

Antonie Dvorakova has worked with members of Indigenous Peoples during her M.A. studies in the Indigenous Nations Studies program at the University of Kansas, her Exchange Scholar and Academic Training appointments at Stanford University, during her Ph.D. studies in Comparative Human Development (with cultural psychology specialization) at the University of Chicago, and currently through several short-term fellowships in the United States of America.

Her interdisciplinary work has been promoting the ways in which members of indigenous/tribal, racialised, socio-economically disadvantaged, first-generation in college, and otherwise vulnerable populations can utilize their own perspectives and culturally-specific resources, to transcend the limitations and pathology that dominant/mainstream societies impose on them through structural and systemic conditions that create inequities.

Her research has been not only developing conceptual frameworks but also facilitating practical applications to address issues of poverty, marginalization, discrimination and dehumanization, through building strength-based models to support empowerment, self-determination, resilience and well-being, on both individual and community levels. Her endeavours have been untangling how psychological differences affect and at the same time are affected by historically based developments in heterogeneous socio-cultural contexts.

Dr. Dvorakova is currently conducting an European Union funded comparative research project, to mirror the work she has already undertaken with highly educated Roma people in the Czech Republic. In the United Kingdom, she wishes to understand how moving to this county has improved (or not) opportunities for Roma people from the Czech Republic to access higher education, and enter into skilled and leadership roles including the professions.