

CFP: Counterstrategies to Antigypsyism in Film. Case studies invited! (31.5.2021)

Call for Papers: Case Studies on Counterstrategies to Antigypsyism in Film.

Deadline: 31. May 2021

Languages: English and German

The topic of filmic antigypsyism is very new. For the first time, it became the central focus of scholarly attention during the international conference “Antigypsyism and Film” held in February 2018 in Berlin and organised by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the Society for the Research of Antigypsyism. (See the conference proceedings published in 2020 as an open access book by Heidelberg UP [[Link to the book](#)]). Filmic antigypsyism still remains a criminally neglected topic. Yet, in all discussions that surround the issue of antigypsy stereotypes in films, there always comes up the questions: What are the alternatives to filmic antigypsyism? Is it possible to shoot films free of the universally familiar clichés? How to break the antigypsy gaze in visual media? In an attempt to offer an answer to these highly pertinent questions, the Research Centre on Antigypsyism in Heidelberg invites postgraduates, doctoral students and young researchers to submit proposals which fall into one of the following three thematic areas:

1) Case studies which explore the similarities and differences of filmic antigypsyism to filmic antisemitism or to other racist/racializing discourses.

2) Case studies which compare antigypsy films and films in which the Nazi genocide against Sinti and Roma is addressed, examining the transformative impact that the topic of the Holocaust has on the narrative strategies and visual aesthetics of film productions. Suggested films and artistic interventions: the hybrid documentary feature film by Roz Mortimer THE DEATHLESS WOMAN (2019); Peter Nestler’s documentary ZIGEUNER SEIN/THE STIGMA GYPSY (1970); Ludwig Museum’s initiative “Bild und Gegenbild. Zur Revision der Sammlung” in the framework of which Otto Mueller’s Painting „Zwei Zigeunerinnen mit Katze“ (1926/7) was juxtaposed to Peter Nestler’s film ZIGEUNER SEIN/THE STIGMA GYPSY, etc.

3) Case studies which extrapolate successful artistic strategies aimed at resisting, subverting and/or transcending antigypsy stereotypes in film. Suggested fictional films: the BBC TV series PEAKY BLINDERS; Kai Wessel’s TV film FRAU ROGGENSCHAUBS REISE (2015), Radu Jude’s feature film AFERIM! (2015), Jonas Selberg Augustsén feature film THE GARBAGE HELICOPTER (2015), Tomislav Zaja’s film for children DUH BABE ILONKE (2011), Bob Hoskins’ feature film THE RAGGEDY RAWNEY (1988); Tony Gatlif’s films, etc. Philip Scheffner & Radu Velcu documentary AND-EK GHES (2016).

Please send a **300-word abstract**, in **English or German**, and a **short CV of up to 150 words** to Radmila.Mladenova@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de by May 31, 2021. The proposals will be peer reviewed and the contributors will be notified of the decision by June 30, 2021. If accepted,

draft manuscripts of case studies will be due September 30, 2021, and the revised, final manuscripts by December 31, 2021. The length of the final case studies should be from 30.000 to max. 35.000 characters including spaces.

On November 1-2, 2021, the Research Centre on Antigypsyism will hold a two-day workshop at the [International Academic Forum Heidelberg](#) during which the contributors will be able to discuss the submitted case studies in a wider forum, together with scholars, filmmakers and other practitioners; each case study will be assigned to an experienced commentator. Subsequently, the selection of case studies will be published in the form of a Film Toolkit targeted at the scientific community, professionals from the filmmaking industry, self-organisations of Sinti and Roma as well as other organisations committed to antiracist education.

Invited contributors will receive an expense allowance of 150 euros and, upon agreement with the organisers, partial or full reimbursement for travel and accommodation costs incurred. In case the planned workshop cannot take place due to the COVID 19 outbreak, the joint discussion of the submitted case studies will be conducted in an alternative online event.

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