



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH



“Them” and “Us”? Constructing Minority Identities Community and Research Perspectives on Travellers, Roma and Immigrant Groups

You are cordially invited to join our conference on identity construction and negotiation for minority groups. The politicization of cultural and ethnic minorities and their social marginalization is often a function of how the boundaries between “us” and “them” are drawn or disputed. By generating a dialogue between academics, development workers and community leaders representing minority groups, this conference explores the processes of construction and inter-generational transmission of identity, from inside and outside minority communities. **This conference provides a platform for community leaders and social scientists to inform each other’s agenda.** Groups such as the Travellers, the Roma and immigrants more generally, have been deemed marginal or “outside” the homogenous definitions of identity in modern-day nation states. The challenge for all diverse societies is to actively engage minorities and majorities in a process of redefining identity, promoting the inclusion of all citizens. Practice-based research and theoretical approaches to identity construction can be more informative when they are aligned with current discourses from minority communities and the wider society.

- How do individuals from minority groups cope with their **stigmatized identities** on a real everyday basis?
- How is the **internal heterogeneity of minority groups** constructed, represented and perceived, by minorities and majority group members?
- Are the dynamics of **identity construction and intergenerational maintenance** among ethnic minorities affected by the present-day political structures?
- Is there **dialogue** between policy makers, Roma/Traveller mobilization organizations and the grass-root communities in Ireland? What are the challenges of **building consensus on minority identities**?
- Does a **common identity framework** promote or prevent collective action on behalf of marginalized groups?
- To what extent do **current definitions of national identity** prevent the inclusion of minority groups, reinforcing structural inequalities? How can a process of redefinition among the majority group be encouraged?

We invite submissions for talks and poster presentations from a range of disciplines, nationally and internationally. The programme will include keynote addresses, presentations, a poster-presentation session, roundtable discussions, and a panel discussion at the end of the day. **Deadline for submissions is the 25th of August 2013.** Registration details will be available in due course. For further information or submission of abstracts, please contact us by email: C.SPI.Limerick@ul.ie, or Anca.Minescu@ul.ie; or by phone: +353 (0) 61 23 4859.

The 3rd Conference on Social Psychology in Ireland is organized and sponsored by the **Department of Psychology**, and the **Institute for the Study of Knowledge in Society**, at the University of Limerick, and by the **International Society of Political Psychology**.

Conference Chairs: Dr. Anca Minescu & Dr. Micheal O’hAodha

