

# Biographies

**Rafael Buhigas Jiménez** holds a PhD in Contemporary History from the Complutense University of Madrid, where he has taught History, Art History and Musicology. His main research focuses on the social fit of the Roma population in urban societies, especially during periods of repression such as the Franco dictatorship in Spain. He has carried out research stays in London, Buenos Aires and Mexico City. He is currently coordinating the research project “DocRoma. La imagen de los gitanos en el documental” at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain). In addition, over the last decade he has been prominent within Roma social movements. He is also an academic member of the “History and Commemoration” department of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC). He has published numerous articles, dealing with different topics such as the political conflict of the Roma, their relationship with modern cities, and a film analysis of the famous series *Peaky Blinders* from a Roma perspective. He has also published a small book on anarchism and the Roma people. In September 2024 he will benefit from a Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies postdoctoral fellowship to join the research staff of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC.

**Maria Chiorean** is a PhD candidate and research assistant at “Lucian Blaga” University, Sibiu (Romania). She holds a BA in Comparative Literature and Romanian Literature from “Babeş-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and an MLitt in Postcolonial and World Literatures from the University of St Andrews (Scotland). Her work has been published in journals such as *Metacritic Journal for Comparative Studies and Theory*, *Transilvania*, and *Transylvanian Review*. She has been part of multiple research projects, both national and international, including the Digital Museum of the Romanian Novel and, more recently, two projects led by Galin Tihanov and Igor Pilshchikov, respectively. She is currently conducting research on ethno-racial representation in the modern Romanian novel, but her research interests also include diasporic literature, trauma theory, disability studies, and postcolonial theory.

**Martin Fotta** is the head of the Department of Mobility and Migration at the Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences. His primary research interests include informal economic strategies, comparative racialisation, and Romanies in Latin America. He is the author of a book titled *From Itinerant Trade to Moneylending in the Era of Financial Inclusion: Households, Debts and Masculinity among Calon Gypsies of Northeast Brazil* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2018) and a co-editor, with Paloma Gay y Blasco, of *Ethnographic Methods in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Research: Lessons from a Time of Crisis* (Bristol University Press, 2024). In 2021, he received the Lumina Quaeruntur Award from the Academic Council of the Czech Academy of Sciences for the project “Romani Atlantic: Transcontinental Logic of Ethno-Racial Identities” (<https://www.romaniatlantic.cz>). The project aims to explore how the social place, attributes, and spheres of action ascribed to Romani people within the Lusophone world depend on specificities of racial formations.

**Carolina García Sanz** is Associate Professor in the Department of Contemporary History at the University of Seville. She is a specialist in the field of First World War studies and in 2016 began a new research line in the project “History of the Roma: Exclusion, Stereotypes, Citizenship” (HAR2015-64744-P), which combines her previous expertise in discrimination laws during the First World War with the study of the construction of the “internal enemy” and state repressive practices. Dr. Sanz was also a researcher for the European project “Beyond Stereotypes: Cultural Exchanges and the Romani Contribution to European Public Spaces” (BESTROM) between 2019 and 2022 that considered Romani transnational activism for civil rights and led to publications in *Historia y Política* (2018), *Historia Social* (2019), *Sociología Histórica* (2019), and *European History Quarterly* (2022). Since 2019, she has been the Principal Investigator of a co-directed project “Discourses and Representations of Ethnicity: Politics, Identity, and Conflict in the 20th Century” (PID2019-105741GB-I00) that dealt with the study of wars and minority politics; this work has been published in collective books edited by Routledge, Berghahn, and Liverpool University Press. Currently, she is also the Principal Investigator of a new co-directed project titled “Historical Processes of Racialization in 20th Century Spain: Identity, Biopolitics, Conflict, and Memory” (PID2022140462NB-I00).

**Margareta (Magda) Matache** is a Lecturer on Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and the co-founder and Director of the Roma Program at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University. She earned a BA in social work, an MA in European social policies, and a PhD in political science, all from the University of Bucharest, Romania and an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School. She is also a member of the O’Neill-Lancet Commission on Racism, Structural Discrimination and Global Health at Georgetown University. Dr. Matache’s research focuses on the manifestations and impacts of racism and other systems of oppression in different geographical and political contexts. Her research examines discrimination, reparations, social determinants of health—including education and social and economic disparities—and their nexus with the historical past and contemporary public policies, with a particular focus on anti-Roma racism.

**Dezso Mate** holds a PhD in Interdisciplinary Sociology from the Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary. Currently, he is a Romani Rose Fellow at the Research Centre on Antigypsyism at the Heidelberg University’s Department of History. Dr. Mate is an Academy in Exile Alumnus of the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut (KWI), Essen. Science 2022 he is the Thematic Section Coordinator of the Knowledge Production, Research and Publication at the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture. Dr. Mate is a former Advanced Research Fellow and Course Leader at the Central European University-RSP in Budapest. From 2015 to 2017 he worked as a Visiting Research Associate at the University of Sussex-CHEER.

**Verena Meier** studied History, English Philology, European Art History, and Philosophy at the Ruprecht-Karls University Heidelberg and Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In her previous role at the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma she assisted in creating exhibitions. She has also worked at the Working Group on Minority History and Civil Rights in Europe, at the Grafeneck memorial site, and at the Documentation Centre of North African Jewry during WWII in Jerusalem, the Foundation to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the Foundation Topography of Terror as well as the State Archives of Saxony-Anhalt. Since August 2018, she has been a PhD candidate at the Research Centre on Antigypsyism (Forschungsstelle Antiziganismus) at the University of Heidelberg. Currently she holds a scholarship of the Women in the Holocaust International Study Center (WHISC) at Givat Haviva. The title of her PhD project is “Criminal Police and Genocide – The NS Persecution of Sinti and Roma in Magdeburg and Transitional Justice after 1945 under the Allies and in the GDR”. Her research interests include historical antisemitism and antigypsyism, gender studies, history of ideas, police history, and history of medicine.



**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 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, Dr. Rucker-Chang focuses on how literature and film contribute to culture and nationalist identities, especially in the creation and maintenance of racialized communities in Southeast Europe. Her other research interests include émigré and exile literature and the application of post-colonial thought to post-socialist contexts. She is the co-author of *Roma Rights and Civil Rights: A Transatlantic Comparison* (Cambridge, 2020), and co-editor of *Chinese Migrants in Russia, Central Asia and Eastern Europe* (Routledge, 2013), and *Cultures of Mobility and Alterity: Crossing the Balkans and Beyond* (Liverpool, 2022).

**Laura Soréna Tittel** is a postdoctoral researcher in the field of political theory and the history of ideas at Justus Liebig University Giessen in Germany. Since 2018, she has been working as a research assistant in the Collaborative Research Center “Dynamics of Security” funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) in Giessen, where she is conducting research on antigypsyist securitization practices. Her doctoral thesis on a political theory of antigypsyism (“Politische Theorie des Antiziganismus. Genese und Kritik eines modernen Herrschaftsverhältnisses”) was awarded with two prizes and will be published in 2024.

**Tom Tyson** recently completed a PhD on the history of Gypsies in early modern Scotland at the University of Cambridge, and held a Scouloudi Fellowship at the Institute of Historical Research (University of London) in 2022–23. His postdoctoral research is concerned with the perception and treatment of Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers in the long eighteenth century, with a particular focus on Gypsies and the Scottish Enlightenment.

**Dalen Wakeley-Smith** is a historian of race, ethnicity, and migration in the United States whose research focuses on the history of Romani people in the United States during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Dr. Wakeley-Smith is an assistant professor of history at Washington University in Saint Louis where he teaches courses on immigration, cultural history, racial formations, and urban history. He recently published an article in the *Journal of American Ethnic History* and is working on his manuscript entitled *Gypsy Madness: American Roma, Immigration Regimes, and Race in New York City*.

**Egemen Yilgür** is a professor of anthropology at Yeditepe University. He completed his undergraduate studies in political sciences-public administration at Istanbul University and his PhD and MA in sociology at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. In 2019, he conducted library research at the University of St Andrews in the UK on the accounts of Western travellers who visited the Ottoman Empire. He also carried out archival research on the Ottoman documents in the Cyril and Methodius National Library in Bulgaria. As a Fulbright visiting scholar, he conducted a research project on the late Ottoman informal settlements as a form of grassroots modernization at the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress between October 2023 and March 2024. For the past seven years, he has taught anthropology, sociology, and urban studies at Turkish universities. His research interests include Roma (Gypsy) and the peripatetic/late-peripatetic groups in general as a part of the urban population in Ottoman and Turkish cities; political participation of immigrant Romani tobacco workers in the late Ottoman and early Republican period; and social history of informal settlements in nineteenth-century Istanbul and their contemporary counterparts in modern Turkish cities.