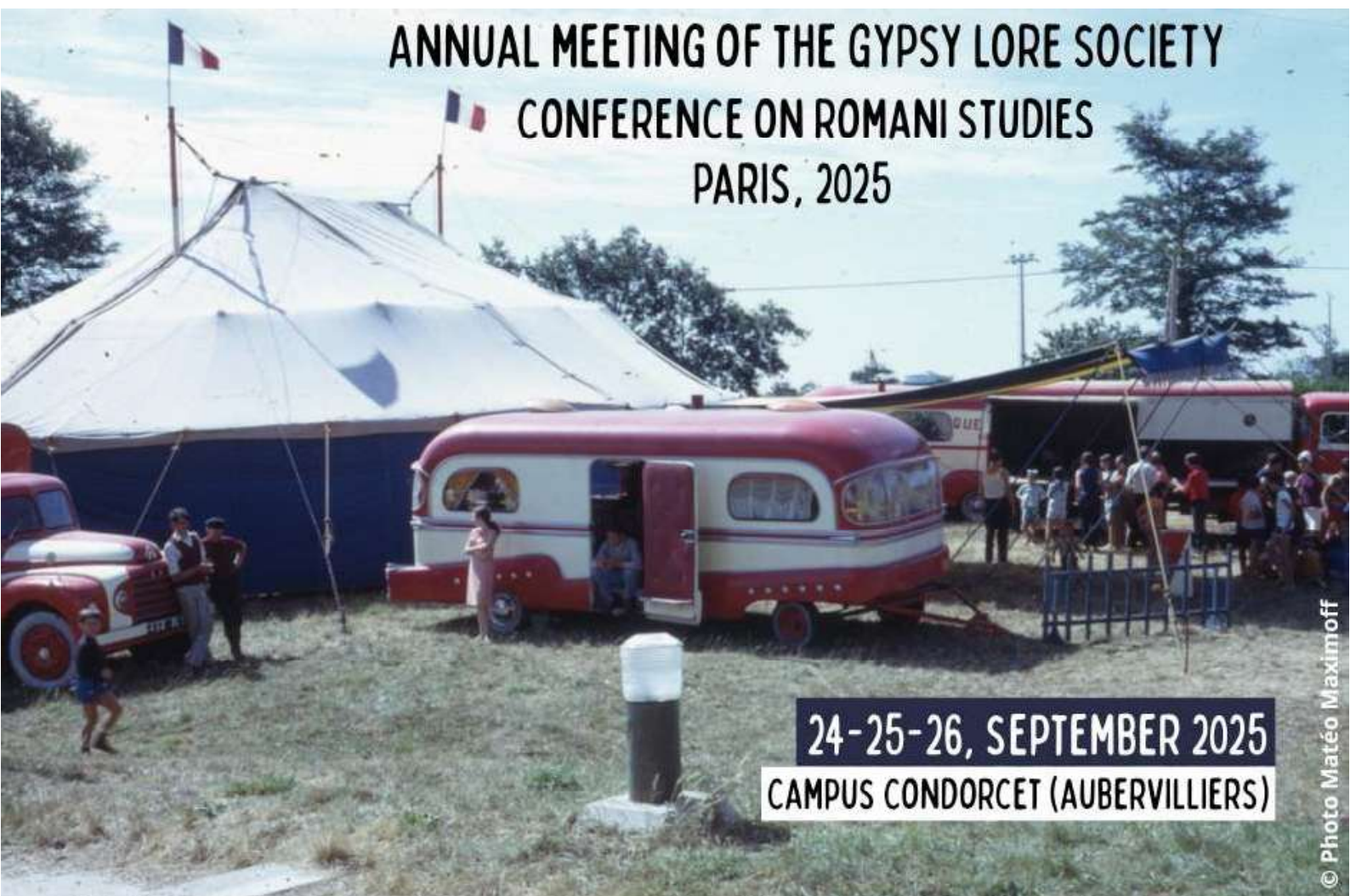


BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GYPSY LORE SOCIETY
CONFERENCE ON ROMANI STUDIES
PARIS, 2025



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CAMPUS CONDORCET (AUBERVILLIERS)

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THE GYPSY LORE SOCIETY

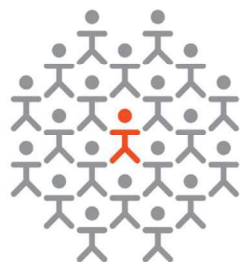
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Médiathèque
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Could be intercultural mediation the solution to Ciganos/ Roma integration? The Portuguese case and the example of Porto city

From the perspective of Giménez Romero (1997), intercultural mediation is a form of intervention by third parties in and around social situations of significant multiculturalism, aimed at achieving recognition of the recognition of the other and bringing the parties closer together, between ethnoculturally different social or institutional actors. However, the need for mediation is generally only emphasised in contexts of vulnerability and social exclusion (Guerra, 2008). Sometimes it is a question of attempts to 'normalise' the 'outsiders', those who differ from the 'established' (Elias and Scotson, 2000 [1965]), from a cultural point of view, since some citizens are viewed with strangeness or even as 'foreigners' (Simmel, 1997), spatially and socially settled and segregated from the urban fabric and the city (Wacquant, 2014).

Fifty years on from 25 April 1974, the persistence of gypsophobia (Bastos, 2012) and anti-gypsyism (FRA, 2022; Magano and D' Oliveira, 2023) in Portugal is notorious, and the right to non-discrimination and social integration, in the sense of citizenship, has yet to be fulfilled.

There have been several attempts to incorporate Ciganos/ Roma mediation professionals, but they have come up against the difficulty of formally recognising the profession. More recently, the creation of teams of Municipal and Intercultural Mediators, within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Migration, the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities 2013-2020 and the Operational Programme for Social Inclusion and Employment (Portugal 2020) in 2018 sought to respond to the need for intercultural intervention with the Ciganos/Roma and immigrant population.

The aim of this presentation is to reflect on the role of Ciganos/ Roma mediators, in general in Portugal and in particular in the city of Porto, with regard to the action taken to mediate with Ciganos/ Roma people and families during the period of implementation and execution of the project in the municipality of Porto (March 2019 - April 2022). In this specific case, the results of a survey applied to Ciganos/ Roma people and interviews applied to technicians and mediators will be used to find out what impact the project had on public organisations and Ciganos/Roma and non-Ciganos/Roma residents. The results point to a huge range of activities, roles and expectations attributed to the mediators and the constraints they face in achieving objectives that are sometimes unattainable or beyond the reach of these interveners, who have no power of decision or mobilisation of human and financial resources.

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