

# AGENCY AND PERCEPTION

## THE ROMA IN EASTERN EUROPE

### AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

THU 18 – FRI 19 APRIL, 2024 | ON-LINE EVENT

WELCOME | **Angéla Kóczé**, Chair, Romani Studies Program, CEU

INTRODUCTION | **Sacha Davis**, CSOV, University of Newcastle, Australia



PROFESSOR ANTON HERMANN EXAMINING A CHILD'S EAR-RINGS NEAR MAROS VÁSÁRHELY

By JOSEPH PENNELL

(To whom the copyright belongs)

## PROGRAM

### THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH – DAY 1

10:00 – 10:30 / WELCOME  
10:30 – 11:30 / PANEL 1: TRAUMA AND EMOTION  
11:30 – 12:00 / BREAK  
12:00 – 13:30 / PANEL 2: CULTURE AND RHETORIC  
13:30 – 15:00 / LUNCH BREAK  
15:00 – 16:30 / PANEL 3: RACE AND REPRESENTATION

### FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH – DAY 2

10:00 – 11:30 / PANEL 4: WOMEN AND LABOUR  
11:30 – 12:00 / BREAK  
12:00 – 13:30 / PANEL 5: RACIALIZATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES  
13:30 – 14:30 / LUNCH BREAK  
14:30 – 16:00 / PANEL 6: HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Much scholarly attention has been paid to visible forms of historical anti-Ziganism/anti-Gypsyism/anti-Roma racism, hostility, discrimination, hate crime, harassment, and racial violence in east central Europe. Significantly less scholarly attention has been paid to the ways in which historical invisible prejudice and anti-Roma perceptions were constructed and shaped educational, health, employment, and housing policies targeted at and/or impacting Roma. What were the mechanisms of these policies and how were Romani individuals and communities involved, co-opted, or coerced? What kind of agency did Roma possess to challenge the ideological construction of these policies? What legacies have such policies left and how do they continue to shape Romani lives?

Individuals and populations identifying (identified/perceived based on stereotypes) as Roma in east central Europe have historically had to navigate, transgress, or even subvert the assertions of both scholarly and bureaucratic authorities. Policy makers usually have perceived Roma as a social “problem”, typically to be “solved” by aiming to integrate through ambiguous social inclusion policies or implicitly (in some cases explicitly) erase Roma through assimilation or exclusion.

This symposium focuses on the intricate relationship between perception and agency through Roma-targeted and related policy discourses and practices, which were informed by specific academic knowledge and disciplinary lenses. On the one hand, we seek to make visible the intentions, motives, preoccupations, and objectives shaping historical east central European actors’ perceptions of, and policy towards, the Roma. These include, but are not limited to, epistemological assertions of various scholarly works (including “Gypsyology”, Romani Studies, Critical Romani Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Public Policy, etc) and the policy aims and implementation of state actors. On the other, it seeks to understand how Roma have responded, and asserted their own agency. We also seek to understand the contemporary legacy of these historical processes. While we are open to all scholarly contributions, we particularly welcome collaborative work between Romani and non-Romani scholars and activists.

To join this event, please register at the link provided [here](#)