

The Roma: Bringing together Historical, Anthropological and Linguistic Approaches

July 7 - July 25

Course director:

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Resource persons:

[Victor Friedman](#), Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago. USA

[Yaron Matras](#), Research Fellow, Department of Linguistics, University of Manchester

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[Leo Lucassen](#), Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, Amsterdam, Netherlands

[Wim Willems](#), Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, Amsterdam, Netherlands

[Michael Zimmermann](#), Ruhr University of Bochum, Essen, Germany

[Nicholae Gheorghe](#), Romanian Academy of Sciences, & Special Rapporteur ODHIR, OCSE, Romania.

Short Biographies

Michael Stewart is Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at University College London, Recurrent visiting Professor at the C.E.U. and, this year, Fellow of Collegium Budapest, Institute for Advanced Study. He was educated at the L.S.E. He has written on Romany issues since his doctoral work on Hungarian Vlach Roma under socialism, advocating a comparative perspective including other marginal populations. He is the author of *Daltestvérek, a cigány identitása és közösség továbbélese a szocialista magyarországon* (Brothers in Song: the persistence of Gypsy identity and community in socialist Hungary), 1993. *The Time of The Gypsies*, 1997 and co-editor of *The Lilies of the Field: Marginal People who live for the Moment*, 1998.

Victor Friedman is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago. He was educated at the University of Chicago gaining the first dual PhD across Slavic Languages and Linguistics. Apart from numerous essays in linguistics he has co-edited, *Identity Formation among Minorities in the Balkans: The cases of Roma, Egyptians and Ashkali in Kosovo*. Sofia: Studii Romani. 2001. He has also worked for the United Nations as a Policy Analyst for Macedonia and has taught at Universities across the region. His web page can be found at <http://humanities.uchicago.edu/humanities/linguistics/faculty/friedman.html>

Yaron Matras is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Linguistics, University of Manchester, England. He was educated in Canada, Israel and Germany where he obtained his PhD at Hamburg University. He is currently the Editor of *Romani Studies* (continuing *Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society*) and has most recently written *Romani: A linguistic introduction*. 2002 and edited *Romani in contact. The history, structure and sociology of a language*, 1995; as well as *The Romani element in non-standard speech*. 1998. He is currently joint director of a major international project on the dialects of European Romani. He was also editor of Romnews information service (1993-1995).

Paloma Gay y Blasco studied Social Anthropology at Cambridge University. Her doctoral work on Gitanos in a state-built ghetto in the Spanish capital, formed the basis of her book *Gypsies in Madrid: Sex, Gender and the Performance of Identity*, 1999. She now teaches Anthropological Methods, The Anthropology of Europe and Gender and Feminist Theory at Belfast. And is working on two new books. *Gypsies/Roma: Anthropological Perspectives and Roots of Anthropology: Eight Key Ethnographies*.

Katalin Kovalcsik is a Research Fellow, in the Institute of Musicology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, having been educated at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest. She has carried out field research in Slovakia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, Poland, Moldova, Romania and the Ukraine. She is the editor of the series, *Gypsy Folk Music in Europe* and the author of numerous essays including *Aspects of Language Ideology of a Transylvanian Vlach Gypsy Community in Acta Linguistica Hungarica*. 1999. A recent article in English can be found at: www.santacecilia.it/italiano/archivi/etnomusicologico/ESEM99

Leo Lucassen received his PhD at Leiden University in 1990 and is currently associate professor at the History Department of the University of Amsterdam and director of the Pioneer research-project 'The determinants of settlement process of immigrants in the Netherlands 1860-1960'. He published extensively on the history of Gypsies, especially the policy of authorities towards them. He is the author of *Zigeuner. Die Geschichte eines polizeilichen Ordnungsbegriffes in Deutschland 1700-1945* (1995); and, together with Wim Willems & Annemarie Cottaar, *Gypsies and other itinerant groups. A socio-historical approach* (1998).

Wim Willems has worked since 1986 on the position of minorities, gradually gravitating to historically-oriented studies of migration. At the close of 1995 he joined the multi-disciplinary *Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies* (IMES). He is the author of *In Search of the True Gypsy. From Enlightenment to Final Solution* and with L. Lucassen and A-M Cottaar of *Mensen van de reis (People on the Road)*. His activities have never been confined to the production of scholarly publications. From 1984 he has worked for The Foundation for Historical Racism Studies, and the Migration Work Group, intended to bring together interested parties from throughout the country.

Michael Zimmermann was educated at the University of the Ruhr at Bochum and has lectured at Essen, Jena und Bochum on the persecution of Sinti and Roma, on the history of Jews in Germany and of the Ruhr area under national socialism. He is the author of countless articles, catalogues and books, including *Rassenutopie und Genozid. Die nationalsozialistische „Lösung der Zigeunerfrage“*; *Geschichte der Juden im Rheinland und in Westfalen*, 1998 and, in English, inter alia, *The National Socialist „Solution of the Gypsy Question“*, in: Ulrich Herbert ed. *National Socialist Extermination Policies*, 1999.

Nicolae Gheorghe is currently Section head, Contact Point for Roma and Sinti issues at the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OCSE, in Warsaw. He was founder of the Roma Centre for Social Intervention and Studies (Romani CRISS) in Bucharest. He is a member of the Romanian Academy of Sciences and has written as a sociologist and anthropologist on the position of Roma in Romania and elsewhere since the 1970s. He is the co-author of the Minority Rights Group Report, *Roma: A European Minority*, available at <http://www.minorityrights.org/admin/Download/Pdf/Romareport.pdf>.

Objectives

The course has one general and one specific aim. First, it will introduce participants to a range of disciplinary perspectives in the field of Romany studies. Second, by focusing on the emergent field of the

history of Romany and Gypsy peoples, it will show how an interdisciplinary perspective can benefit new research and pose fundamental questions to each of the disciplines about their current approaches.

The course will challenge participants to think more broadly about the Roma and the societies they live in and aims to teach participants that Romany issues cannot be treated in isolation as the problem of one ethnic group and yet how, at the same time, Roma cannot just be lumped together with other poor people. When discussing Roma the tendency is still to generalise and to homogenise. Here participants will be introduced to the variety in Roma cultures and the reasons for this variety.

Bringing together world class scholars in the field, this course will show how it is possible to conduct important and productive research in this area, how to integrate Roma issues into teaching programmes, and how a richer and deeper understanding of Roma changes ones perception not just of 'Gypsies' but of ourselves and the societies we live in. Academically, this course intends to provide a more rigorous set of academic challenges for the next generation of research by focusing on an area in which interdisciplinary perspectives are called for.

Level

The course level will be advanced-introductory aimed at graduates of any discipline in the social sciences and humanities. While the course is primarily aimed at encouraging young academics and those who are thinking of taking up an academic career to integrate Roma issues in their future research and teaching, it will also be of help to government officials, NGO workers and others who deal with Roma professionally. On previous occasions we have most productively integrated such persons who have continued significant work in this field after the course.

Format

The course is divided into three sections: General Disciplinary lectures and discussions; a seminar stream on the challenges from the new history of Romany peoples; and a practically oriented part. **A two-day field trip** will be organised to the South of Hungary where the complex and shifting relationship between people's who speak Romany, Hungarian (and para-Romani) and Beasi/Romanian can be observed in modern Hungary. Opportunities will also exist for watching screenings of key documentaries and feature films concerning Romany peoples.

Content

The course will in part show how the Plight of the Roma can be understood as reflecting common social problems in the region. It will show how to avoid compartmentalizing the study of Roma into 'Gypsy lore' or any other academic ghetto. Overall the course content is intended to show participants that it is not just possible but desirable to consider and include Romany issues in academic teaching and research programs in disciplines as diverse as economic history, sociology, political science human geography, literature or cultural studies etc..

In particular, the attempt to introduce historical work on Romany populations represents a way of engaging with new academic and public debates on the frameworks for interpreting the plight of the Romany and Gypsy peoples. In these, on the one hand the role of 'culture' is given increasing importance, both by some Romany activists and by Governments keen to ethnicise social issues, and, on the other hand, the role of economic and political conjunctures and the 'arbitrariness' of cultural

markers are stressed by other actors. By bringing together perspectives from linguistics, anthropology and history participants will be able better to contribute to these debates.

Second, Romany Studies was dominated through the 20th century by folkloristic, linguistic and then anthropological work. Only at the end of the century, and largely in the Netherlands and Germany, did a historical approach to Romany experience emerge. This work poses many challenges to traditional models, methods and paradigms. Work by the Dutch school has shifted attention to the role of the state in ethnic group formation and, through a focus on the economic and social conditions of migrant labour, has challenged the model of a history of constant persecution of these minorities. Work on the persecution of the Roma and Gypsies by the Nazis and their allies has also begun to profoundly shift understanding of preceding and subsequent eras. This course will provide an opportunity, bringing together the leading players in the field, to thrash out some of the differences and explore new lines of research.

Summary Course outline

TOPICS	PERSON	HOURS	TEACHING MODE	DISCUSSION POINTS
Lecture and discussion Stream on Disciplinary approaches to Romany Studies				
Historical linguistics and the use of language studies in Romany Studies	Victor Friedman	6	Lecture + participant discussion	What does the history and structure of Romany teach us about Romany history?
The role of language contact in Romani	Yaron Matras	2		Is Romani a language or a 'jargon?' Why does it matter?
Language in use and the political context of research.	Andrea Szalai	4		How does an ethnographic approach shape linguistic research?
Diglossia and linguistic human rights.	Katalin Kovalcsik	2		Supposed monolingualism among 'Hungarian Gypsies'
Ethnographic approaches: history, problems, challenges.	Michael Stewart	14		Reconciling social structure with the internal construction of social value among Roma

Feminist approaches.	Paloma Gay y Blasco	4		Practices and understandings of gender and sex and the distinctiveness of Gypsies
Ethnomusicology and the evolution of cultural forms.	Katalin Kovalcsik	2		Ethnomusicology and Romany hybridity
Anthropology in policy.	Nicholae Gheorghe	4		Linking the academy and the bureaucracy
Historical approaches to Roma.	Leo Lucassen	4		Role of and relationship with the state; how can time and place be accorded a true importance in the study of Romany populations?
A case study: the National Socialist Persecution of the Gypsies.	Michael Zimmermann	8		Why and how did the National Socialist persecution of Romany peoples differ from earlier and later periods of repression?
SEMINAR Stream – History and the Romany Studies Paradigm				
The history of Romany Studies themselves.	Wim Willems	4	Seminar	Relating 'knowledge' and government policies
The claims of historical linguistics.	Victor Friedman	2		How are languages and groups related historically?
Sociolinguistics, social de-construction, and image construction.	Yaron Matras	4		Problems with the social constructionist theories of identity formation

The challenge from the Dutch School.	Willems & Lucassen	2		What are the implications for the Dutch School of Romany history?
Memory and Forgetting 'Ethnography of the past in the present'.	Blasco and Stewart	4		What is history for people who do not commemorate the past?