

# Foreword

*Critical Romani Studies* is an international, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal providing a forum for activist-scholars to critically examine racial oppressions, different forms of exclusion, inequalities, and human rights abuses of Roma. The [Introduction](#) of the first issue discusses the origins, rationale, and main features of the new journal.

We are delighted to see that the first issues' articles presenting critical views on the production of academic and policy knowledge on Romani people have contributed to open and inclusive debates. In particular, we would like to highlight the annual conference [Critical Approaches to Romani Studies](#) held in May 2018 that brought together over 40 activist-scholars who presented original papers on topics of knowledge production, *gadjology*, antigypsyism, Romani feminism, resistance and mobilization, and representation in art – just to name a few. Furthermore, in November 2018 an important roundtable discussion was held on [Knowledge Production, Representation, and the Role of Academia](#) that provided an inclusive forum for scholars of Romani, Jewish, and Gender Studies to discuss the role of scientific and expert knowledge production in the oppression and/or empowerment of underrepresented groups in academia.

*Critical Romani Studies* remains an inclusive space in which scholars and activists can reflect critically on the key questions of the struggle for Romani self-determination and emancipation. The new journal is one of several means by which the Romani Studies Program (RSP) at Central European University aims to engage scholars, policymakers, and activists in interdisciplinary knowledge production through an ongoing debate on Roma identity and the Roma movement, antigypsyism, social justice and policymaking, gender politics, and structural inequality. RSP provides advanced research fellowships; engages in pan-European innovations; cooperates with other universities in strengthening Romani Studies; organizes workshops, seminars, and conferences – including the annual [Critical Approaches to Romani Studies](#) conferences – and organizes summer schools on Romani Studies to bring together young scholars, activists, and practitioners; provides scholarships to Romani graduate students to pursue MA and PhD studies at top universities in the world; and supports their transition to the labor market with internship opportunities in different institutions.

We invite all critically-minded scholars, activists, and policymakers to join us, submit their papers, and actively participate in our events. We seek to promote research on various forms of social oppression, openly standing up against injustice while promoting diversity, equality, defense of human rights, respect for Roma communities, open dialogue, and respect for dissent.

This second issue of *Critical Romani Studies* contains four critical papers on policymaking. *Marko Stenroos* presents an original analysis of why inclusion policies targeting Finnish Kale fail. *Jonathan McCombs* demonstrates how racism has become infused in neoliberal policymaking by studying the redevelopment of Budapest's Eighth District. By studying EU policy documents, *Silvia Cittadini* reveals how a restrictive interpretation of "adequate housing" reinforces paternalistic inclusion policies. *Solvor Mjøberg Lauritzen's* analysis shows that knowledge production on Roma and education has established an essentializing discourse where it is legitimate to use nomadism to explain Roma disadvantage in education.

Furthermore, the second issue contains three pioneering articles in which non-Romani scholars – *Carol Silverman*, *Lucie Fremlova*, and *Jekatyerina Dunajeva* – reflect on their own position, privilege, and responsibility, thus making a crucial contribution to the reflexive and critical turn in Romani Studies. *Sarah Carmona's* article on decolonizing the arts is a unique and groundbreaking study on the genealogy of Romani stereotypes in the Louvre and Prado collections. *Katarzyna Pabijanek* reviews the play *Roma Armee* by situating it in the Romani decolonial movement. *Angéla Kóczé* reviews Giovanni Picker's recent book, *Racial Cities: Governance and the Segregation of Romani People in Urban Europe*, while Miklós Hadas reviews Andrew Ryder's *Sites of Resistance. Gypsies, Roma and Travellers in School, Community and the Academy*.

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