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ONLINE TRAINING ON ROMANI IDENTITY, HISTORY AND CULTURE

“ROMA(NI) PAST - EUROPE’S FUTURE. WHY EMBRACING EU’S LARGEST ETHNIC MINORITY MATTERS II”

Hosted by
European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERiac)
10:00 – 17:00 CET
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024
ONLINE

Registration form: <https://forms.gle/B2vnLWe7ywMfhkKs5>

Context

The Roma have been an integral part of Europe for over seven centuries, contributing significantly to the continent's cultural, social, and economic fabric. Despite their longstanding presence, the Roma remain one of the most marginalized and misunderstood groups in Europe. Antigypsyism—a deep-seated and pervasive form of racism against Roma people—continues to manifest in various forms, including systemic discrimination, social exclusion, and negative stereotypes. These issues are compounded by a lack of awareness and understanding of Roma identity, history, and culture within mainstream European societies.

To address these challenges, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERiac) is organizing this training course aimed at enhancing the knowledge and sensitivity of public officials, educators, and cultural workers regarding Roma identity and heritage. This training will provide participants with an in-depth exploration of Roma history, the cultural contributions of Roma communities, and the persistent issue of antigypsyism.

Objectives

The primary objectives of this training course are:

- 1. Increase Understanding of Roma Identity and History**
 - Provide participants with a comprehensive overview of the origins and evolution of Roma identity, examining the historical contexts that have shaped Roma communities across Europe.

- Highlight the resilience and adaptability of the Roma people in the face of centuries of marginalization and exclusion.
- 2. Recognize and Celebrate Roma Cultural Contributions**
 - Illuminate the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the Roma, showcasing their contributions to European arts.
 - Encourage appreciation and integration of Roma cultural elements into broader European cultural narratives.
- 3. Address Antigypsyism and Promote Inclusion**
 - Explore the roots and manifestations of antigypsyism, equipping participants with the knowledge to recognize and challenge this form of racism in their professional and personal environments.
 - Discuss effective strategies for combating antigypsyism and fostering an inclusive society that respects and values Roma people.
- 4. Empower Participants with Knowledge and Tools for Advocacy**
 - Provide actionable insights and resources to support participants in advocating for Roma rights and promoting cultural understanding in their respective fields.
 - Encourage participants to engage with and support Roma communities through informed and culturally sensitive practices.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the training, participants will:

- 1. Enhanced Awareness and Knowledge**
 - Gain a deeper understanding of Roma identity, history, and the socio-cultural dynamics that influence Roma communities today.
 - Acquire knowledge of the historical and ongoing contributions of Roma to European culture and society.
- 2. Improved Sensitivity and Competence**
 - Develop a greater sensitivity to the issues facing Roma communities, particularly in the context of antigypsyism and other forms of discrimination.
 - Build competence in recognizing and addressing antigypsyism within institutional and societal contexts.
- 3. Empowered to Act and Advocate**
 - Be equipped with practical tools and strategies to advocate for Roma rights and inclusion in their professional roles.
 - Leave the training with a commitment to fostering a more inclusive and equitable society for the Roma and other marginalized communities.
- 4. Stronger Networks for Collaboration**
 - Establish connections with other participants, trainers, and Roma communities, fostering a network of individuals committed to promoting Roma inclusion and cultural understanding.
 - Identify opportunities for future collaboration and continued learning on Roma issues.

AGENDA

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09:50 – 10:00 CET **Meeting opening**

10:00 – 10:10 CET **Welcome address and opening remarks**
By – *Timea Junghaus, ERIAC Executive Director*

- Presenting the agenda/speakers

10:10 – 11:30 CET **“Exploring Roma Identity: Historical Context and Modern Perspectives”**
By – *dr. Raul Carstocea*

- Overview of the development of Roma identity over centuries, the impact of historical events, and contemporary interpretations.

11:30 – 11:40 CET **Coffee break**

11:40 – 13:00 CET **“Cultural Heritage of Roma: Contributions and Influences in Europe”**
By – *Miguel Angel Vargas and dr. Ivan Perianez Bolano*

- Romani cultural ontology: the Roma as active agents of interculturality in Europe.

13:00 – 14:00 CET **Lunch break**

14:00 – 15:20 CET **“Understanding Antigypsyism: Origins, Manifestations, and Countermeasures”**
By *dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka*

- Analysis of antigypsyism, its historical roots, contemporary manifestations, and strategies for addressing it within society.

15:20 – 15:30 CET **Coffee break**

15:30 – 16:50 CET **“Roma Agency and Resilience: Case Studies and Current Initiatives”**
By – *dr. Delia Grigore and Adrian Nicolae Furtuna*

- Discussion on how Roma communities have resisted discrimination and have become active agents in promoting their rights and culture.

16:50 – 17:00 CET **Closing remarks**



BIOGRAPHIES OF THE TRAINERS:

Dr Raul Cârstocea is Assistant Professor in Twentieth-Century European History at Maynooth University, Ireland. He has previously worked at the University of Leicester, the Europa Universität Flensburg, the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg, Germany, and at University College London. He has held research fellowships at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies, the Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg, the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam, King's College London, and the Imre Kértesz Kolleg Jena. His research interests focus on anti-Semitism, fascism, nationalism, and the Holocaust, and more broadly on state formation and nation-building processes in 19th and 20th century Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and their consequences for minority groups. He is co-editor of the *Modern History of Politics and Violence* book series at Bloomsbury and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe at the Council of Europe.

Miguel Ángel Vargas (born 1978, Spain) is a stage director, poet, actor, and researcher. In his work, inspired by the poetics of the old, he uses material and aesthetic elements of the past to influence contemporary contexts; from his point of view, nothing – material or not – dies free of life and of a certain magical influence, especially in the universe of Theater. He earned his degree in Art History from the University of Seville, studied Stage Direction in the the Instituto del Teatro de Sevilla, and currently researching the representation of Roma theater artists on stage (Sevilla and Cádiz, 1746-1845), while also collaborating with international organisations like ERIAC or Central European University for the Roma emancipation through culture and art. Miguel has performed as a theater actor on several stages across Europe; starting in 2001 with Teatro del Velador and Teatro del Duende (Spain), Newcastle Northern Stage (London), and the historic Roma Theater Pralipe (Germany). As well as occupying different positions in the field of being an opera technician at the Teatro Maestranza, a technical director of the Teatro Quintero, and a TV stage manager for the television program *Ratones Coloraos* in Canal Sur TV. During 2010, he was the production manager of the show *Flamenco Hoy*, by international filmmaker Carlos Saura. In 2012, he was awarded Young Creators Award by the Instituto de Cultura Gitana of the Ministry of Culture of Spain.

Dr. Iván Periañez Bolaño holds a PhD with International Mention in Economics, Business and Social Sciences (Anthropology) from the University of Seville (2019). He is currently a lecturer at the University of Seville. He is also a lecturer in the International Doctoral Programme in History, Art and Languages at the Pablo de Olavide University (Seville). He is coordinator of Romani Critical Studies in the Master's degree programme in Anthropology at the University of Seville. He has received the Extraordinary Doctorate Award (2021), the Andalusian Roma Award for Research Excellence (2023), and the Award for Merit in Social Science Research (2022), among others. He has been coordinator and chief researcher in the European project, "Bernó_Strategies" (2018-2020), for the defence and representation of the Roma People and Culture. He is researcher in the project, "Multiculturalism through Art" (2014), and also in the project, "The semantics of tolerance and (anti-)racism: public bodies and civil society in comparative perspective (TOLERACE)" (2010-2013), of the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union for Research Excellence. He has been awarded several grants for international stays in the Netherlands, Portugal and Morocco. He has been a member of the Advisory Board of the XXII Bienal de Flamenco de Sevilla (2021, 2022). He is a member of the advisory committee of several academic conferences, as well as a reviewer of several national and international scientific journals. He has published articles, book chapters and books, the most recent entitled, *Cosmosonoridades: cante-gitano y canción-gyu. Epistemologías del Sentir* (2023, Ediciones Akal).

Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka is an anthropologist and a Roma activist, born in 1985 in Cracow, Poland. She earned her Ph.D. in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) in 2016. She holds an MA in European Integration from UAB and an MA in Comparative Studies of Civilizations from the Jagiellonian University in Cracow (UJ). She is the author of policy evaluations, reports, and articles, co-editor of the "Education for Remembrance of the Roma Genocide: Scholarship, Commemoration and the Role of Youth" (Libron, 2015) and "Re-thinking Roma Resistance throughout History: Recounting Stories of Strength and Bravery" (ERiac, 2020) and author of "Mobilizing Romani Ethnicity: Romani Political Activism in Argentina, Colombia, and Spain (CEU Press, 2022).

She has been an employee, member, founder, and collaborator of numerous Roma organisations in Poland and Spain. From 2008 to 2012 she was the European project coordinator at the Federation of Roma Associations in Catalonia (FAGIC). From 2013 to 2015 she was an Open Society Foundations Roma Initiatives Fellow, conducting a comparative study of the Roma associative movements in various countries of Latin America and Europe. From 2015 to 2017 she was the coordinator and curator of the Academic Section (aka. Roma Civil Rights Movement Section) in the RomArchive – Digital Archive of the Roma. Between 2017-2018 she was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow of the Romani Studies Program at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest. She serves as the deputy director of ERiac since January 2018.

Dr. Delia Mandalina Grigore is a Romani woman born 1972 in Galați, Romania. She holds a Ph.D. in visual arts, with a specialization ethnography-ethnology from the Romanian Academy, Institute of Ethnography and Folklore in 2004. She is a senior reader at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Romani Language and Literature Section and the President of the Roma Center "Amare Rromentza". She works in education, Romology research (e.g. ethnography, ethnology, ethnolinguistics, folklore, oral history, and literature) and Romani culture fields. She is the author of several works,

including Introduction in the Study of Traditional Culture Elements of the Contemporary Rromani Identity (2001, University of Bucharest – CREDIS, Bucharest) and Rromanipen – keystones of Rromani Culture (2011, Amare Rromentza, Bucharest). She is a team member for the presentation of Rromani Literature in Romania for RomArchive.

Adrian-Nicolae Furtuna is a sociologist and PhD candidate at the Research Institute for Quality of Life of Romanian Academy. His doctoral thesis deals with the social memory of Roma slavery. His main area of expertise is the social memory of Holocaust and Roma slavery in the Romanian Principalities. He is coordinator of the "'Romano Rodipe" Research Program. Study of Roma History" at the National Centre for Roma Culture. Publications: "Roma slavery in Wallachia. Fragments of social history. Sales/donations of children. Marriages. Petitions for Emancipation" (2019); "From Roma Slavery to WWII – Roma Resistance in Romania" in "Re-thinking Roma Resistance throughout History: Recounting Stories of Strength and Bravery" (2020); "Roma and the Question of Ethnic Origin in Romania during the Holocaust" (Turda & Furtuna, 2022). "Les Lieux de Memoire and the Legacies of Roma Slavery in the Collective Memory. Case Study in Tismana, Gorj County, Romania" (Furtuna, 2023).