

Conference on Romani Studies

Gypsy Lore Society Prague 2021

**2021 Gypsy Lore Society
Annual Meeting and Conference
on Romani Studies – Book of Abstracts**

Conference on Romani Studies

**Gypsy
Lore
Society**
Prague
2021

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FACULTY OF ARTS
Charles University

Charles University, Faculty of Arts



**Institute of Ethnology
and Social Anthropology**
Slovak Academy of Sciences

Slovak Academy of Sciences,
Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology

Prague, 2021

2021 Gypsy Lore Society Annual Meeting and Conference on Romani Studies

**Prague, Czech Republic (in person)
and online via <http://gls2021.ff.cuni.cz/>
September 8–10, 2021**

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2021 GYPSY LORE SOCIETY CONFERENCE ON ROMANI STUDIES

The 2021 GLS Annual Meeting and Conference on Romani Studies were held in Prague, Czech Republic as a hybrid event, allowing for in-person as well as online participation (September 6 to 8, 2021). The meeting and the conference were organised on behalf of the Gypsy Lore Society by the Seminar of Romani Studies at the Department of Central European Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, in cooperation with the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague.

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CONTENTS

Opening words

| | |
|---|----|
| Tatiana Zachar Podolinská. <i>Roma in the Midst of the Pandemic of Racism and Social Stigmatisation</i> | 12 |
| Helena Sadílková, Pavel Kubaník. <i>30 years of Prague Romani Studies at Charles University (1991–2021)</i> | 21 |
| Zdeněk Uherek. <i>Romani Studies at the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Sociological Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University</i> | 37 |
| <i>GLS conferences 1979–2021</i> | 43 |

2021 GLS Conference on Romani Studies

ORGANIZED PANELS

- Anthropology and History in Romani Studies (conveners: Grégoire Cousin, Vita Zalar) 48
- Contemporary Challenges and Futures of Roma Housing (conveners: Ewa Nowicka, Maciej Witkowski) 60
- Critical Perspectives on the Impacts of Covid-19 Pandemic on Roma (conveners: Maria Manuela Mendes, Stefánia Toma, Olga Magano) 64
- Environmental Justice for Roma (conveners: Jekatyerina Dunajeva, Joanna Kostka, Richard Filčák, Daniel Škobla) 81
- Future Directions of the Gypsy Lore Society: Scholarship, Activism, Names, Purposes (convener: Carol Silverman) 87
- Groups Understood as Gypsies with no Romani Heritage: Similarities and Differences (conveners: Anthony Leroyd Howarth, Freya Hope) 95
- International Romani Literature(s): Approaches to a “New” World Literature 113 (conveners: Lorely French, Marina Ortrud M. Hertrampf, Sofiya Zahova) 104
- Migration and Adaptation to New Environments (convener: Zdeněk Uherek) 121
- Pal o Roma romanes / Pa Rom romanes (Panel in Romani) (conveners: Jan Červenka, Markéta Hajská) 131

- Religion(s) among Roma/Gypsies (Churches, Religious Movements and Institutions)
(convener: Tatiana Zachar Podolinská) **146**
- Responding to the State: Uncovering Romani Agency in Early Modern and Colonial
Atlantic Worlds (convener: Ann Ostendorf) **161**
- Roma, Education and Employability of New Generations
(conveners: Olga Magano, Elena Loreni Baciú) **166**
- Roma in the Period between WWI and WWII
(conveners: Elena Marushiakova, Vesselin Popov) **180**

INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS

- Individual submissions by authors **206**
- Thematic blocks **252**

List of contributors **255**

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Independent State of Croatia (ISC). The marginalisation of scholarly interest in researching the genocide committed against the Roma was one of the characteristics of the communist ideological model of the authorities in socialist Croatia (Yugoslavia), which prohibited the highlighting of the ethnic identities of victim groups, and instead incorporated them into the common discourse of “victims of fascist terror”. With such ideological control, the memories of the Romani war victims were joined by those of other victims of the Ustasha authorities and its fascist and Nazi allies, which made it impossible to hold separate commemorations or to erect monuments for the Romani victims. The consequences of this policy are still felt in Croatia today; scholarly research on the genocidal suffering of the Roma remains insufficient and unsystematic.

This paper will analyse the question of how the education system in Croatia, after the end of World War II, addressed or perceived the topic of the genocide of the Roma. The analysis will cover textbooks and history manuals which have been published and used in the teaching of history in primary and secondary schools from 1945 to the present. In particular, the paper will analyse the issue of comparison in relation to the suffering of other nations, such as Jews, with respect to the suffering of Roma during World War II in Croatia.

**In-Betweenness:
The Džorevci Community in Bulgaria**

This paper is based on fieldwork conducted in Bulgaria, in the cities of Sofia and Pernik. It explores the phenomenon of preferred identification, characteristic of the Romani community, on the example of *Džorevci* in Bulgaria. The *Džorevci* community represent a paradigm of how an external definition/categorization shapes the internal experience of belonging, with the result that, for generations, the members of his community remain in an

ambiguous, liminal position, “betwixt and between” the established ethnic categories of Bulgarians and Roma – “neither-nor”, “and/or” and “both-and” (depending on the individual, the situation, and the wider social and political context). In their interactions with relevant others – the Bulgarians and the Roma – the Džorevci community is engaged in a constant, long-term process of negotiation, contestation and non-recognition, doubly included or doubly excluded – in the narratives of my interlocutors the predominant experience being the latter.

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