

Romani Racialization Beyond Majority-Minority Narratives Transnationalism, Activism and Solidarity

May 21, 2025 (16.00 - 18.30)

Roundtable: Beyond “Europe’s Largest Ethnic Minority”. Comparing and Contrasting Social Justice Projects

Institute of Czech Literature, CAS

May 22 - 23, 2025

Conference: Relational Approaches to Romani Racialization(s)

Vila Lanna

May 23, 2025 (17.00 - 19.00)

Discussion: Race and Environmentalism in a Changing Europe

CEFRES



Photo by Tina Magazzini

This conference explores the social positions of the Romani people, the nature of anti-Romani stereotypes, and Romani agency in relation to other ethno-racial projects. It brings together critical perspectives on Romani racial formations, ethnicity, membership, and belonging, moving beyond isolated and compartmentalised majority-minority approaches. Speakers will explore ways scholars can analyse Romani racialization as intimately related to other racial projects. They will examine historical interactions between Romani people and other ethno-racial communities, tracing transnational and intercultural connections, and investigating how Romani experiences have been shaped by broader social processes. Finally, presenters will consider how different social justice movements influence one another and explore the formation of alliances. In doing so, they will invite the reimagination of solidarity that goes beyond notions of racial or ethnic unity based on prior similarity, recognising instead heterogeneity and differential modes of exclusion and incorporation.

Funding:


The conference is supported by the Czech Academy of Sciences' Lumina Quaeruntur Fellowship (project Romani Atlantic: Transcontinental Logic of Ethno-Racial Identities, LQ300582201) and Strategy AV21 - Identities in the World of Wars and Crises.



To register, please scan
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Programme

1. Beyond “Europe’s Largest Ethnic Minority” Comparing and Contrasting Social Justice Projects

 Institute of Czech Literature, Czech Academy of Sciences (Na Florenci 1420/3, 110 00 Prague)

Wednesday, May 21


16.00 - 16.30 **Welcome Remarks**

16.30 - 18.30 **Opening Roundtable**

Moderator: **Tina Magazzini** (Czech Academy of Sciences)

- A discussion with **Claude Cahn** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), **Jelena Jovanovic** (European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup) & **Sunnie Rucker-Chang** (Ohio State University and author of *Roma Rights and Civil Rights: A Transatlantic Comparison*) on policies for Roma within a broader social justice agenda, followed by reception drinks.

2. Relational Approaches to Romani Racialization(s)

 Vila Lanna (V Sadech 1, 160 00 Prague)

Thursday, May 22

8.30 - 9.00 **Registration**

9.00 - 9.10 **Opening of Day 1 of the Conference**

9.10 - 10.10 **Keynote Lecture 1**

- **Jelena Savić** (Uppsala University) — The “Darker Side” of East European (Post)coloniality: The Case of the Balkan Roma Minority

10.10 - 10.30 **Coffee Break**

10.30 - 12.10 **Panel 1: Thick Solidarities Across the Race-Mobility-Migration Nexus**

Moderator: **Márton Rövid** (Central European University)

- **Zenia Hellgren** (Pompeu Fabra University), **Dan Rodríguez García** (Autonomous University of Barcelona) **et al.** — “Gypsyess” and the Race-Migration Nexus: Racialization, Identity and Agency Among Intermarried and Multiethnic Spanish Roma
- **Carol Silverman** (University of Oregon) — Ethno-racial Dilemmas: Negotiating Balkan Romani Diasporic Identities
- **Jan Ort** (Czech Academy of Sciences) — Racial Hierarchies in Inter-Roma Solidarity in the Context of War in Ukraine

Programme

12.10 - 13.10 **Lunch**

13.10 - 15.20 **Panel 2: The Role of Territory and Class for Solidarity in Racialized Contexts**

Moderator: **Rufat Demirov** (Central European University)

- **Gabriela Marques Gonçalves** (Federal University of Goiás) – The Importance of Territory to Think about Romani People's Rights in the Global South
- **Lison Merville-Boudjema** (Lyon 1 University) – Processes of Racialization of Roma People in Contemporary France
- **Joanna Kostka** (Lancaster University) – Navigating Conflicting Roles in Roma Activism: Advocacy, Solidarity, and Child Welfare
- **Cecília Kovai** (Hungarian Research Network) & **Lilla Eredics** (HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences) – Exploring Romani Racialization Through Semi-Peripheral Dynamics in Global Capitalism

15.20 - 15.40 **Coffee Break**

15.40 - 17.20 **Panel 3: Interrogating the Categories of Roma Race-Making**

Moderator: **Kateřina Čapková** (Charles University and NYU in Prague)

- **Rafael Buhigas Jiménez** (Autónoma University of Madrid) & **Iván Perriáñez Bolaño** (University of Seville) – Romanipen/"Gypsiness", More Than a Europeanized Identity. Emergencies Available
- **Mariana Sabino Salazar** (Czech Academy of Sciences) – Ciganos de Alma and Pretendians: Navigating Marginalized Identity Claims in the Age of Multiculturalism
- **Tuba Akin** (University of Illinois) – Hauntings of Racelessness: Epistemological Violence and Roma Political Agency in Turkey

Friday, May 23

9.00 - 9.10 **Opening of Day 2 of the Conference**

9.10 - 10.10 **Keynote Lecture 2**

- **Manuela Boatcă** (University of Freiburg) – Romani Europeans and the Challenge of Unthinkable Histories

10.10 - 10.30 **Coffee Break**

Programme

10.30 - 12.10 **Panel 4: The Relational Making of Roma Racialization / Across Europe**

Moderator: **Petra Gelbart** (Families of Roma and Sinti Holocaust Victims)

- **Siv B. Lie** (University of Maryland) — Between and Beyond Romani and Voyageur: How Race Takes Shape through Genocide Commemoration
- **Sunnie Rucker-Chang** (Ohio State University) — Racializing Slavic and East European Studies – a Critical Romani Studies Perspective
- **Daniela Gress** (Heidelberg University) — Shifting Discourse Through Human Rights Activism. How the German Sinti and Roma Were Moulded into a “Threatened People” in Their Own Country

12.10 - 13.10 **Lunch**

13.10 - 14.50 **Panel 5: The Relational Making of Roma Racialization / Beyond Europe**


Moderator: **Yasar Abu Ghosh** (Charles University and NYU in Prague)

- **Ann Ostendorf** (Gonzaga University) — Detangling Romani, Indigenous and European Bodies: The Emergence of Race in the Early Modern Atlantic World
- **Dalen Wakeley-Smith** (Washington University in Saint Louis) — Between Red and Roma: Race, Misrecognition, and Indigeneity in the United States
- **Gatha Rajagopal** (Pondicherry University) — Double-layered Racialisation: The Transfer of Caste-based Identity Markers onto English Gypsies in Historical Discourse

14.50 - 15.30 **Closing Reflections**

15.30 - 16.00 **Coffee Break**

3. Race and Environmentalism in a Changing Europe

 CEFRES (Na Florenci 1420/3, 110 00 Prague)

Friday, May 23

17.00 - 19.00 **Book Discussion and Reception**

Moderator: **Martin Fotta** (Czech Academy of Sciences)

- A conversation with **Elana Resnick** (University of California) about her new book, *Refusing Sustainability: Race and Environmentalism in a Changing Europe* (Stanford University Press, 2025), followed by a small reception.