

“Roma and Bureaucrats: A Correspondence Experiment in the Czech Republic”

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Roma people are one of the largest ethnic minorities in the Czech Republic as well as in the EU. A significant part of 10-12 million Roma in Europe live in extreme marginalization. Differential treatment by public officials, if any, may reinforce the repercussions of the existing discrimination of Roma in private markets. This correspondence experiment, therefore, tests for potential discriminatory treatment by employees of the Social Security Service in the Czech Republic, specifically the public servants dealing with unemployment benefits. Our design also allows tapping into two potential sources of discrimination, ethnic animus and socioeconomic status.