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Assemblage Memory: Gender, Generation and the Roma

From the scanned medical image of the ‘gendered’ foetus to the stories left captured on digital gravestones, we now are born, live and die within what may be termed a ‘globital memory field’ in which connective cultures traverse established binaries of memory in dynamic ways.  This paper outlines the globital memory field as a concept and the forms of analysis  it implicates. It suggests that gendered mediated memory may be conceptualised in terms of complex assemblages within an economically uneven field of struggle that is articulated inside the body, through the body as well through states, public memory institutions and media corporations.  The paper relates this to the changing gendered dynamics of the globital memory field in relation to digital memories of the Porajmos, the murder of  between 500,000 to 1.5 million  Roma in the Second World War. Roma, are the biggest ethnic minority in the EU, present in all 27 EU Member States with a trans-European population of 10-12 million people (European Commission, 2010). Yet, despite The Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005-2015) European Roma are having their homes bulldozed, suffer mass deportations, are forced to live on land unfit for human habitation and are the subject of vilification by mainstream media as well as attacks by right wing organisations.  The paper identifies four gendered logics of erasure of the memory of  Roma slavery and the Holocaust within ‘older’ cultural and media forms which are being reassembled within the globital memory field, offering new forms of memory resilience and resistance.