





EUNMUTE WORKING PAPER

LOBBYING FOR INTERSECTIONALITY: CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, THE OPEN SOCIETY FONDATIONS AND THE EU's ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

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Lobbying for Intersectionality: Civil Society Organizations, the Open Society Foundations and the EU's Anti-Discrimination Policy

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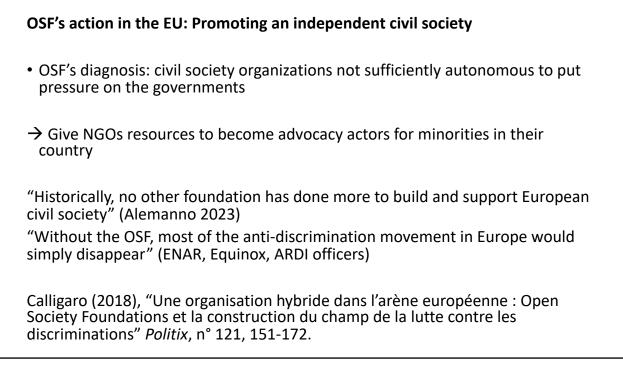
Background and research questions

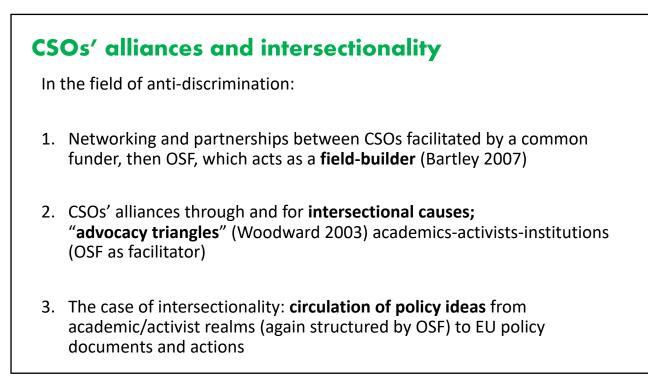
- Place and role of **civil society actors** in EU policymaking: capacity to put public issues on the agenda, to propose policy ideas and instruments.
- Who/what is European civil society? (Armstrong 2002, Kohler-Koch & Quittkat 2009)
- Weaker representation of "general interest" groups (human rights, consumers rights, health, environment)
- → A main issue for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs): funding and resources.
- → Which coalitions and advocacy strategies to reach and influence the EU institutional sphere?



 Objectives: promotion of 'open societies' (Karl Popper): liberal democracy, market economy, protection of marginalized groups ('lost causes')

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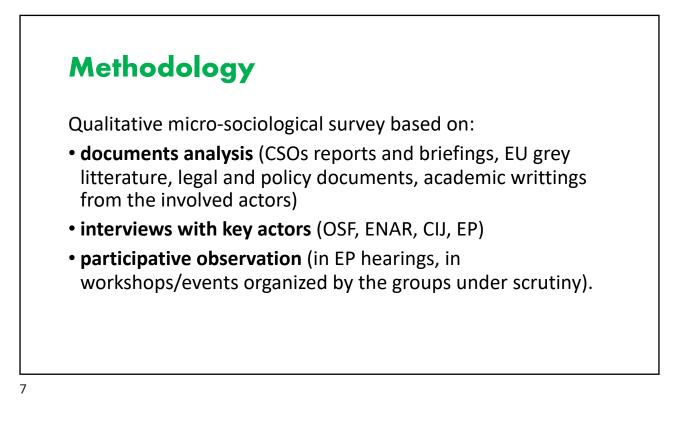




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Actors of the advocacy triangles

- Open Society Foundations (OSF)
- European Network Against Racism (ENAR), Brussels
- European Womens' Lobby, Brussels
- Migration Policy Group (MPG), Brussels (academic/activist)
- Centre for Intersectional Justice (CIJ) Émilia Roig (academic/activist)
- European Parliament (ARDI Intergroup on Anti-Racism and Diversity)
- European Commission (DG JUST, Commissioner for Equality, Equality Task Force)



1. EU anti-discrimination policy and the creation of ENAR

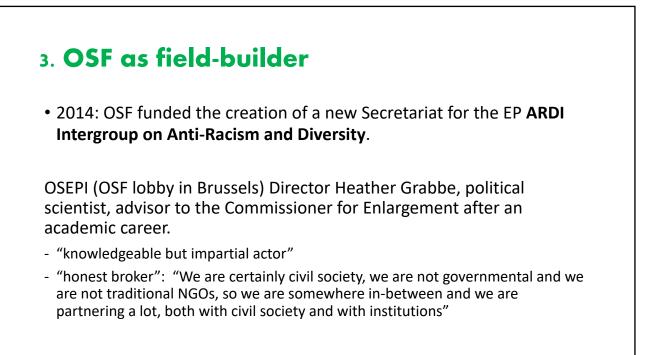
- 1997: Treaty of Amsterdam, Art. 13: action to combat 'discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion of belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation'
- 1998: Creation of ENAR, Umbrella Organization financed by the Commission Action Plan against Racism

ENAR is a partner of the EU in the design and implementation of anti-discrimination norms

2000: Race Equality Directive (Starting Line, key role of MPG)







4. The OSF, advocacy triangles and the intersectional agenda/approach

- Ethnic data collection: "Equality Data Initiative" 2014, coalition Open Society European Policy Institute (OSEPI), Migration Policy Group and ENAR
- Combination of academic and activist capitals to produce a report for the European institutions:

ENAR: Representativeness, first-hand data from the grassroots organization, expertise based on field knowledge

MGP: academic/institutional legitimacy

OSF: symbolic capital (academic and social capital of its staff), Expertise based on academic knowledge, Non-confrontational' advocacy, 'honest brokers', neutrality



5. Circulation of the intersectionality concept and EU Action Plan against Racism (2020)

1. Centre for Intersectional Justice (based in Berlin)

Émilia Roig – Founder and Director, "Apostle of intersectionality in Europe"

Supervisee of Kimberlé Crenshaw ("mother" of intersectionality concept) while at Columbia Law School during her PhD.

- 2017: Creation of Centre for Intersectional Justice
- 2018: OSF proposes to become a core-funder
- 2018: ENAR/CIJ symposium on Intersectionality in Brussels: "How can intersectionality be mobilized by activists and policy-makers as a powerful tool for equality and solidarity?"

5. Circulation of the intersectionality concept

- 2. Advocacy coalition ENAR / CIJ
- ENAR commissioned a report to CIJ on Intersectionality in EU public policies, completed in December 2019 and transmitted to the EU institutions
- 2019/2020: many interventions of Émilia Roig in EU institutions on intersectionality (EP hearing of Gender Equality Programme, ARDI workshop for the EP, for the Equality Task Force of the Commission)

5. Circulation of the intersectionality concept

- 3. New political context: Black Lives Matter
- May 2020: massive BLM protests in Europe
- June 2020: Resolution of the EP ("structural discrimination", "intersectional approach")
- June 2020: Reaction of the Commission, DG JUST in charge of drafting EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025 for sept. 2020.
- The Commission relied on the work done by ENAR/CIJ (2019 report)?

5. Circulation of the intersectionality concept

4. EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025 (Sept 2020)

- Strong similarities between the ENAR/CIJ Report and the Action Plan (vocabulary and measures)
- For the first time, a Commission document explicitly acknowledges the existence of structural, institutional and historical dimensions of racism in Europe.

"An intersectional perspective deepens understanding of structural racism, and makes responses more effective"

• Creation of an Equality Data Roundtable (including ENAR): "to examine the obstacles to the collection of data related to racial or ethnic origin and identify paths to a more harmonised approach, including on intersectional data as regards, for instance, religion or belief and gender"

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Provisional conclusions and next steps

- Intersectionality both a catalyser of CSOs coalitions (feminist, antiracist, migrants rights CSOs) and an objective of these coalitions (the integration of the intersectional approach in policies).
- The OSF played a pivotal role in putting intersectionality at the core of advocacy strategies.
- Limits of these coalitions: ideological divides, different understandings and uses of intersectionality.
- Further explore circulation of the intersectionality concept.
 - Further investigate the institutional side of the triangle: MEPs, DG JUST, Equality Task Force

