



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАН

1000 София
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Basic Information:

Course Title: **Roma: History, Traditions, and Modern Times**

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Magdalena Slavkova, PhD; assistant: Assist. Prof. Plamena Stoyanova, PhD

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Total Teaching Hours: 30 h.

Annotation (up to 150 words)

This PhD course examines the history and contemporary way of life of the Roma in a global context, with a particular focus on Bulgaria. It explores the origin and early history of the Roma, their migration and settlement across Europe and the Balkans, and their historical development during the Ottoman Empire. Special attention is paid to migration processes, labor mobility, and socio-economic transformations during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The course analyzes the diversity of Roma communities, including groups such as Turkish Roma (Xoraxane Roma), Bulgarian Roma (Dasikane Roma), and other Roma groups. Different historical and contemporary state policies toward the Roma are examined, with particular emphasis on the policies of socialist Bulgaria. The course also discusses processes of emancipation, civic activism, and the influence of Evangelical churches within Roma communities, including the participation of men and women in church leadership. The course is intended for doctoral students in ethnology, anthropology, and folklore studies, while also providing interdisciplinary knowledge and research perspectives relevant to doctoral students in history, sociology, cultural studies, political science, geography, and related academic fields.

Course content

Topic / Module 1: History and Migrations of the Roma (10 hours)

- 1.1. Origins and Early Migrations. The Roma in the Ottoman Empire
- 1.2. The Roma in Bulgaria: Ethnicity and Heterogeneity
- 1.3. Contemporary Labor Mobility and Migrations of the Roma in Europe

Topic / Module 2: State Policies towards the Roma and Civic Activism (9 hours)

- 2.1. State Policies towards the Roma in Eastern Europe
- 2.2. Policy of the Bulgarian Socialist State (1944-1989) towards the Roma
- 2.3. Emancipation and Civic Activism

Topic / Module 3: Religion and Identity of the Roma (11 hours)

- 3.1. Approaches and Methods of Fieldwork in Bulgaria and Abroad
- 3.2. Religion of the Roma in the Balkans
- 3.3. Evangelicalism and the Roma in Europe and Bulgaria

Teaching and assessment methods

The course is delivered through in-person lectures, allowing direct interaction between doctoral students and lecturers. Assessment is conducted through a written examination that evaluates students' understanding of the concepts, theoretical approaches, and empirical knowledge covered in the course.

Competencies acquired as a result of training



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1. Skills for applying interdisciplinary approaches in the fields of ethnology, anthropology, history and sociology. Ability to work with literature, archival sources, conducting field research.
2. Preparation for work in a multicultural environment and for participation in scientific and educational projects related to Roma communities.
3. In-depth knowledge of the history, origins and migration processes of Roma communities in Europe and Bulgaria.
4. Skills for critical reflection of historical and contemporary state policies towards Roma.
5. Knowledge of the role of religious movements and evangelical churches in the development of Roma communities.

Literature:

- Еролова, Й., М. Славкова. (2013) *Религия, етничност и миграции на циганите в България*. София: Парадигма.
- Ковачева, Л. (2015) *Съкровен свят. Празнично-обредна система на ромите в Средна Западна България*. София: Просвета.
- Маева, М., Захова, С. (2013). *Етнография на миграциите. Българите в Средиземноморието*. София: Парадигма.
- Марушиакова, Е., Попов, В. (1993) *Циганите в България*. София: Клуб '90
- Марушиакова, Е., Попов, В. (2000) *Циганите в Османската империя*. София: Литавра.
- Пейчева, Л. (1999) *Душата плаче - песен излиза*. София: Тер-Арт.
- Славкова, М. (2007) *Циганите евангелисти в България*. София: Парадигма.
- Славкова, М. (2022). *Visco trabajo. Работа и социални отношения на българите в Испания*.
- Стоянова, П. (2017) *Циганите в годините на социализма*. София: Парадигма.
- Crowe, D. (1994) *A History of the Gypsies in Eastern Europe and Russia*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin.
- Kyuchukov, H. and W. New (eds). (2017) *Languages of Resistance: Ian Hancock's Contribution to Romani Studies*. Munich: Lincom.
- Marushiakova, E. V. Popov (1997). *Gypsies (Roma) in Bulgaria*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang.
- Thurfjell, D. and Marsh, A. R. (eds.). 2014. *Romani Pentecostalism. Gypsies and Charismatic Christianity*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang.
- Silverman, C. (2012). *Romani Routes: Cultural Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Slavkova, M. (2025). *Conversion, leadership and Identity of the Evangelical Roma in Bulgaria*. Paderborn: Brill Schoningh.