

CALL FOR PAPERS

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Thematic Issue: *Protestant, Pentecostal and Charismatic Mission Efforts towards Gypsy/Roma Communities (17th–21st Centuries)*

Guest Editors

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About the Thematic Issue

Romani Studies 2/2027 invites submissions for a thematic issue dedicated to the history, dynamics, and legacies of Protestant, Pentecostal, and Charismatic mission efforts directed towards Gypsy/Roma communities from the 17th century to the present day.

Protestant engagement with Roma communities can be traced back at least to the late 17th century, and by the 19th century had developed into a transnational, even global network of missionary activities. The 20th and 21st centuries witnessed a further intensification of these efforts, particularly through evangelical, neo-Protestant, Pentecostal, and Charismatic churches and movements — especially in Central and Eastern Europe, but also across Western Europe and beyond. The rapid spread of Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity among Roma communities since the mid-20th century represents one of the most significant religious transformations in contemporary Romani life, reshaping identities, community structures, gender relations, and political engagement. Despite the scope and significance of these encounters, they remain understudied and methodologically underexplored in Romani Studies scholarship.

This thematic issue seeks to map existing research, interrogate its methodologies and findings, and open new avenues for understanding the complex dynamics of mission, identity, conversion, and power embedded in Protestant, Pentecostal, and Charismatic–Roma encounters across five centuries.

Themes and Topics

We welcome original scholarly contributions addressing, but not limited to, the following themes:

Missionary Motivations and Strategies

Theological, social, and political rationales behind Protestant, neo-Protestant, Pentecostal, and Charismatic missions to Roma communities; strategies ranging from evangelisation and education to social welfare and assimilationist policies; the distinctive features of Pentecostal and Charismatic outreach as compared to earlier Protestant missionary models.

Roma Agency and Resistance

Roma responses to missionary efforts across confessional traditions, including forms of resistance, adaptation, and active appropriation and redefinition of cultural content, ritual practices, and organisational patterns; Roma-led Pentecostal and Charismatic movements and their internal dynamics.

Institutional and Transnational Networks

The role of missionary societies, Pentecostal and Charismatic organisations, churches, and state actors in shaping mission policies and practices across national and confessional boundaries; transnational flows of personnel, funding, and theology.

Transformation of Romani identity

The construction and transformation of Romani identity across Protestant, neo-Protestant, Pentecostal, and Charismatic missionary texts, sermons, and mission reports; processes of ethnicization and enculturation operating through material, narrative, sonic-visual, and performative practices — music, singing, healing, prayer, and contested repertoires — as acts through which religious belonging and ethnic identity are simultaneously inscribed, internalised, and refigured across time and tradition.

Conversion, Identity and Community

The impact of conversion to Protestant, neo-Protestant, Pentecostal, and Charismatic Christianity on Roma identity, intra-community relations, and

boundary-making; the role of religion in processes of stigmatisation and inclusion; double stigmatisation based on ethnicity and religious affiliation.

Legacies and Memory

Long-term impacts of missionary activities on Roma communities, including questions of historical memory, intergenerational trauma, and the ongoing relevance of these encounters for contemporary debates on inclusion, integration, and Roma rights.

Approaches and Perspectives

Contributors are especially encouraged to:

- offer critical reassessments of established narratives, challenging or nuancing dominant interpretations of missionary–Roma relations across Protestant, Pentecostal, and Charismatic traditions;
- foreground Roma voices and perspectives, drawing on ego-documents, archival materials, oral history, and community-based methodologies;
- explore comparative or interconnected histories — examining how Protestant, Pentecostal, and Charismatic missions intersected with Catholic, Orthodox, or secular initiatives, or how they were shaped by broader colonial, imperial, and post-socialist contexts;
- investigate the role of gender, class, generation, and locality in shaping missionary encounters and Roma responses within different confessional traditions;
- address the afterlives of mission, including the ways in which Protestant, Pentecostal, and Charismatic missionary discourses and practices continue to shape contemporary perceptions, policies, and forms of Roma religiosity and community life.

We welcome contributions from historians, anthropologists, ethnographers, sociologists, church historians, literary scholars, and others. Interdisciplinary and methodologically innovative approaches are especially encouraged.

Background

This thematic issue builds on an open panel held within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the

Interdisciplinary Centre for Pietism Research / Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (Halle, Germany) and the Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology, Slovak Academy of Sciences (Bratislava, Slovakia), and is connected to the research project APVV-22-0389 RELIROMA – *Research of Religiosity, Spirituality and Non-Religiosity among the Roma in Slovakia*.

Submission Guidelines

- Manuscripts should be submitted in English and prepared in accordance with the *Romani Studies* author guidelines, available at: liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/journals/id/57
- Articles should be between 6,000 and 9,000 words (including references and notes)
- All submissions will undergo *double-blind peer review*
- Please indicate in your cover letter that your submission is intended for the thematic issue *Protestant, Pentecostal and Charismatic Mission Efforts towards Gypsy/Roma Communities*

Abstract submission deadline: 31 October 2026 (300–500 words, with short author bio)

Full manuscript deadline: 28 February 2027

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