**Perceiving the Roma in Central Europe**



Victoria University of Wellington – Antipodean East European Study Group

Central Europeans have framed Roma as a problem in many different ways over the past two hundred years. Ethnographers and linguists have seen a scholarly problem, seeking origins and characteristics. Policy makers have perceived a social problem, typically to be solved by assimilating the Roma population within the national policy, or excluding it. Both savants and policy makers, however, typically claim for themselves the right to see, know, or decide without consulting the perspectives of the Roma themselves. This symposium focuses on how Central European actors have understood the Roma, probing their motives, preoccupations, objectives and conclusions. We are also interested in the epistemological aspects of what is sometimes referred to as Gypsyology: how exactly do scholars seek to understand Roma populations?

The conference will be held on **28 June 2020,** at the Kelburn Campus of the Victoria University of Wellington in room **OK 406** (the Wood Seminar Room).

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