

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Cecília KOVAI

Place and date of birth: Budapest, Hungary, 04. 05. 1977.

Address: Felsőerdősor u. 4. 4. 4. Budapest, 1068, Hungary

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Higher education

2005 – 2008: PhD student, Sociology PhD Program, ELTE (Eötvös Loránd University), Budapest, Hungary

2006 – : PhD student, Doctoral Program of Cultural Sciences, JPTE (Janus Pannonius University), Pécs, Hungary

(Thesis: “The Role of Gender Relationships in the Construction of ‘Gypsyess’ and Kinship”)

2004: MA in Cultural Anthropology, ELTE

(Thesis: “Feminine Roles and Masculine Games among Hungarian Gypsies”)

MA in Hungarian Language and Literature, ELTE
(Thesis: “The Question of Borders in the Harry Potter Books. An Analysis of the Hungarian Reception of Harry Potter”)

Professional experience

2009: Researcher at Hoffmann Research International (ethnographic market research)

2009: Visiting lecturer at JPTE, Faculty of Communication and Media Sciences
(course issues: gender studies and gypsy studies)

2008: Visiting lecturer at Romaversitas (course issue: cultural conflicts)

2005 Autumn semester: Visiting lecturer at ELTE, Faculty of Social Sciences,
Department of Cultural Anthropology (course issue: methodology of cultural anthropology)

2006 Spring semester: Visiting lecturer at ELTE, Faculty of Social Sciences,
Department of Cultural Anthropology (course issue: gender studies and gypsy studies)

Main research activity

2000 – : Gender Relationships in the Construction of “Gypsyess” and Kinship in a Gypsy Settlement (cultural anthropological research)

2010-2011: Changing of Hungarian- Gypsy distinction in a Northern Hungarian Village (AnBlok Association)

2010-2011: Participatory Action research in a Northern Hungarian Village (AnBlok Association)

2009: Roma Education and Migration in Hungarian Towns (EDUMIGROM, Supervisor: Julia Szalai, MTA Institute of Sociology)

2008 – 2009: Social Science and State Power in the Kádár Era. Examination of the Hungarian ethnographer László Borsányi's secret agent activity (AnBlok Association)

2008: Changes of Fertility in Gypsy Families (OTKA, Supervisor: Ildikó Husz, MTA Center for Social Sciences)

2007 – 2008: Effect Monitoring of Digital High School (Apertus Foundation, Supervisor: Klára Benda)

2006: The Roma Cultural Memory of the Kádár Era (OTKA, Supervisor: Eva Kovács, Teleki László Institute)

2004: Changes in Roma Migration in Hungary in the Early 2000s (TÁRKI, Supervisor: Endre Sík, Anikó Bernáth)

Lectures given at conferences

2009: "The Role of Gender Relationships in the Construction of 'Gypsiness' and Kinship". Session entitled: "Problem of Kinship and Personality in the Anthropological Literature", St Andrews University, Scotland

2008: "The School and the Family: an Exclusive and Permissive Relationship". Workshop entitled "Second Chance for the Roma Students", CEU (Central European University), Budapest, Hungary

2007: "The 'Child' and the Heterosexual Norm". Conference entitled "Performance – Performance – Performativity", Pécs, Hungary

2005: "On the Borders of Gender". Conference entitled "Ethnicity", JPTE

2004: "Masculine Games, Feminine Roles". Seminar entitled "Workshop for Young Researchers", Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary

2002: "The 'Gypsy-style' Speech". Conference entitled "Changes in the Ethnic Space and Identity Structure of the Carpathian Basin". MTA Institute of Ethnic-National and Minorities Research, Budapest, Hungary

Editorial activity

Scholarships

2005 – 2008: PhD Scholarship, Sociology PhD Program, ELTE, Budapest

2007-2008: Summer University Scholarship, CEU, Multi-Disciplinary and Cross-National Approaches to Romany Studies

Main areas of research

Gypsy studies, Gender studies

Languages

Hungarian (native)

English (advanced level)

Italian (basic level)

Cecilia Kovai

Publications

2011

“The Ongoing Search for Home: A Short Anthropological Essay on Roma Nomadism”
Hungarian Lettre Internationale 81. pp. 41-42

„Who Owns Here the Space? A Short Anthropological Essay on Roma-Non-Roma
Relationships” Hungarian Lettre Internationale 81.pp.64-65

„Light and Heat. A Short Anthropological Essay on Roma Everyday Life” Hungarian Lettre
Internationale 81.pp.70-71

The „Gypsy Class” and the Reign of Equality. Roma Policy of Two Northern Hungarian
Elementary School. Beszélő XVI. pp. 26-37.

2010

“On the Borders of Gender. Marriage and Role of the „child” amongst Hungarian
Gypsies.” Multi-Disciplinary Approaches to Romany Studies. ed. Michael Stewart and
Marton Rovid. CEU. pp. 108-123.

Kata Horváth – Cecília Kovai: “Transforming distinctions of the Gypsies in a Northern
Hungarian Village” 2010. anBlok 4. pp. 39-42.

“Hidden potentials in “naming the Gypsy”: The transformation of the Gypsy-Hungarian distinction” 2010. anBlok 4. pp. 48-54.

2009

“The Spy, the Colonizer and the Agent. Eastern Translations of a Western Discipline”. 2009. anBlok 3. pp. 57-64.

2008:

“That was a livable world, although we had lots of restrictions. I mean they gave us something and took away something else.” In: Éva Kovács (ed.): *Fragments of a Mirror – Kádár Eras in the Personal Memory*, MTA Szociológiai Kutatóintézet – 56-os Intézet, 2008. pp. 175-231.

“The School and the Family: an Exclusive and Permissive Relationship”. *Beszélő*, 2008. 13/5., pp. 80-88.

“ ‘The Choice is So Difficult!’ Stephen, the King and the Constraints of Interpretation” 2008. anBlok 1-2., pp. 67-76

“Three Metaphors and One Story from the Anthropology of Transnationalism”. About Ulf Hannerz: *Flows, Boundaries and Hybrids: Keywords in Transnational Anthropology*, 2008. anBlok, 1-2., pp. 167-174.

2006:

“On the Borders of Gender”. In: Csaba Prónai (ed.): *Gypsy Worlds in Europe*, Nyitott Műhely Kiadó, 2006, pp. 196-209.

2004:

“Why Has Rudi Become Unemployed?” In: András Gergely (ed.) *Motorogia*, MTA Politikai Tudományok Intézete Könyvkiadó Kft., 2004, pp. 125-137.

2002:

“About Curse”. *Tabula*, 2002/3, pp. 147-163.

Other public activity

2008 –: Publishes regularly on Roma issues in the periodical “Csillagszálló”.