

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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

**24-25-26, SEPTEMBER 2025
CAMPUS CONDORCET (AUBERVILLIERS)**

**2025 GYPSY LORE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND
CONFERENCE ON ROMANI STUDIES – BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**



2025 Gypsy Lore Society Annual Meeting and Conference on Romani Studies – Book of Abstracts

Published and printed by © Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales

65 rue des Grands Moulins, 75013 Paris, France

<https://www.inalco.fr/>

And by © Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology, Slovak Academy of Sciences

Klemensova 19, Bratislava, 813 64, Slovak Republic

www.uesa.sav.sk

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0). This publication is open access and cannot be sold in any form.



Edited and laid-out by © Aurore TIRARD

Reviewed by © Elena MARUSHIAKOVA and Juraj MAJO

Cover illustration designed by © Leny MAUDUIT, Adèle SUTRE and Aurore TIRARD

Logo designed by © Vincent DEVILLARD

Abstracts peer-reviewed by Elena MARUSHIAKOVA, Tatiana ZACHAR PODOLINSKÁ, Julieta ROTARU, Aurore TIRARD and Adèle SUTRE

© September 2025, Paris

ISBN 978-80-69127-07-4 (online: pdf)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31577/2025.9788069127074>

THE GYPSY LORE SOCIETY

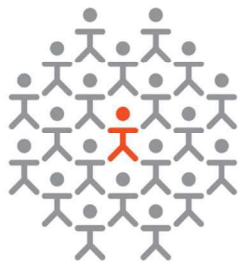
CAMPUS 
CONDORCET
PARIS - AUBERVILLIERS

תּוֹרָה национален שפה 文化 شرقية
inalco

Institut national
des langues
et civilisations orientales

FNASAT GENS DU VOYAGE

 Institut Convergences
Migrations



**Institute of Ethnology
and Social Anthropology**
Slovak Academy of Sciences


Médiathèque
Matéo Maximoff

MAGANO Olga & Fernanda LOPES

The implementation of a democratic system and citizenship of Ciganos/ Roma people in Portugal: the paradigmatic case of Zebreira, Idanha-a-Nova, Castelo Branco District

The Ciganos/ Roma have been in Portugal for more than five centuries (since the first official registration), but there is still a huge lack of historical and social knowledge about their living conditions from their arrival to the present day. Knowledge is scarce and fragmented, both before and during the fascist state or 'Estado Novo' (Salazarism), when it was in force in Portugal (1933-1974). This was a period of dictatorship in which the relationship between the state and the Ciganos/ Roma was unknown. Only some information is known about the enormous repression experienced, persecution and expulsions, which contributed to the construction of an imaginary that reflects a past of constant flight (Mangas, 2021; Mendes, 2012). Thus, the state's strategy towards the Ciganos/ Roma has been characterised for centuries by segregation and merciless persecution (Bastos et al., 2007, Bastos, 2012; Silva, 2014). Every means was tried, even the most violent, to eradicate them from continental territory (expulsion orders; sentencing to banishment and deportations). Attempts at integration were rare and, when they did exist, they were always clearly aimed at repression, dissolution or domestication (Dias, 1995).

The few references available point to living mainly in rural areas, without sufficient means of subsistence, housing and health conditions (Brinca, 2012). The disappearance of some opportunities for seasonal work, such as tending livestock and picking fruit, has meant that, like many other Portuguese populations, they have migrated internally to the outskirts of large cities, especially Lisbon and Porto, and there has been a large-scale process of sedentarisation of the Ciganos/ Roma in Portuguese society (Costa, 1995). In 1952, the Ciganos/Roma were granted the right to citizenship, which required their children to enrol in school, be settled and do compulsory military service (Antunes, 1997). Since 1974, access to citizenship rights has expanded, as has the right to housing and health services (Mendes et al., 2014).

The democratic revolution of 25 April 1974 allowed for an unprecedented opening in terms of the possibility of settling and improving the living conditions of Portuguese Ciganos/Roma. The aim of this communication is to find out how the implementation of the democratic system impacted on the lives of Ciganos/ Roma families and contributed to their settling in certain social and territorial contexts, both urban and rural. We intend to present some exploratory results resulting from the application of qualitative methodology with in-depth interviews in which Ciganos/ Roma over the age of 65 are given a voice in various locations in Portugal. We will also use the results of an ethnographic investigation in a town in the central interior of Portugal that is characterised by many Ciganos/ Roma families - Zebreira, in the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, in the district of Castelo Branco. In this town, Ciganos/ Roma makes up around 50 per cent of the resident population. Using an ethnographic approach, which includes fieldwork, participant

observation, interviews and documentary analysis, the research seeks to understand the historical and geographical trajectories of Ciganos/ Roma families, the factors that enabled them to remain and take root, as well as the social dynamics established with the surrounding community.

We intend to contribute to in-depth knowledge of a unique case of Ciganos/ Roma families settling in a single parish, promoting reflection on public policies for integration and social cohesion and their interconnection with the conditions allowed by the change in the political scenario in Portugal.

References

- ANTUNES, A. (1997). *Os príncipes do nada - contributo para o estudo de um trabalho social de reinserção de população cigana*. Coimbra: Associação Integrar, ed.
- BASTOS, J.; A. CORREIA and E. RODRIGUES. (2007). *Sintrensens ciganos. Uma abordagem estrutural - dinâmica*, [Sintrensens Ciganos: A Structural-Dynamic Approach], Lisbon: City Hall of Sintra & ACIDI.
- BASTOS, J. G. P. (2012). *Portugueses Ciganos e Ciganofobia em Portugal*. Lisboa: Edições Colibri/ CEMME/CCRIA
- BRINCA, A. (2012). «Da pobreza ao enriquecimento, da fronteira à mistura». Ser-cigano antes e depois do 25 de abril à luz de uma abordagem estrutural-dinâmica. In Bastos, J.P. (org.). *Portugueses Ciganos e Ciganofobia em Portugal*. Lisbon: Ed. Colibri/ CEMME/ CRIA. FCSH Univ. Nova of Lisbon.
- COSTA, E. M. (1995). Os Ciganos em Portugal: Breve história de uma exclusão. In Cortesão; L. & Pinto, F. (orgs,) *O Povo Cigano: Cidadãos na sombra. Processos Explícitos e ocultos de exclusão*. Porto: Edições Afrontamento. Pp. 13-20.
- MANGAS, F. (2021). "A longa marcha do Anticiganismo: História e Historiografia". In *Novas e Velhas Extremas-Direitas*, editado por Cecília Honório; João Mineiro, 159-172. Lisbon, Portugal: Parsifal.
- MENDES, M. M. (2012). *Identidades, Racismo e Discriminação: ciganos da AML*. Lisbon: Caleidoscópio.
- MENDES, M. M, O. MAGANO & P. CANDEIAS. (2014). *Estudo Nacional sobre as Comunidades Ciganas*. Lisbon: Alto Comissariado para as Migrações.
- SILVA, M. C. (2014). *Sina social cigana: história, comunidades, representações e instituições*. Lisbon: Edições Colibri.