New Frontiers in Romani Studies: Insights from Critical Race Theory

Summer course of Central European University

Instructors

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Course description

This summer course offers a pioneering intellectual inquiry into the dynamics, varieties, and antagonisms of racialization and racial oppression of Romani people in relation to other racialized populations in Europe. “Racialization and racial oppression of Roma are discursive and structural mechanisms that place them in an imaginary hierarchical classificatory system based on phenotypical, cultural, and social markers and render them as “other”/sub-human. These oppressive discourses became articulated and solidified in concrete social practices, mechanisms, policies, and structures in Roma people’s everyday lives” (Kóczé 2020).

The course examines the links between gender, race, and class in the past and present era of global capitalism and the impact of marketization, financialization on racialized groups. Through the course participants will critically explore the historical formation of intersected racialized and gendered manifestations of oppression at the global and local level. The course explores how dominant social and political rationalities through histories have constructed and effected various racialized groups. During the course participants will explore the dynamics of global racial inequality and process of social change through a variety of topics, such as gendered division of labor, politics of bodies, politics of (re)production and politics of surplus populations.

The summer school addresses the following questions: What are the insights and limitations of applying critical race theory to the studying the situation of Roma in Eastern European societies? What are the manifestations and patterns of anti-Romani racisms? How is it reproduced in different areas of public life? How could enduring forms of racial injustice be tackled?

The summer course aims to provide participants with theoretical, methodological and analytical tools to understand the position of Roma in Europe historically and in the present moment and to contribute to the promotion of social justice and social change in our society. The program will equip participants with the knowledge, skills and values to understand issues faced by racialized Roma, to analyze these issues through lenses of critical social theories and to comprehend the multiple dimension of Roma’s exclusion and marginalization in Europe and elsewhere.
Learning outcomes

The course is designed to develop participants’ knowledge of Roma history of marginalization and racialization, policies of exclusion and inclusion, and relevant concepts and theories in order to achieve the following learning outcomes. By the end of the course, participants should be able to

- form theoretically and historically grounded understanding of the main ways in which race and racism operates in Eastern Europe and beyond
- reflect upon the ingrained features of racism that characterize and structure our societies by analyzing the experiences of Roma in various historical period
- able to critically analyze legal measures and policies towards Roma and other ethnic groups, including models to manage ethnic diversity
- identify and analyse forms of everyday anti-Gypsyism/ anti-Romani racism