

Fully funded Romany Studies Summer School

Central European University

June 22 - July 10, 2009, Budapest

Deadline for Applications: 6th March, 23⁰⁰

Please note that all successful applicants (who must have a degree allowing them to do a PhD or be currently doing a PhD) will be fully funded (travel, accommodation etc.) by the **EU Marie Curie grant SCF-045799-RomanyStudies**.

The "Romany Studies" program offers a unique chance to all those committed to researching, writing about and contributing to the formation of public policy in this field to meet with a wide range of young scholars and senior faculty in an intensive, multi-disciplinary seminar-type environment.

Exceptionally, this year's course has been designed by three young PhD students in collaboration with the course directors. It will use their contributions and those of nine other alumni of the 'Marie Curie Conferences and Training Events' (run since March 2007 at CEU and its partner institutions).

The course draws on the most recently expanding research areas in this field, as well as providing a broad, basic introduction to disciplinary approaches (from linguistics, through educational sociology, political science and anthropology to art history). There will be opportunities to meet and discuss with senior colleagues in seminar sessions where their work is discussed (Szalai, Okely, Vermeersch etc.). All students will have the chance to present and discuss their research proposals/ projects/ findings with their peers in small-group seminars. They will also all be engaged in practical mini-projects during the school, some field based, others library based.

The main topics to be covered this summer include:

- Comparative sociology of political participation and representation (citizenship practices; varieties of exclusion; Romany NGOs and their survival strategies; national and European Roma policies; alternatives and dilemmas of social inclusion; what is the legal status of Roma and is the minority protection regime adequate in this case?).
Peter Vermeersch, Marton Rovid, Emmanuela Igantoiu-Sora, Hana Synkova and others
- Anthropological approaches to cultural diversity ('Beyond identity' – personhood and embodied experience; migration; state power and marginality; 'service nomad models'; development projects; feminist approaches).
Paloma Gay y Blasco, Michael Stewart, Judith Okely, Jan Grill, Marek Jakoubek, & others
- The contribution of linguistic and socio-linguistic studies (the significance and implications of the Romani Project in Manchester; language as a source of data;)
Yaron Matras, Fabion Jakobs and others
- Educational Sociology (the proliferation of categories in educational segregation; the use of the law in anti-discrimination campaigns; good and bad models of educational innovation; evaluating educational programs).
Zsuzsanna Torok, Gabor Kezdi, Renata Dezso, Gabor Eros & others

- Histories of identification, histories of marginalisation (the history of policing and the Roma; passports, identity cards and ‘the nomad plague’; writing the history of the Gypsies in Nazi Germany).

Ilsen About, Henriette Asseo, Michael Stewart & others

The program provides training for graduate students and junior researchers at the outset of their careers to become the next generation of teachers and researchers in the broad field of Romany studies. Teaching methods will include small group projects before and during the school; meetings with Roma artists, public intellectuals and policy makers; field work, seminars and lectures. Combining various methods and forms of engagement participants shall hone their skills for linking theory with research practice and active commitment.

This multi-disciplinary summer school takes place in an increasingly threatening atmosphere that some commentators have likened to a ‘lynching climate.’ In the past two years citizens of many European countries (Bulgaria, Hungary and the Czech Republic most noticeably) have witnessed a dramatic increase in unrestrained expressions of anti-Gypsyism. The atmosphere of growing hostility does not apply only to the Central Eastern European countries but also extends to many other geographical areas of Europe. Some ‘western’ European countries, most notably Italy, clearly show signs of public fear and moral panic stemming from the perceived ‘Eastern-European’ Roma migrants ‘flooding in’ the country. These anti-Gypsy discourses contribute to further stigmatisation of the Roma and dangerously colour the levels of public policy making. The Summer School will provide comparative perspectives between various European countries.

In early February 2009 the leader of the main Hungarian opposition party, and likely future Prime Minister, emerging from a meeting with the President of the country, announced:

“it is true that there is no such thing as Gypsy Criminality, but there are Gypsy Criminals. It only makes things worse if we don’t say clearly that the proportion of these criminals rises day by day With respect to public order, we should be open that the number of criminals of Gypsy descent is palpably rising, their proportion in serious criminality is increasing ... people who don’t talk about such things are shutting their eyes.”

Hungary is a country where the collection of ethnic data by the police or any other public body is illegal. It is also a country where ‘bashing the Gypsies’ is one of the few sure fire vote winners. Rather than reproducing the popular representations and myths that have been prevalent in many approaches to Roma both in academic literature, public policy and/or journalist accounts, the summer school shall provide a critical framework for an innovative and research-informed engagement with the topic.

Come to this school and join your work with all who seek to end the vicious cycles of deprivation and exclusion into which Romany communities have been cast in the past 60 years.