The Romani Atlantic

The Romani Atlantic is the first comprehensive look at Romani experiences in the Atlantic world. Together, the essays detail Romani peoples' transatlantic circulations, interactions, connections and exchanges, reinforcing the view that the Atlantic was a zone of contact where identities interlaced and transformed. The geographical points and flows covered include imperial Spain and Mexico, Lusophone Angolan slave trading ports, Ellis Island immigration controls, southeastern European villages and Canadian community centers. Each case study illustrates the migratory flow and reflow of people, ideas and processes, showing that Romani people have strategically engaged with state instruments, cultivated Romani distinctiveness and built resilient communities. *The Romani Atlantic* traces the underexplored history of Romani immigration and migration and highlights the ways that Romani agency has shaped the modern world. This title is available as open access on Cambridge Core.

Martin Fotta is Head of the Department of Mobility and Migration, Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences. He is the author of *From Itinerant Trade to Moneylending in the Era of Financial Inclusion.*

Ann Ostendorf is Professor of History at Gonzaga University. She is the author of *Sounds American.*

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 06:51:23, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009706032

"This excitingly rich collection accomplishes a remarkable feat: It lifts Romani histories and experiences from their conventional framing, whether the nation-state, a singular empire, or a single region. It thus provides a truly global perspective on the colonial and inter-imperial context behind transatlantic Romani mobilities, diasporic connections, and how these shaped the modern world."

Manuela Boatcă, co-author (with Anca Parvulescu) of *Creolizing the Modern: Transylvania across Empires*

"This book demonstrates that the interconnected worlds of the Atlantic rim can be studied both microscopically and globally, over half a millennium, through unifying themes of migration, cosmopolitanism, exclusion, adaptation, and the maintenance of cultural identities. It introduces memorable individuals with remarkable stories, illustrating the mutabilities, ambiguities, entanglements, and perils of the Romani experience in different yet comparable situations."

David Cressy, author of *Gypsies: An English History*

"This volume is a field-defining contribution to Romani history. Moving decisively beyond the Eurocentric frameworks that have long shaped Romani Studies, it reorients the field toward the circum-Atlantic world and demonstrates the centrality of Romani experiences to the histories of empire, state formation, and race in the region. Bringing together senior scholars and innovative emerging voices, the collection also demonstrates that Romani history is integral to Atlantic history. It will be an indispensable resource for scholars across Romani Studies, Atlantic history, and the broader histories of race, migration, and minority community building."

Ari Joskowicz, author of *Rain of Ash: Roma, Jews, and the Holocaust*

"*The Romani Atlantic* offers a groundbreaking new history of Romani lives across five centuries, tracing the migrations, circulations, and connections that linked Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Bringing together vivid case studies from colonial empires to modern diasporas, this volume reveals how Romani people helped shape the Atlantic world as well as why their stories are essential to understanding modern history."

Angéla Kóczé, author of *Romani Women at the Edge of Neoliberal Europe: Discursive Emancipation and Structural Violence*

"Fotta and Ostendorf have assembled a carefully selected group of essays, by a wide range of scholars, to encourage readers to reconsider the roots and routes of Romani communities. By reinserting Romani histories within the framework of the Atlantic world, the volume underscores shared and interconnected histories with other marginalized groups whose cultures and experiences have also been deeply shaped by the Atlantic."

Sunnie Rucker-Chang, co-author (with Felix B. Chang) of *Roma Rights and Civil Rights: A Transatlantic Comparison*

"This important new study asks that we think of Romani people as part of the Atlantic diaspora, both to offer insights into the diverse and distinctive historical experiences of these peoples, and, crucially to demonstrate how these must be understood as sitting as an integral part of broader trans-Atlantic, indeed global, histories. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding the complexities and richness of Atlantic world experiences."

Becky Taylor, author of *Another Darkness, Another Dawn: A History of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers*

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 06:51:23, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009706032

The Romani Atlantic

Edited by

MARTIN FOTTA

Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences

ANN OSTENDORF

Gonzaga University

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 06:51:23, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009706032

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009706056

DOI: 10.1017/9781009706032

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons
version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009706032 under a
Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution
and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit
to the original work is given and any changes made are indicated. To view a copy of this
license visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009706032

First published 2026

Cover image: Arent Arentsz, Rivierlandschap met zigeuners c. 1625–1630. Rijksmuseum,
Amsterdam. https://id.rijksmuseum.nl/20026506, and Portolan World Map, Circa 1620
(Photo by Buyenlarge/Getty Images).

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

*A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of
Congress*

ISBN 978-1-009-70605-6 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-70602-5 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

For EU product safety concerns, contact us at Calle de José Abascal, 56, 1°, 28003 Madrid,
Spain, or email eugpsr@cambridge.org

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 16 Nov 2026 at 06:51:23, subject to the
Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009706032