

Thematic issue of Romani Studies 33.1/2023

***Roma women and civic emancipation
in the interwar period***

Guest editors

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Call for papers

Over the past years, there has been a surge in research projects exploring the processes of Roma mobilisation and Roma civic emancipation, both historical and contemporary. Likewise, a rise in scholarship on the role of Roma women within the Roma movement has led to a reconsideration of how Roma women have shaped their communities, how active they have been as agents of change and how they have contributed to the process of Roma mobilisation more broadly. Despite this, there remain substantial gaps in the historical knowledge of the role of Roma women, specifically within the Roma civic emancipation movement from the start of the 20th century.

The aim of the thematic issue is to begin filling this gap, through an exploration of the involvement, life stories, engagement and input of Roma women during the early decades of the Roma civic emancipation process. As research within the *RomaInterbellum* ERC Advanced Grant has shown, the interwar period in particular was one of the most productive periods in the history of Roma mobilisation, with the setting up of Roma organisations, Roma journals and newspapers, the convening of congresses and the rise of a Roma intellectual strata, aiming to put forth specific agendas for the improvement of the lives of Roma communities across Central, South Eastern and Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, little attention has been paid to the specific and important role played by Roma women in this process, while the *RomaInterbellum* project has demonstrated the need for more work on the issue of women's engagement in Roma mobilisation. This thematic issue of *Romani Studies* aims to address these gaps.

Roma lives cannot be detached from broader historical, social, and national circumstances and contexts. Along with “majority” members of the macro-societies in which they live, Roma women and men have experienced the

breakdown of old Empires and the establishment of new national states. Roma women were part of this history. The aim of the special issue is to look at Roma women as an integral and inseparable part of these historical shifts and of mainstream history more generally. We therefore invite paper contributions that address the position, role and involvement of Roma women in the Roma emancipation movement in the interwar period. Contributions based on historical sources are invited from a range of national contexts, with a particular focus placed on countries from Central, South Eastern and Eastern Europe, as well as the Soviet Union. Other country contexts that address these overlapping themes would also be considered.

Final date for abstracts: September 2, 2022

Abstracts should be up to 500 words. Only the authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit a full paper. Please note that, as all papers are subject to anonymous peer review, an invitation to submit a full paper does not necessarily constitute a commitment to publication. The special issue is planned to be published as open access.

Final date for papers: February 1, 2023

For any queries regarding the issue, feel free to contact the guest editors. If you would like to contribute, please send the title of your contribution and abstract to raluca.roman@qub.ac.uk and zahova@hi.is