

The Politicization of Xenophobia in Transatlantic Contexts: Past and Present

Roundtable conference

Villa Lanna, 18-19, May, 2023

Organized by the Prague Forum for Romani Histories (at the Institute of Contemporary History) in partnership with University of Alabama at Birmingham and Romani Studies Program at the CEU in Vienna

Short bios of conference participants

Kateřina Čapková

Kateřina Čapková is a senior researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History, Prague, and a teacher at both Charles University and NYU in Prague. Her research focuses on modern Jewish history in Europe, the history of refugees and migration, and, recently, the history of the Roma and Sinti. She is author and co-editor of several books and volumes. Her *Germans, Jews? National Identity and the Jews of Bohemia* (Berghahn, 2012; in Czech 2005, 2014) was named the Outstanding Academic Title of 2012 by *Choice* magazine. Together with Hillel Kieval she is co-editor of the multi-author volume *Prague and Beyond: Jews in the Bohemian Lands*, which looks at the history of the Jews of Bohemia and Moravia from the early modern period to recent times (Penn Press, 2021; in German 2020; in Czech 2022). With Eliyana Adler she co-edited the volume *Jewish and Romani Families in the Holocaust and its Aftermath* (Rutgers UP, 2020). In 2016 she initiated the establishment of the Prague Forum for Romani Histories, an academic platform for sharing and encouraging research on history of Roma and Sinti.

Martin Fotta

Martin Fotta is a researcher at the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences. He obtained his PhD at Goldsmiths, University of London (2012). His research focuses on the transatlantic dimensions of the Romani diaspora, processes of racialisation, masculinity and kinship. In 2021, Martin received the "Lumina quaeruntur" award from the Czech Academy of Sciences, which allowed him to establish a research team with which he works on a project entitled "The Atlantic Roma: Transcontinental Logics of Ethnic-Racial Identities" (<https://www.romaniatlantic.cz>). He is the author of *From Itinerant Trade to Moneylending in the Era of Financial Inclusion: Households, Debts and Masculinity among Calon Gypsies of Northeast Brazil* (Palgrave, 2018).

Michelle Lynn Kahn

Michelle Lynn Kahn is Assistant Professor of Modern European History at University of Richmond. Her research situates post-1945 Germany in its transnational and global contexts, focusing on far-right extremism, migration, and racism. Her first book, *Foreign in Two Homelands: Racism, Return Migration, and Turkish-German History*, is under contract with Cambridge University Press. Her current book project, *Neo-Nazis in Germany and the United States: An Entangled History of Hate*, traces the transatlantic connections between German and American neo-Nazis and Holocaust deniers from the end of World War II to the rise of the Internet era. She has published her scholarship in *The Journal of Modern History*, *Central European History*, and *The Journal of Holocaust Research*, and she is co-editing a volume with Lauren Stokes, titled *Racism and Anti-Racism in Divided Germany*. She is the recipient of the 2019 Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize of the German Historical Institute and the 2022 Chester Penn Higby Prize of the American Historical Association. She completed her Ph.D. and M.A. at Stanford University.

Angéla Kóczé

Angéla Kóczé is Chair of Romani Studies and Academic Director of the Roma Graduate Preparation Program at Central European University in Budapest and Vienna. She has published several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters with various international presses, including Palgrave Macmillan, Ashgate, Routledge, and CEU Press, as well as several thematic policy papers related to social inclusion, gender equality, social justice, and civil society. In 2013, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, honoured Kóczé with the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award for her interdisciplinary research approach, which combines community engagement and policymaking, along with in-depth participatory research on the situation of the Roma. She is a co-editor of *The Romani Women's Movement: Struggles and Debates in Central and Eastern Europe* (Routledge, 2019, with Violetta Zentai, Jelena Jovanović and Enikő Vincze) and *The Roma and their Struggle for Identity in Contemporary Europe* (Oxford: Berghahn, 2020, with Huub van Baar)

Tina Magazzini

Tina Magazzini's research specialises in migration and inclusion policies, identity politics, and how categories of inclusion and exclusion are created and maintained across different settings in a comparative perspective. She holds a PhD in Human Rights from the University of Deusto, where she focused on Roma integration frameworks in Southern Europe. Her work questions the political dynamics that drive the framing of certain minorities as "in need to integrate." Prior to joining the Czech Academy of Sciences, she conducted research on religious, ethnic, and migrant minorities at the European University Institute (Florence, Italy) as well as for a number of NGOs, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and UNESCO.

Dezso Mate

Dezso Mate received his Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Sociology. Currently, he is an AiE Social Science Research Fellow at Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI). Mate is also the coordinator of the Knowledge Production, Research and Publication thematic section, at the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture. He is a former Advanced Research Fellow and Course Leader at the Central European University-RSP in Budapest. From 2015-2017 he worked as a Visiting Research Associate at the University of Sussex- CHEER. Dezso's research interests focus on the dimensions of intersectional anti-Gypsyism, structural racism, LGBTI-phobia; Social movements and injustices, and social resilience and resistance.

Justyna Matkowska

Justyna Matkowska received her Ph.D. from the University of Wroclaw. She holds MA and BA in Literary Studies from the University of Wroclaw. Dr. Matkowska also graduated from the Postgraduate Romani Studies Program at the Pedagogical University of Krakow in Poland. She received research grants at Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum) and the Central European University. She worked as an expert researcher for the "Re-Thinking Roma Resistance" project at the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture. She is currently working as a postdoctoral researcher at Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań (Poland) and adjunct faculty at the University at Albany, State University of New York, (United States). Dr. Matkowska's current research focuses on the Romani Genocide, as well as race and ethnicity, cultural memory, and representation.

Christopher Molnar

Christopher Molnar is Associate Professor of History and Director of the History program at the University of Michigan-Flint. His research focuses on migration in postwar German history, the history of refugees, and the intersection of migration, Holocaust memory, and racism. His publications include *Memory, Politics, and Yugoslav Migrations to Postwar Germany* (Indiana University Press, 2019), and a co-edited volume, *German-Balkan Entangled Histories in the Twentieth Century* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020). He is currently nearing completion of a monograph entitled *Playing with Fire: Refugees, Race, and Memory after German Reunification*. Publications from that project have appeared in the *Journal of Modern History* (2022) and *Central European History* (2021).

Tayla Myree

Tayla Myree is a young researcher focusing on both Romani Studies and African American Studies. She is particularly interested in the topics of memory, atrocity, and activism. She holds a Masters in Comparative History from Central European University (CEU) and an advanced certificate in Critical Romani Studies from the Romani Studies department at CEU.

Ann Ostendorf

Ann Ostendorf is Professor and Chair of History at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, USA. Her scholarship explores issues of identity, race, and culture in early American history. Her recent articles have appeared in *Early American Studies*, *Romano Džaniben*, *Critical Romani Studies*, *Frühneuzeit-Info*, *The Journal of Gypsy Studies*, *Maryland Historical Magazine*, *The American Historian*, and *American Music*. Her current research considers the histories of the Romani diaspora in the colonial Americas. She is working on an edited collection (with Martin Fotta) titled *The Romani Atlantic*.

Sunnie Rucker-Chang

Sunnie Rucker-Chang is Associate Professor at the Ohio State University in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures and the Department of African American African Studies. She is also the co-director of the Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (R.E.E.E.S) Undergraduate Think Tank at Howard University. She works, writes, and teaches primarily on the social construction of race and culture as it relates to privileged and marginalized communities in Central and Southeast Europe. In her research, Rucker-Chang studies how literature and film contribute to culture and national identities, particularly in the creation of minority and majority groups. She is the co-author of *Roma Rights and Civil Rights: A Transatlantic Comparison* (Cambridge, 2020) and co-editor of *Chinese Migrants in Eastern Europe and Central Asia* (Routledge, 2013) and *Cultures of Mobility and Alterity: Crossing the Balkans and Beyond* (Liverpool University Press, 2022).

Mariana Sabino Salazar

Mariana Sabino Salazar holds a PhD in Iberian and Latin American Literatures and Cultures from the University of Texas at Austin. She volunteered at the Romani Archives and Documentation Center for seven years, where she classified the collection, helped other scholars access its resources, and co-directed the film series *Sam Barvale*. In 2018, she was awarded a FLAS fellowship to research the figure of Maria Severa Onofriana and the connections between Fado music and Romani people. More recently, she co-edited the Latin American double issue for the Czech journal *Romano Džaniben*. She has also researched about the history of Romani women in New Spain's Inquisition and Spanish and Portuguese literature by Romani women. Sabino draws from subaltern history, decolonial and critical race theory, literary analysis, and gender studies. Her dissertation focused on the literary femme fatale archetype found in Mexican and Brazilian cinema from 1940 to 1990. She analyzed the genealogy of Gypsy images and narratives, with a focus on race, gender, and nationalism. She worked with a corpus of more than sixty films with Gypsy characters. Her project received generous support from the Fulbright Commission, the United States Department of Education, the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACyT), and the Graduate School of The University of Texas at Austin.

Helena Sadílková

Helena Sadílková is the head of the Seminar of Romani Studies at the Department of Central-European Studies at Charles University in Prague. She works on the wartime and postwar history of Roma with a focus on the territory of former Czechoslovakia. Her research interests include the history of state socialism and socio-political participation of Roma, politics of memory and memory studies. She is particularly interested in looking at Romani experiences and perspectives and the written sources that document them. Helena Sadílková is a co-editor in-chief of the Czech peer reviewed journal *Romano džaniben*. She is a former United States Holocaust Memorial Museum fellow. Since 2018 she had been involved in the preparation of the Memorial of the Holocaust of the Sinti and Roma from the Czech lands in Lety u Písku. In 2023, she was awarded the Price of the Museum of Romani Culture in Brno. Her publications include "Asserting a Presence in the Public Sphere: Autobiographies by two Romani Holocaust Survivors in Communist Czechoslovakia" (together with M. Závodská in Donert, Rosenhaft: *The Legacies of the Romani Genocide in Europe since 1945*, Routledge, 2022) and "The Postwar Migration of Romani Families from Slovakia to the Bohemian Lands: A Complex Legacy of War and Genocide in Czechoslovakia" (in Čapková, Adler: *Jewish and Romani Families in the Holocaust and its Aftermath*, Rutgers University Press, 2020).

Cristina Stoica

Cristina Stoica is a PhD candidate at Western University, Canada. Her recent work examines the driving forces of antiziganism/ antigypsism/ antițiganism in Romania and the means to which they violently manifested in the state from the unification of the principalities of Wallachia and Moldova in 1859 to the end of the Second World War in 1945. Cristina's most recent peer-reviewed publication, *Objections to Deportations: Non-violent and Clandestine Protests to Roma deportations to Transnistria*, provides a micro analysis of Romani agency in protesting the Romanian state-sponsored deportations to Transnistria.

Jonathan Wiesen

Jonathan Wiesen is Professor of History and Department Chair at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He received his Ph.D. in History from Brown University in 1998. He is the author of *West German Industry and the Challenge of the Nazi Past, 1945-1955* (Chapel Hill, 2001), which won a book prize from the Hagley Museum and Library and the Business History Conference. He is also co-editor with Pamela Swett and Jonathan Zatzlin of *Selling Modernity: Advertising in Twentieth Century Germany* (Durham, 2007) and author of *Creating the Nazi Marketplace: Commerce and Consumption in the Third Reich* (Cambridge, 2011). His work has appeared in a number of scholarly journals, including *Central European History*, *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary History*, and *German Studies Review*, and he has received research fellowships from the German Academic Exchange, The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and the Gerda Henkel Foundation. He is currently writing a book on U.S. anti-Black racism in the German imagination from 1918-1968, as well a Nazi Germany textbook for Bloomsbury Academic.

Vita Zalar

Vita Zalar is a PhD candidate in cultural history at the Postgraduate School ZRC SAZU in Ljubljana, Slovenia, where she is finalizing her doctoral dissertation on structural racism against Roma and Sinti in the Habsburg Monarchy and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. In her research, she combines social and cultural history, conceptual history, history of imperialism and colonialism, and historical materialism. She has received the 2023 BASEES Study Group for Minority History Prize for Best First Book Proposal for her book proposal titled *The Political Economy of Antigypsyism: Habsburg and Post-Habsburg Perspectives*. She has held research positions and visiting fellowships at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the University of Graz, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the Leibniz Institute of European History in Mainz. She co-organizes the Romani History Seminar at the Prague Forum for Romani Histories.