

# THE GHETTOS OF BUCHAREST: BETWEEN DEVIANCE AND NORMALITY

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*The article is based on the results of a pilot study, centred on a group of inhabitants of two ghetto-type areas in Bucharest: the Zăbrăuți and Livezilor and Vâltoarei alleys. The main objective of this study was the identification of elements, specific to the subculture and life in these areas. This study follows Loïc Wacquant's observations (1996), regarding the main features of ghettos: social stigma and discrimination, organisational desertification and marginalisation, crime and insecurity, division among the community members. The results allowed for the distinguishing of certain characteristics of the surveyed population: almost complete absence of cultural activities, existence of groups which promote drug use, high frequency of both deviant activities (high pupil dropout rate, lack of good manners among children etc.), and illegal activities (thefts, drug trafficking, illegal trade of flats and houses, usury, etc.), establishment of solidarity relations between the inhabitants, lack of means to exit the ghetto space, powerful stigma associated with the area and ethnicity, most of the residents being members of the Roma ethnic group, and the widespread culture of poverty.*

**Keywords:** *deviance, discrimination, ghetto, stigma, subculture.*