



A European Union / Council of Europe Joint Programme (2011-2015)

Website: <http://romanistudies.eu> & <http://www.coe.int/romastudies> E-mail: rsnet.secretary@gmail.com

About the Network

The main idea

The European Academic Network on Romani Studies project is dedicated to supporting efforts towards the social inclusion of Romani citizens in Europe. By creating an interface between academic researchers and political decision makers, while promoting and improving the existing resources on the European Roma communities, the Network shall ultimately allow for the implementation of better conceived policy initiatives based on reliable evidence.

The origin of the project

The project reflects an initiative of the European Commission (DG EAC) on Intercultural Dialogue

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which was developed from 2009 in consultations with experts and eminent academics on Romani Studies and representatives of the European Commission and the Council of Europe on the feasibility of a Roma Academic Network. The project strongly builds upon networks and results of the work on Roma education and inclusion carried out by the Council of Europe.

Entering the Second Phase of the Project (2013–2015)

By Network Secretary

The First Phase of the Project (2011–2013) was dedicated to creating and consolidating the structure of the Network, recruiting members and initialising the [Network activities](#). By the end of Phase I the total number of Network members exceeded 320 and the Network continuously receives new applications. In terms of numbers of members and their academic qualification the European Academic Network on Romani Studies is today the most prominent organisation of its sort.

During the 5th meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Network on 25–26 September 2013 in Marseille (France), it has been agreed that during the second project phase the Network will focus its efforts on bridging the gap between academia and policy making.

A more intense involvement of the Network members in policy advisory roles and policy relevant activities will therefore be sought.

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Entering the Second Phase of the Project (continued from page 1)

The actions planned for the forthcoming period are manifold: a) meetings with the National Contact Points for the Implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies (NCP). b) thematic meetings on issues which are relevant for policy makers. c) workshops aimed to raise the profile of Romani Studies, also involving policy makers. d) training sessions on Roma-related topics designed for officials of the European Commission.

The internal and external communication of the Network is currently being improved. The email-list will be kept as a main channel for messages between the members and the discussions will be diversified according to different topics using the Forum applications. The functionalities of the website will be revised and extended shortly. For full details please read the [report on the 5th meeting](#) of the Scientific Committee.

Recent publications and events in the field of Romani studies

Publications

- 📖 The new issue (December 2013) of the journal *Romani Studies* has been published. The issue [contains](#) studies by Paola Trevisan, Marco Solimene, Giuseppe Beluschi Fabeni, Yaron Matras, Ignasi-Xavier Adiego; book reviews by Donna Buchanen, Bernhard Streck and Hellen O'Nions, and the Index for the 2013 Volume.
- 📖 The journal *Patterns of Prejudice* has published [Special Issue: Music and the Other](#) (Volume 47, Issue 4–5, 2013). Highlights include: (1) *Germans, Hungarians and the Zigeunerkapelle: performing national enmity in late nineteenth century Transylvania* by Marian Zaloaga. (2) *'Gypsy music' as music of the Other in European culture* by Anna G. Piotrowska.
- 📖 **REdHNET Report:** ['Approaching the Educational and Housing situation of Roma Migrants in Europe'](#) by Stefano Piemontese, Giuseppe Beluschi Fabeni (Editors, Taller ACSA), Jacopo Sermasi (Taller ACSA), José Luis Lomelli (Amalipe), Laura Bianconi (OASI), Zsuzsa Plainer (ISPMN).
- 📖 **BPRI supported report:** [The Right to Adequate Housing of Roma Communities in Štip and Prilep](#) by Tatjana Perić. The BPRI (Best Practices for Roma Integration) is a project for the Western Balkans supported by OSCE and funded by the EU.

Forthcoming events and opportunities

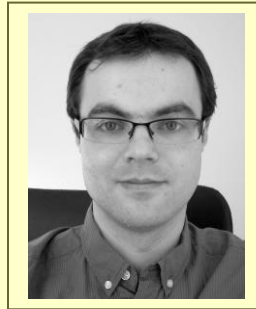
- Public debate: *Romaphobia and the media*, Monday 20 January 2014, 12–5pm. This will bring together academics, activists and journalists interested in confronting issues in the representation of minorities in the media. It is a collaboration between the University of Portsmouth (Centre for European & International Studies Research) and King's College London (Centre for Language, Discourse & Communication). Held at King's College London (free entry). For more information and to book a place please contact: annabel.tremlett@port.ac.uk
- [Summer University: Social Theory and Romany Studies](#) at Central European University, 30 June–6 July 2014. This eight-day-long summer school is aimed at training graduate students and junior researchers at the outset of their careers to become the next generation of teachers and researchers within the field of Romany studies. Course director: Michael Stewart. Application deadline: *14 February 2014*.
- [Annual Meeting and Conference of the Gypsy Lore Society](#) will be organised in Bratislava, Slovakia, September 11–13 2014. Deadlines: February 15, 2014 (panel proposals) April 15, 2014 (abstracts). Address inquiries to gl.s.2014@savba.sk.

*Featured contributions by members of the Network***Britain's Gypsy moral paranoia**

By Jan Grill

If only the politicians and journalists would try to understand a bit more not only the lives of Roma migrants, but also the poverty conditions and structural inequalities in which so many different groups of people live in Britain today.

'They are noisy and always hang out on the streets,' says one of the local men. They loiter in male-only groups, whistle and make lewd remarks at women. They like to sing their songs loudly together and consume a lot of alcohol. Some locals find their behaviour intimidating. One local woman says: 'It used to be a quiet street and we've never had problems. But now, ever since they've started to arrive, we can't sleep. They are shouting outside and urinating just next to our doors.' The same groups often end their nights out by visiting brothels. They have sex with local girls and with prostitutes from abroad. Some of these girls are part of a growing sex

(Article published on the site [Open Democracy](#))

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industry and women trafficking networks. Some of the locals they say it is becoming 'unbearable.'

Does this rhetoric sound all too familiar to you? Who are these people and where do these scenes take place? And is it 'their culture,' which makes them behave in this way? And, if so, should we challenge them to change their behaviour and culture in order to make them more 'sensitive to the way life is lived' in Britain (Nick Clegg), or else face the prospects of a social 'explosion' (David Blunkett)?

See *Britain's Gypsy moral paranoia* continued on page 4

Network Communication platforms

The internal and external communication of the Network is based on on-line channels of information exchange, including:

- 1) the Network's page on the [CoE web hub](#),
- 2) the [Network website](#),
- 3) the [Facebook page](#) of the Network, and
- 4) the [Yahoo email-group](#) of the Network.

In this issue we present our **Facebook page** <http://www.facebook.com/romanistudies.eu>.

The total number of posts exceeds 400 per year. Posts include: news and reports about Network activities; calls for applications; opportunities for publication; events and conferences, and new publications of interest.

The page's followers belong to a 'general public': the majority of them are not members of the Network but they are interested in the topic and regularly read the posts, occasionally also comment, and share the content. Follow the updates by 'Liking' our page!



“Buying into the cheap populist rhetoric might dominate public debates and might even buy politicians some political support, but it should not mask their own complicity in the growing sense of abandonment among the poor, migrants and British alike.”

Jan Grill

Other contributions to the debate:

Aidan McGarry

[Romaphobia: the last acceptable form of racism](#)

Yaron Matras

[Comment: The Roma are hardworking people who don't deserve to be slandered by David Blunkett](#)

&

['Ignore the scare tactics - Roma integration is hard but worth it'](#)

Daniele Viktor Leggio

[How Manchester has reached out to Roma migrants](#)

CONTACT

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Britain's Gypsy moral paranoia

The anonymity of the places and people is intentional here. The above quoted words have all appeared in British media in recent weeks. Various politicians use them. A moral paranoia, fuelled with anti-Gypsy sentiments, is concerned at the prospective impact central and eastern European Roma might have on their local communities, suggesting that the situation might explode into 'riots.' We heard the same inflammatory rhetoric about hordes of Gypsies ready to descend on us as we heard prior to the admission of the Czech Republic and Slovakia into the EU in 2004. In reality, these worries have never materialised.

But the worries I started with did not actually concern British neighbourhoods and its main protagonists are not Roma or eastern European migrants. I found them on the streets of Prague and the culprits are 'British lads on the tour'. The number of British tourists in central eastern European cities has grown rapidly in recent years due to cheap low-cost airline flights, cheap beer and the availability of other ingredients crucial for 'adventurous' trips. And yet, despite the concerns of some of the locals about the behaviour of British tourists, I have never heard predictions of racial tension, riot, or networks of criminals implicated in trafficking. I have never seen a single British tourist at stag parties being asked 'to be sensitive to the way life is lived' in the Czech Republic. I have never heard any politicians alleging that the behaviour of British tourists is part of 'their culture' or that they are complicit in trafficking by having sex with underage girls in night clubs. Although I have seen many stag parties and university students on tour spending most of their time partying, I have also met other Brits who came to explore history, literature and architecture, or just moved there for work.

Read the full article:

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/can-europe-make-it/jan-grill/britain%E2%80%99s-gypsy-moral-paranoia>