



İzmir Institute of Technology (Türkiye)



INSTITUTE FOR KNOWLEDGE
RESEARCH, AND SOCIETY

IKRS (Canada)

Rroma Foundation
Rromani Fundacija

The Rroma Foundation (Switzerland)

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ROMA IN THE OTTOMAN AND POST-OTTOMAN WORLD

16-22 AUGUST 2026

İzmir Institute of Technology · Gülbahçe Campus
Urla, İzmir, Türkiye



Program

Day 1 (August 16, Sunday)

12.00-18.00: Arrival and Check-in

18.30-20.00: Getting to Know Each Other: Introduction and Practical Information.

20.00-22.00: Welcome Dinner

Day 2 (August 17, Monday)

08.30-09.30: Breakfast

09.30-10.00: The Official Opening of the Summer School:

10.00-11.00: Session 1. Hanna Abakunova and Stéphane Laederich, *Ethnogenesis of Romani People and Their Migration through History*.

11.00-11.15: Coffee Break

11.15-12.15: Session 2. Stéphane Laederich, *Romanes and Its Dialects: Learning Romani Traditions through Paramisi*.

12.15-13.15: Session 3. Hanna Abakunova, *Romani Communities and Their Perception among Non-Roma: Stereotypes and Antigypsyism*.

13.15-14.15: Lunch

14.15-15.15: Session 4. Hüseyin Oylupınar, *Empire and Imperialism: Concept, Terminology and the Case of the Ottomans*.

15.15-15.30: Coffee break

15.30-16.30: Session 5. Faika Çelik, *Management of Diversity and Difference in the Ottoman Empire: The Case of Roma*.

16.30-17.30: Session 6. Ozan Uştuk, *The Roma in Contemporary Türkiye: Historical Trajectories and Social Diversity*.

18.00-20.00: Guided tour along the Urla seafront (optional)

Day 3. (August 18, Tuesday)

08.30-09.30: Breakfast

09.30-10.30: Session 7. Ozan Uştuk, *The Roma of the İzmir Region: Community, Identity, and Local Context*.

10.30-12.45: Session 8. Selim Çalık (Urla Romani community), *Traditional Romani Weaving* (workshop).

12.45-14.00: Lunch

14.00-15.30: Session 9. Discussion in groups and sharing of experiences.

15.30-15.45: Coffee break

15.45-16.45: Session 10. Faika Çelik and Ozan Uştuk, *The State of Research on Roma in Türkiye: Socio-economic exclusion, identity, and state policies*.

16.45-17.15: Feedback and discussion.

Day 4 (August 19, Wednesday)

09.00-10.00: Breakfast

10.00 -11.00: Session 11. Stéphane Laederich, *Learning Romanes: Vlax dialect*.

11.30- Departure from the University

12.00-13.00: Visit to Urla Archeological Museum

13.00-13.30: Lunch (lunchboxes will be provided)

13.30-14.00: Visit to Limantepe Ancient Greek Excavation Site

15.00: Arrival in Izmir

15.00-18.30 Guided tour of Izmir: Historical Smyrna and Its Minorities.

18.30-20.00: Visit to Tepecik Romani mahalle. Meeting with the community, Roma NGO, and mukhtar

After 20.00: Free time in Izmir

Day 5 (August 20, Thursday)

08.30-09.30: Breakfast

09.30-10.30: Session 13. Stéphane Laederich, *Learning Romanes: Balkan dialect*.

10.30-11.30: Session 14. Paola Trevisan, *Heading West by Sea: The Migrations of the Balkan Roma during the Ottoman Empire*.

11.30-11.45: Coffee Break

11.45-12.45: Session 15. Elena Marushiakova and Vesselin Popov, *Roma Muslims in the Balkans: From Muslim Roma to Romani Islam*

12.45-14.00: Lunch

14.00-15.00: Session 16. Danijel Vojak and Paola Trevisan, *Roma as Collateral Victims of the Wars in the Former Yugoslavia during the 1990s*.

15.00-15.15: Coffee Break

15.15-16.30: Session 17. Feedback, discussion in groups, sharing experiences, and discussion of further research.

16.30-17.15: Session 18. Roundtable and research project discussion with the participants: Dr. Charles Sabatos, Dr. Svetlana D. Hristova-Vladi, and Dr. Maria Subert.

20.00-22.00: Dinner

Day 6 (August 21, Friday)

8.30-09.30: Breakfast

09.30-11.00: Session 19. Hanna Abakunova and Hüseyin Oylupınar, *Roma in the Crimean Khanate*.

11.00-11.15: Coffee break

11.15-12.45: Session 20. Hanna Abakunova, *The Genocide of Roma during World War Two*.

12.45-14.00: Lunch

14.00-15.00: Session 21. Ozan Uştuk, Hanna Abakunova, and Hüseyin Oylupınar, *Contemporary Policies towards Roma: EU (cases of Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia) and Non-EU (cases of Moldova, Ukraine, and Türkiye)*.

15.00-15.15: Coffee Break

15.15-16.15: Session 23. Yunus Çalık (Urla Romani community), *Traditional Music in the Urla Roma Community* (workshop).

16.15-17.15: Session 24. Carol Silverman (TBC), *Balkan and Romani Music*.

19.30-20.30: Guided tour of Urla old town (optional)

Day 7 (August 22, Saturday)

8.30-09.30: Breakfast

10.00-12.00: Participants' Feedback. Final Discussion and Planning for Further Collaboration

13.00-14.00: Check-out

Lecturers' Biographies *(in alphabetical order)*

Dr. Hanna Abakunova is a co-organizer of the Summer School. She is a Ukrainian historian specializing in Holocaust Studies, Genocide Studies, and Romani Studies. She is currently Stuart Ramsay Tompkins Visiting Professor in History and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta (Canada) and an affiliated researcher at Uppsala University (Sweden). She received her PhD in Holocaust History from the University of Sheffield in 2019 and previously earned a Candidate of Science in History and an MA in Psychology in Ukraine. Abakunova has held research and academic positions at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Uppsala University, Harvard University, Yad Vashem, and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Her research focuses on the Holocaust in Ukraine and Poland, the genocide of Roma, rescue and self-rescue during the Second World War, interethnic relations, oral history, and memory.

Mr. Selim Çalık is a craftsman representing the Urla Roma community. He possesses various techniques for weaving baskets, mats, chandeliers, and other items. He is regularly invited to international workshops, where he leads masterclasses on traditional Romani weaving in the İzmir region. Mr. Çalık also plays musical instruments.

Mr. Yunus Çalık is a musician representing the Urla Roma community. Mr. Çalık plays various instruments, organizes and participates in Romani bands performing in public, and delivers workshops on Roma music in Türkiye.

Dr. Faika Çelik is a historian of the early modern and modern Middle East, with a particular focus on the history of the Ottoman Empire and modern Türkiye. She received her B.A. in History from Boğaziçi University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from McGill University, with a dissertation titled “Community in Motion: Gypsies in Ottoman Imperial State Policy, Public Morality and at the Sharia Court of Üsküdar (1530s–1585s).” She has conducted extensive research in Ottoman and Turkish archives and received training in oral history at the Oral History Center at the University of California, Berkeley. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations and as an associate faculty member in Women's Studies at Manisa Celal Bayar University. Her publications contribute to the fields of Romani Studies, Women's Studies, and Oral History. She is also a collaborator on the Türkiye Earthquake Memory Project, a multidisciplinary oral history and memory initiative funded by an SSHRC Insight Grant for 2026–2031 and jointly undertaken by faculty from McGill University, Université de Montréal, and Manisa Celal Bayar University.

Dr. Stéphane Laederich is a co-organizer of the Summer School. He obtained his PhD from Boston University, USA, and his Habilitation from the École Polytechnique in Paris, France, both in Mathematics. He later began researching the dialects of different Romani groups, taught a historical seminar at the University of Basel (Switzerland), and became an expert in the field of Romani Studies. Currently, Dr. Laederich is the executive director of the *Rrom Foundation*, established in 1993 in Switzerland. He is the co-author of *The Rroma* (Schwabe, 2005) and numerous other articles and reports about the Roma. His latest publication focuses on the language of Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, and Russian Roma. He specializes in Romanes dialects and speaks several of them fluently. He has published two books together with Lev Tcherenkov, a Russian Roma linguist, as well as several articles in various publications. He is the director of the Roma Foundation.

Dr. Elena Marushiakova and Dr. Vesselin Popov are professors at the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology at the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Previously, they worked at the University of St Andrews (UK) as Principal Investigator and Senior Researcher on the ERC Advanced Grant “Roma Civic Emancipation Between the Two World Wars.” Active in Romani Studies for over four decades, they have published extensively on Roma in the Balkans and Central and Eastern Europe. Their major publications include *Gypsies (Roma) in Bulgaria* (1997), the pioneering monograph on Roma history and ethnography in Bulgaria; *Gypsies in the Ottoman Empire: A Contribution to the History of the Balkans* (2001); *Gypsies in Central Asia and the Caucasus* (2016); *Roma Voices in History: A Sourcebook* (2021); *Roma Portraits in History* (2022); and *Stalin vs Gypsies: Roma and Political Repressions in the USSR* (2024). Marushiakova and Popov have also edited six volumes on Roma folklore and oral history and authored numerous other scholarly works. Together with Dr. Sofiya Zahova, they co-founded and co-edit the Brill series “Roma History and Culture.”

Dr. Huseyin Oylupinar is a co-organizer of the Summer School. He is an interdisciplinary scholar specializing in identity, memory, and political culture in Eastern Europe, with a focus on Ukraine, Crimea, and the Black Sea region. He holds a PhD in History and Cultural Studies from the University of Alberta and is currently affiliated with the Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies (IRES) at Uppsala University. His current work explores the integration of AI tools into historical research, translation, and oral history processing. He is the founder of the Institute for Knowledge, Research, and Society, a Canadian NGO pioneering the use of artificial intelligence in the humanities and social sciences and positioning itself as a flagbearer for innovative, interdisciplinary research models. One of the institute's current initiatives focuses on developing AI-assisted translation workflows for Ukrainian oral histories, combining speech recognition, metadata extraction, and multilingual contextual analysis with the aim of improving access to under-documented testimonies and supporting deeper cross-cultural research.

Dr. Paola Trevisan holds a PhD in Cultural Anthropology and Gender Studies from the University Jaume I in Castellón de la Plana (Spain). In 2016, she was a research fellow at the Mandel Center of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., with the project *"From Expelled Foreigners to 'Dangerous' Italians: Roma and Sinti Families in Italy under Fascism."* Later, she worked as a researcher at Free University Bolzano (Italy) and at the École des Hautes Études en Science Sociales (France), expanding her research geographically to Italy, Slovenia, and Croatia and chronologically to the period from 1922 to 1946. Dr. Trevisan worked on the project *Encyclopaedia of Nazi Genocide of Sinti and Roma*, directed by Heidelberg University (Germany). Currently, she is working on the topic of Bosnian Roma who escaped Yugoslavia and resettled in Italy during and after the Yugoslav wars. Trevisan's research lies at the intersection of anthropology and history, combining fieldwork and archival research.

Dr. Ozan Uştuk is a co-organizer of the Summer School. He is an Associate Professor of Communication Sciences at the İzmir Institute of Technology. He holds a Ph.D. in Communication Sciences, an MSc in Anthropology, and a BA in Sociology from Hacettepe University. His doctoral research comprised a comprehensive ethnographic study of a Roma community, with a specific focus on the critical intersections of housing, education, and labor market relations. He was the recipient of the Applied Research Fellowship at the Central European University's Romani Studies Program. Additionally, he has been honored with the IZTECH Best Course Design Award for excellence in teaching and curriculum development. His primary research interests include intercultural communication, cultural identity, and urban ethnography. Since 2014, he has been a dedicated collaborator with a variety of local and national Roma organizations, NGOs, and governmental agencies.

Dr. Danijel Vojak is a Scientific Adviser at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar in Zagreb, Croatia. He earned his PhD in History from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, in 2011 with the dissertation *On the Eve of the War: The Position of the Roma Population in the Banovina of Croatia, 1939–1941*. His research focuses on the history of the Roma in Croatia and the countries of the former Yugoslavia, with particular emphasis on the First and Second World Wars, the persecution and genocide of the Roma during the existence of the Independent State of Croatia (NDH), and the cultures of remembrance of Roma victims. He has published numerous scholarly books, book chapters, and articles on these topics in Croatian and international academic publications. Dr. Vojak has participated in and coordinated several national and international research projects dealing with the history of the persecution of the Roma in the Independent State of Croatia during the Second World War, as well as the cultures of remembrance of Roma victims in Croatia and other successor states of the former Yugoslavia. He is a member of the Croatian delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). His broader research interests include the historical relationship between the majority population and the Roma minority, with particular attention to processes of exclusion, discrimination, persecution, and remembrance. His current research is primarily devoted to the position, persecution, and genocide of the Roma in the pro-Nazi Independent State of Croatia during the Second World War.
