

Call for papers to the

Stockholm International Conference on the Discrimination and Persecution of Roma, Sinti and Travellers.

Stockholm University, Sweden, 5-7 March 2009

Conveners:

Professor Emeritus *Charles Westin*, Ceifo, Stockholm University;
Professor *David Gaunt*, Centre for Educational Research, Södertörn University College;
Assistant Professor *Satu Gröndahl*, Centre for Multiethnic Research, Uppsala university;
Dr *Lars M Andersson*, Department of History, Uppsala University

Call for papers to the following seminars:

Seminar 1

Similarity and Difference – a Critical Approach to the Scholarly Study of Roma and Travellers

Research within the social sciences and the humanities has produced a certain number of narratives about similarity and difference, when it comes to Roma and Travellers on the one hand, and the majority population on the other. These narratives will be discussed from a number of different angles, including:

- 1) The identification of border-setting narratives that explain and defend the policy of state authorities;
- 2) Comparing the narratives produced by the state and majority-population intellectuals with the Roma and Traveller's own stories;

3) The uniqueness of the narratives produced regarding Roma and Travellers.

Drafts should be sent to Dr Norma Montesino, Växjö University:
norma.montesino@vxu.se

Seminar 2

Nordic Roma and Travellers in long-term perspective: patterns of interaction, conflict and exclusion, c.1500-1920

The workshop addresses the position of the Roma and Travellers in Nordic societies in a long-term perspective. Looking at patterns of co-existence and interaction with the majority population, as well as conflict and exclusion, the workshop aims to set the history of the Nordic Roma and Travellers in a wide social and comparative perspective. This is a departure from a research tradition that has all over Europe tended to view Roma and travellers as isolated groups with self-contained culture and little connections to the surrounding society. Historically, the Roma and the Travellers have been on the margins of the Nordic estate societies, and from late 16th century onwards labelled as vagrants, idlers and criminals by the authorities and majority elites. Yet on micro-level, the Roma and the Travellers seem to have had stronger ties to the sedentary society than has been previously assumed. Rather than taking an antagonistic relationship between the surrounding society and the Roma/travellers as a given, the workshop thus aims to form a nuanced picture of the latter's position and to trace historical marginalization and exclusion processes in their complexity. In practical terms, the workshop provides a meeting point for several new research projects focussing on the history of Roma, to be launched from 2009 onwards both on the Nordic and European level.

Drafts should be sent to Doctoral Candidate Miika Tervonen, European University, Florence:
miika.tervonen@eui.eu

Seminar 3

The age of Race Hygiene

This seminar deals with the period from approximately 1880 to 1950. During this period the different European borders were generally closed for, among others, the Roma and Travellers, and persecution and discrimination acquired a quasi-scientific character. Forced sterilisation and racial registration were signs of the time.

Drafts should be sent to Professor Björn Hvinden, NOVA's Nordic Centre of Excellence in Welfare Research: REASSESS, Oslo:
bjorn.hvinden@nova.no

Seminar 4

The Roma Holocaust

Since the publication of Michael Zimmermann's (†) monumental study *Rassenutopie und Genozid: Die nationalsozialistische 'Lösung der Zigeunerfrage'* twelve years ago, research on Nazi policy of extermination vis-à-vis Roma has advanced significantly. In addition to several syntheses, we now have a number of excellent case studies that show the dynamics of Nazi policy of mass murder on the one hand and its local application on the other. Looking from a scholarly perspective, however, many questions still remain. Did the Nazis plan a wholesome extermination of Roma as a group? Should the mass murder of Roma on the occupied Soviet territories be attributed to a premeditated planning or brutalization of warfare? To what extent did local initiative contribute to cumulative radicalization of the Nazi policies with regard to Roma? How significant was the distinction that the Nazis had drawn between itinerant and sedentary Roma? In addition to the issues related directly to the Nazi policy of extermination, scholars have tried to establish a connection between traditional anti-Gypsy prejudice and the Nazi persecution on the one hand and between anti-Semitism and anti-Gypsyism on the other. Particularly striking are popular attitudes towards the Roma people. For example, it appears that the general population in Germany and Austria was more hostile towards the Roma than the peoples in the Soviet Union and often demanded their removal. Remarkably, negative stereotypes and sometimes also wartime anti-Roma policies – notoriously that of forced sterilization – have persisted in the postwar period. The invited speakers will address these and other questions in their papers.

Drafts should be sent to Dr Anton Weiss-Wendt, Senter for studier av Holocaust og livssynsminoriteter, Oslo:

anton.weiss-wendt@hlsenteret.no

Seminar 5

Social Issues and the Labour Market

The general interest of this seminar is social issues and the labour market for marginalised groups, exemplified by the Roma. Structural difficulties, challenges and solutions will be addressed from a multi-discipline perspective. The Roma are in a precarious situation, where they run the risk of marginalisation both from the formal labour market and from social life at large. The traditional social structures taking care of education, competence enhancement and social inclusion have proven to be of little use for Roma in Sweden. This contributes to integration problems for the individual, for families and for the larger social structure, and causes health problems and stigmatisation. It will be of interest to describe how new knowledge of integration and inclusion are developed and of the conditions for organisation, integration work and democratic processes where the Roma are active partakers.

Drafts should be sent to Professor Hans-Erik Hermansson, Department of Social Pedagogics and Society, Högskolan Väst, Trollhättan

hans-erik.hermansson@hv.se

Seminar 6

Education

This seminar will address how Roma and Travellers are discriminated against in different contexts of education.

Drafts should be sent to Dr Christina Rodell Olgac, Department of Culture and Communication, Södertörn University College, Haninge, or Professor Emeritus Charles Westin, Ceifo, Stockholm University:

christina.rodell.olgac@sh.se

charles.westin@ceifo.su.se

Seminar 7

Governmental discrimination and racism

This seminar will deal with how Roma and Travellers have been discriminated against by different governmental agencies. It will also deal with outright racism against Roma and Travellers, both from fringe groups and from the midst of society.

Drafts should be sent to Associate Professor Heléne Lööw, Department of History, Uppsala University

helene.loow@hist.uu.se

Seminar 8

Roma Studies and Gender

Roma women are subjected to at least two orders of discrimination: ethnic discrimination and discrimination of women. An important question is how gender is thematised in roma studies. In studies that are specifically about marriage arrangements among Roma, or about women's health, differences between men and women are generally discussed – but how is it within other sub-fields of Roma Studies? During the last decades gender has been studied relationally within different disciplines and fields (i.e., it is asked what consequences the special treatment on one sex has for the other). Within the field of intersectional studies is now asked how different orders of power are interacting – how is racism sexed? How is gender racialised? But if the field of roma research is still nascent, Roma research including gender perspectives and intersectionality perspectives is even more fragile. The question is if it is possible to do research about relations among Roma people without taking gender into consideration? Is it, for instance, possible to avoid discussing gender differences when doing historical research – or within research in social issues, labour market, education and literature – or identity?

Drafts should be sent to Dr Pia Laskar, Centre for Gender Research, Stockholm University

pia.laskar@kvinfo.su.se

Seminar 9

Self-organisation and identity

During the last decades an important trend of self-organisation has taken place among Roma and Travellers, creating new incentives for the study of the different ethnic identities within

these groups. Roma have also achieved their own representation as an ethnic minority within the EU, and have taken active part in the EU policy concerning refugees from Kosovo

Drafts should be sent to Dr Adrian R. Marsh, Romani Studies, University of Greenwich:
adrianrmarsh@mac.com

Seminar 10

Literature and Resistance

Literature is one of those expressions through which minorities can identify, question and formulate subject positions. Literary production can in a minority situation be an important part of collective identity strategies, at the same time as it presents possibilities to communication between the minority and majority society. While given and/or self-selected identities are often commented and (de)constructed through literature, literary production generally can express emancipatory strategies, as the formulation of collective identities, language preservation, the activation of group members and so on. The central themes of the seminar are in what way literature produced by Roma and Travellers relates to identity building, and how this literature can be understood in its social context, and the context of minority policy.

Drafts should be sent to Assistant Professor Satu Gröndahl, Centre of Multiethnic Studies, Uppsala University
satu.grondahl@multietn.uu.se

Seminar 11

Roma Children's Literature

Authors such as Katarina Taikon and Gunilla Lundgren have given Roma children's literature a reputation that reaches far beyond the Swedish borders. However, as an object for scientific study, this literature is still largely neglected. This seminar aspires to provide a platform for further research. The seminar is supported by Statens kulturråd.

A seminar leader has been appointed, but has still not been in the position to confirm. In the mean while, papers should be sent to:
mats.deland@gmail.com

Drafts of no more than 1000 characters should be submitted to the seminar leaders before November 15th, 2008. Papers should be submitted before February 1st, 2009, in pdf formats, and will be published at the conference web site. All further communication about the seminars should be directed to the seminar leaders. Further information on accommodation and details about the arrangement are forthcoming on our website: [Roma Conference](#).

Participants are required to pay a conference fee of €110 per person, due before March 1st 2009 (details about payment will be published of the web site early next year. The fee will pay two lunches and one dinner.

The conference is supported by Statens kulturråd and the Living History Forum. Further applications for funding are pending.

CEIFO

Stockholm university, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden | Tfn: +468-16 26 89

www.ceifo.su.se

ceifo.editor@ceifo.su.se