



## Culture, Identity, and Social Justice: Anti-Racist Perspectives in Romani Studies and Beyond

Hybrid conference organized by the Romani Studies Program at Central European University and Slovo 21 in partnership with the Roma Program at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University, the Critical Romani Studies Department, Södertörn University, and the Prague Center for Romani Histories at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

29-30 May 2026

Austrian Cultural Forum in Prague  
Jungmannovo nám. 18, 110 00 Prague 1

Abstracts and biographies <https://tinyurl.com/ckcme8hd>

Registration by 22 May at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/XG6gUDeyqs>

The international, hybrid academic conference convenes leading scholars, educators, and practitioners for critical dialogue on anti-racist, justice-centered approaches in Romani Studies and intersecting fields. The event foregrounds the role of culture, identity, and justice in challenging structural racism, while amplifying emancipatory scholarship and advocacy for Romani communities and other racialized groups.

By gathering perspectives across disciplines—education, social sciences, human rights, and cultural studies—the conference aims to promote inclusive, participatory knowledge production and jointly rethink the future of anti-racist research and policy in Europe and globally.

The conference is organized as part of Khamoro, the world's largest Roma cultural festival, enabling participants to engage in academic discussions alongside rich cultural programming, performances, and community events.

Selected papers will be published in *Critical Romani Studies* journal. Earlier issues are available at <https://crs.ceu.edu>

All times are Central European Time

## 29 May Friday

9:00-9:30 Registration

9:30-9:45 Welcome

### 9:45-11:45 Panel 1: Epistemic Justice in Romani Studies: From Relational Ethics to Media and Security Discourses

- Papers:
- Marko Stenroos (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare): Roma Voices Recognized in Academic Research And Data Collection? A Way Forward to Relational Research Ethics
  - Sonia Styrkacz (University of Warsaw): Who Speaks for Roma? Decolonizing Epistemic Authority in Roma Studies
  - Ognyan Isaev (Trust for Social Achievement): Racialized Reflections: Media Representation and the Politics of Roma Identity and Self-Perception
  - Huub van Baar (Catholic University of Leuven): Rethinking Racial Capitalism Through Spectacular Security: Roma in the Longue Durée of Intra-European Racialization
- Chair: Marton Rovid (Central European University)
- Discussant: Margareta Matache (Harvard University)

11:45-12:00 Coffee break

12:00 Roma Parade, Wenceslas Square

17:00 Movie screening: Chaplin: Story of a Tramp (Cervantes Institute, Na Rybníčku 536/6, 120 00 Praha 2)

19:00 Romani concerts (La Fabrika, Komunardů 1001/30, 170 00 Praha 7-Holešovice, tickets : khamoro.cz)

## 30 May Saturday

9:00-9:30 Registration

### 9:30-11:00 Panel 2: From Erasure to Resilience: Roma Cultural Heritage Across Conflict and Borders

- Papers:
- Gopalas Michailovskis: When Anti-Roma Racism Destroys Roma Heritage: The Case Study of Parubanka
  - Nataliia Tomenko (Agency for the Advocacy of Roma Culture in Ukraine): Safeguarding of Roma Cultural Heritage in Ukraine During the War
  - Charles Athanasopoulos (Ohio State University): Creolized Clarinets: Greek Roots, Roma Traces
- Chair: Miguel Angel Vargas Rubio (Universidad Pablo de Olavide)
- Discussant: Carol Silverman (University of Oregon)

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

**11:30-13:00 Panel 3: Roma Resistance, Solidarity, and Belonging**

- Papers: Justyna Matkowska (University at Albany): Roma and Sinti Resistance in Warsaw during World War II  
Toby Kunin (University of Southampton): Towards a Relational Romani-Jewish Antiracism  
Borbala Simonovits (Eotvos Lorand University) – Veronika Vass-Vigh (Eotvos Lorand University): Negotiating Belonging: Roma Identity and Everyday Resistance to Racism in Contemporary Hungary
- Chair: Rufat Demirov (Central European University)
- Discussant: Jan Selling (Sodertorn University)

13:00-13:05 Group photo

13:05-14:00 Lunch break

**14:00-15:30 Panel 4: Educational Inequalities and Roma Agency: Civil Society, Higher Education, and Decolonial Pedagogy**

- Papers: Nora Gulyas: Side-by-Side or Knowing Best: How Civil Society Reflects Romani Interests in Transnational Advocacy Networks  
Radoslav Ganev (Catholic University of Applied Sciences Munich): Roma and Sinti in Higher Education – Between Invisibility, Structural Discrimination, and Empowerment  
Lilla Eredics (Dalan Fund) – Zsuzsa Arendas (Eotvos Lorand University): Negotiating Stuckedness: Micro-Decolonial Pedagogy and Agency in a Segregated Roma School
- Chair: Marko Pecak (Central European University)
- Discussant: Mariana Sabino Salazar (Czech Academy of Sciences)

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

**16:00-17:30 Panel 5: Roma Families, Migration, and Memory**

- Papers: Janette Gronfors (Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland): Roma Children's Homes in the 1950s–1980s: Transgenerational Experiences and Collective Memory  
Lydia Gabcova: Struggles for Dignity and Recognition: Institutional Racism in the Experiences of Romani Labour Migrants  
Selma Muhic Dizdarevic (Charles University): Solidarity, Silence, and Memory: Roma Family and Community Socialization under Anti-Roma Racism in the Czech Republic
- Chair: Angela Kocze (Central European University)
- Discussant: Sunnie Rucker-Chang (University of Cincinnati)

**17:30-17:45 Closing Remarks**

Angela Kocze (Chair of Romani Studies and Academic Director, Roma Graduate Preparation Program, CEU)

20:00 Khamoro Gala Concert, (SaSaZu, Bubenské nábřeží 306,170 00 Prague 7, tickets : khamoro.cz)