

Romistické utopie

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Roma/Gypsy Groups in Montenegro: Identities and the Role of Language

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The lecture presents a general picture of the groups with Roma/Gypsy origin in Montenegro and focuses on their group identity narratives. I am interested in the perceived identity markers that are used to differentiate groups. In this context of identification and differentiation, special attention is paid to the role that language plays as an identity marker because among all Gypsy/Roma groups, with both Romani and non-Romani identity, the mother tongue common for the communities' members is one of the most significant markers. The lecture also demonstrates that, in most cases, speaking the language of the surrounding population is related to identity shift, as a declaration of another ethnic/national affiliation or the creation of a new (Egyptian) ethnic identity. Not speaking the Romani language is not necessarily related to lack of Romani identity, and there is a clearly articulated Romani identity without actual use of Romani as a means for communication.



Ústav jižní a centrální Asie, Seminář romistiky
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