for the superior race and real “Aryans”. Because of that a lot of “research” is done measuring the size of different parts of the body of human beings. Dr. Robert Ritter wrote his Habilitation in 1937 and it was about the registration of Roma and Sinti families and creating family trees.
 - Eva Justin who was nurse by training was working as an assistant of R. Ritter at the Department of Racial Hygiene and Population Biology. She did a research with Roma children from mixed marriages and German children who were living at the St. Joseph orphanage in Mulfingen, Germany.

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- The psychological research was done with 41 children from mixed marriages. Justin used psychological test for intelligence. The conclusion of the research “proved” that the “Roma children due to low IQ do not have abstract thinking”; “the boys are genetically predisposed to be criminals”; “the girls are genetically predisposed to be prostitutes”. The recommendation which come out from this “research” was sterilization of Roma, in order “to avoid the reproduction of asocial and not willing to integrate in the German society Gypsy population”

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- All the 41 children who were involved in the study of E. Justin were deported to the “Gypsy Camp” at Auschwitz. There part of the children were used by Josef Mengele for his medical experiments and the other part were killed in the gas chambers. Only 2 children survived.

The contemporary research on IQ of Roma in modern Europe

- Bafekr, S (1999) Schools and their undocumented Polish and “Romany Gipsy” pupils. *International Journal of Educational Research*, 31(4) 295-302.
- Dumitrascu (1999) Intellectual development of gypsy families in Romania. In WJ Donner and DL Dinnel, 14th International Congress of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, pp173-187. Lisse, The Netherlands, Swets.
- Rushton, JP Cvorovic, J and Bons, TA (2007) General mental ability in South Asians: Data from three Roma (Gypsy) communities in Serbia. *Intelligence*, 35, 1, 1-12.
- Bakalar, P (2004) The IQ of gypsies in central Europe. *Mankind Quarterly*, 44, (3-4) 291-300.
- Kezdi, G and Kertesi, G (2011) The Roma/non-Roma test score gap in Hungary. *American Economic Review*, 101 (3): 519-525.

According to the available data, the Roma population has a high percentage of pseudo-retarded children – children who score below the normal range on IQ tests but who are functionally normal in other ways.

Table 8.1. Studies of the intelligence of the Roma in Central and Southeast Europe.

Country	Age	Sample	Test	IQ	Author
Romania	9	50	WISC	56	Dumitrascu 1999
Romania	28	200	WAIS	60	Dumitrascu 1999
Serbia	Adults	323	SPM	70	Rushton et al. 2007
Czech Republic and Slovakia	Children 3-18	33-178	WISC-III	71-82	Reviewed in Bakalar 2004
Slovakia	5-8	728	CPM	83	Raven et al. 1995

A large study of Roma in Slovakia (N=728) (reported in the Raven's Manual for the Colored Progressive Matrices) showed an IQ equivalent for five- to eight-year-olds of 83 (Raven et al. ... other studies in

Roma scored 31 IQ points lower than Romanian non-Roma, giving them an IQ of 69. The average IQ of Romanians normed to the British IQ scale is 91 in the most recent compilation by Lynn and Vanhanen (2012), thus the Roma IQ normed to the British IQ scale is 60.

Table 8.2. WAIS IQs of Roma and Romanians in Romania.

	Roma men	Roma women	Romanian men	Romanian women
Verbal IQ	68.5	64.8	91.8	89.1
SD	(10.3)	(9.7)	(11.3)	(10.5)
Perform IQ	65.6	60.1	104.5	96.8
SD	(13.0)	(11.2)	(15.1)	(14.6)
Full scale IQ	65.4	60.6	97.1	91.6
SD	(11.7)	(10.3)	(12.7)	(11.9)

This study also gave WISC-R IQs for nine year olds and the results are summarized in Table 8.3. The mean IQ of the non- Roma boys and girls combined, was 94.6, and

the results are summarized in Table 8.3. The mean IQ of the non-Roma Romanian children, boys and girls combined, was 94.6, and the mean IQ of the Roma Romanian children, boys and girls combined, was 61.0. Thus, the Roma children scored 35 IQ points lower than the non-Roma Romanian children, giving them an IQ of 65 in relation to a Romanian IQ of 100 and an IQ of 56 in relation to a British IQ of 100.

Table 8.3. WISC-R IQs of Roma and Romanian children in Romania.

	Roma boys	Roma girls	Romanian boys	Romanian girls
Verbal IQ	63.5	63.5	83.5	80.2
SD	(11.4)	(11.5)	(10.1)	(10.3)
Perform IQ	54.9	60.1	117.2	107.7
SD	(10.0)	(11.2)	(17.8)	(13.5)

The Roma: A Balkan Underclass

	Roma boys	Roma girls	Romanian boys	Romanian girls
Full scale IQ	65.4	56.6	99.2	90.0
SD	(11.7)	(11.3)	(14.6)	(11.7)

In a review of ten studies of Roma verbal and non-verbal tests in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, with sample sizes ranged from 33 to 178, and with ages from three to eighteen years, Bakalar (2004) found an IQ range of from 71 to 82 (median=75; mean=76). In the Czech Republic, tested Roma children