

ICA 2018 Preconference

Examining the Construction of Roma Identity, Voice, and Representation

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The Roma of East-Central Europe make up one of the largest ethnic minority groups throughout the region and experience ideological, social, economic, and political discrimination. Efforts to confront these injustices have been met with significant challenges. For example, Roma identity is incredibly diverse, which leads to and complicates various initiatives working towards the more equal treatment of the group. However, the Roma are often presented as a single and stereotyped experience. This raises questions about voice and representation, a key theme in this year's ICA conference. How is Roma identity created? Who speak for the Roma? What roles do media play in such constructions and authorities? How may Roma voices be elevated to better understand the experiences of the group and maximize cultural and political participation?

This panel seeks to 1) understand the construction of Roma identity 2) the voices that represent the Roma 3) the challenges that develop from these representations of Roma experiences. We call for diverse approaches that examine these topics.

We invite paper proposals that explore, but are not restricted to, the following questions:

- How is Roma identity constructed/presented at the local, national, and transnational level?
- How are Roma voices constructed/presented at the local, national, and transnational level?
- What are the implications of the seeming lack of diversity in Romani voices and experiences?
- How is Roma identity and voice presented in the media?
 - o What role do media play in the representation and construction of Roma voices and identity?
 - o How can communities best respond to negative media portrayals of the Roma?
- How can Roma challenge/reclaim the images and voices that represent the community?
- What is the role of language in the construction of Romani identity?
 - o How are these voices silenced or elevated?
- How do organizations/government-related agencies/advocacy networks work alongside Roma communities?

Guideline for submission: Submit abstracts of 500 words, together with participant's name, position, institutional affiliation, and email address in MS Word by **December 31, 2017**. Decisions will be sent to participants by January 31st.

Please submit abstracts and any questions regarding this preconference via email to azeta@psu.edu

Date of preconference: May 23, 2018, 8:00am-12:00pm

Location: Masaryk University, Brno Czech Republic

Registration fee: \$25

Lodging and transportation: Participants are welcome to travel to Brno on their own. Group discounts for lodging and transportation are also available for those planning to stay in Brno prior to the preconference. Arrangements are set for travel to Prague on May 24th with a group-rate discount.

- One night at the Hotel Continental: \$62 (single) \$82 (double)
- Group rate for train from Brno to Prague: \$10