



## SCIENTIFIC FINAL REPORT

### Two- and three-year projects and postdoctoral projects

Regnr Östersjöstiftelsen: 27/17

Project manager: David Gaunt

Project title: Mapping the Roma community in 19th century Wallachia

#### 1. The three most important results of the project and what conclusions can be drawn from them

The first result is that it was possible to digitalize and source-critically analyze a census-like register of the population of the important Romanian province of Wallachia in 1838. This is a very large archival material composed by many different persons written by hand in an antic Cyrillic script and in an older form of Romanian language. This material included information on ethnicity allowing us to identify somewhat morer than 12,000 Roma/Gypsy households including just under 50,000 individuals listed by name, age, gender, occupation and economic resources. A source-critical investigation found some omissions, some missing districts, but found that much of the information about ethnicity, occupation and composition of families/households was reliable, however the ages registered were approximative making some basic demographic research difficult.

The second result was the ability to give a detailed statistical description of the Roma/Gypsy population of any large territory in the early nineteenth century. This was a period in which the Roma were held as slaves of noblemen, monasteries and even the crown. Although they were legally slaves, our research revealed a great degree of diversity within the group that were categorized as Gypsies by the local authorities. We could show the breakdown into various ethnic sub-groups such as *rudari*, *zlatari*, *lautari*, as well as the occupational divisions into gold-panners, blacksmiths, various kinds of musicians. Surprisingly there were many who did agricultural work and although most were very poor, some did possess relatively large fields, cattle and orchards and gave the impression of being relatively well-off. Most gypsies were registered as belonging to permanent villages, living in small numbers separate from the Romanian peasants, but there were some very large Gypsy villages with up to 300 households. The material conditions also differed depending upon whether the owner of the slaves was the Crown, a monastery or individual aristocrats.

The third result was showing that it was possible to make standard demographic historical quantitative research on the Roma/gypsy population. This had never been done before and even at present reliable statistics on Roma are difficult to find. The project found – contrary to the original hypothesis – that household and family sizes were quite small, around 4 persons and the households only occasionally included three generations living together. But we could identify situations in which several related, but separate, households cooperated in work that needed many hands, as in washing river sand for gold-dust.

#### 2. The project's contribution to the international research frontline

The first quantitative results of the project were published in the specialty journal *Romani Studies* in 2020 and was among the most-read articles that year. Results have also been presented at international conferences for Romani studies. Results have also been presented



at conferences on demographic and economic history where the novelty of studying the Roma ethnic minority population met considerable interest. This created an interest in organizing panels including research on the Roma in contexts where they had not previously been present.

### **3. The contribution of the research to the knowledge of the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe**

This research supplies a new bench-mark for the history of the Roma/Gypsies in Europe. We now know much more the ethnic sub-divisions of this population in the region where they were the most numerous in Europe. We now know much more about the occupational divisions and their material living conditions. Spin-off has given the possibility to deal with the economic transition of those who lived from washing gold into those who lived from carving wooden utensils and how and when they spread from Wallachia into the neighboring Balkan countries. It has also allowed us to identify previously little known sub-groups such as the crypto-Muslim Gypsies living in southern Wallachia.

### **4. New research questions that the project has led to**

- How to assess the importance of the Gypsy slaves for the economy of the Romanian Principalities and specifically of the Roma people in agricultural occupations and those with traditional skills?
- How diverse were the occupational patterns of the Romani population from those of the surrounding population in Romanian Principalities?
- When the Rudari gold-washers turned to woodworking which is a current occupational mark of certain Romani related groups throughout the Balkans?
- Is the classification of the Romani socio-economic groups in Wallachia, and in the Balkans in general, related to their traditional skills? Can this pattern be used for the historicization of the Romani people in Wallachia and in the Balkans in general?

### **5. Dissemination of the results of the project within and outside the research community**

#### **Monograph:**

*The Wallachian gold-washers. Unlocking the golden past of the Rudari woodworkers.* Julieta Rotaru & David Gaunt. Brill Series in Roma Culture and History. Brill: Leiden. (peer-reviewed, accepted for publication in 2022 in Open Access)

#### **Datasets:**

- 2018: MapRom Database, Web-based toolset: Södertörn University © Maprom 2018, <https://maprom.se/>
- 2020: First map of the localities inhabited by the Rudari reconstructed from the 1838 Census and other sources.

Site of the map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1UMbh0u-rKTaBRCZj10vBd5WvrY4uQ-ss&ll=44.91939821418709%2C25.19277666093749&z=8>



- 2022: Part of dataset merged in MOSAIC database, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research <https://censusmosaic.demog.berkeley.edu/>
- 2022: Dataset “Romani Population in rural Wallachia in 1838” on Swedish National Datacenter, Gothenburg (submitted for publication)

### Articles

- [forthcoming]. Julieta Rotaru “‘Fusum fecit, pueros educavit’: patterns of female work-life in different Gypsy socio-professional groups in pre-industrial Wallachia.” In: *Romani Studies. Continuing Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society*, series 5, volume 33, issue 2.
- [forthcoming]. Julieta Rotaru and David Gaunt, “Slavery, socio-economic inequalities and proletarianization in non-agrarian and non-pastoral Gypsy groups in early Nineteenth century Wallachia.” *Atti Convegno din Società Italiana di Demografia Storica, Milan “Standard of living and inequalities. A historical-demographic perspective”*, Bologna.
- 2021. “Considerations about the ‘Turkish Gypsies’ as crypto-Muslims in Wallachia.” In: Kyuchukov, Hristo et al. eds. *Romani History and Culture. Festschrift in Honour of Prof. Dr. Vesselin Popov*. Roma Series 09. München: Lincom Academic Publishers, p. 75-92. ISBN/GTIN 978-3-96939-071-9. <https://lincom-shop.eu/Roma-09-Romani-History-and-Culture/en>
- 2021. David Gaunt and Julieta Rotaru. “The Living Conditions of Gypsy Slaves in Early Nineteenth Century Wallachia.” In: *Romani Studies. Continuing Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society*, series 5, volume 31, issue 1, p. 30-55. <https://doi.org/10.3828/rs.2021.3>
- 2018: “Caught between the Eastern Europe Empires: the case of the alleged “Netot” Roms.” In: *Slovak Ethnology/ Slovensky Narodopis* 66 (4)/2018: 501-522, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava; <https://doi.org/10.26363/SN.2018.4.08> (Open Access)
- 2018: “Aspects of Romani demographics in the 19th century Wallachia.” In: *Baltic Worlds*. XI (2-3): 28-44; <https://balticworlds.com/aspects-of-romani-demographics-in-the-19th-century-wallachia/> (Open Access)

### Textbook:

- [forthcoming]. Julieta Rotaru and David Gaunt, *Gypsy slavery in Danubian Principalities, a socio-economic perspective*. Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield, U.S.A.

### Debates:

- **2022:** “Libres avant tout. Affirmation multiséculaire identitaire des Rudari, orpailleurs de Valachie, tsiganes roumanisés (1388-1838).” In: Séminaire EHESS 2021-2022 “Histoire de la Famille. Pouvoirs et dépendances au sein de la famille: perspectives comparatives (16e-21e siècles)”, Paris: Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales.



- **5 November 2021:** “L’anthroponymie (noms, prénoms, surnoms) chez les Roms de Valachie du XIVème au XIXème siècle”, In: “*UNESCO-International Day of Romani Language*”, Institut National des Langues Orientales, Paris.
- **June 2021:** “Communication interculturelle, condition de la résolution des conflits: les Roms d’après leur Emancipation,” Julieta Rotaru. In: *Conflict Resolutions & Romani Peoples An Interdisciplinary Insight*, Verona: Università di Verona.
- **9 April 2021:** « Indigence in late European slavery. Socio-economic conditions of Gypsy communities in Wallachia in the beginning of the Nineteenth century », Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris.
- **7 October 2021:** “MapRom: Romani population in Romania in the 19th century”, CEDAR Enheten för demografi och åldrandeforskning/Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research, Umeå University.
- **22 March 2021:** “Unlocking the golden past of the Rudari woodworkers in Romania (Methodological remarks).” CBEES, Higher Seminar, Södertörn University.

#### **Popular science publications:**

- [forthcoming]. “L’esclavage des Roms et les études sur l’esclavage. Nécessité d’une démarche comparative,” Julieta Rotaru. *Confluences roumano-françaises. Dialogue et échanges*, Lyon: Consulat générale de Roumanie à Lyon.
- 2021: “MapRom - Mapping the Roma community in nineteenth century Wallachia,” Julieta Rotaru. *Newsletter of the Gypsy Lore Society*, ISSN 1070-4604, Vol. 44, no 3, p. 9-11.
- 2019: “Preliminary results of the MapRom project,” Julieta Rotaru. *Newsletter of The Gypsy Lore Society* Volume 42 Number 3 ISSN 1070-4604.

#### **Five most important conferences (organized and papers presented).**

##### **1. 25-29 July 2022, 19th World Economic History Congress, Paris, France**

**Paper:** Julieta Rotaru “‘Fusum fecit, pueros educavit’: patterns of female work-life in different Gypsy socio-professional groups in pre-industrial Wallachia.”

Link to program: <https://www.wehc2022.org/program-details/female-life-course-and-patterns-of-worklife-balance-in-preindustrial-societies-historical-perspectives-on-womens-paid-and-unpaid-labour>

##### **2. March 2-5, 2022: 4th Conference of the European Society of Historical Demography, Madrid, Spain**

**Paper:** Julieta Rotaru and David Gaunt: “Human–environmental nexus: the Romanian Rudari woodworkers and gold-washers”

Link to program: <https://eshd2022.eshd.eu/programme/>

Link to the abstract: <https://eshd2022madrid.sched.com/event/yI3C/session-48-demographic-and-economic-dynamics>

##### **3. 2-4 December 2021: Triennial Società Italiana di Demografia Storica Conference: “Standard of living and inequalities. A historical-demographic perspective”, Milan, Italy**



**Paper:** Julieta Rotaru and David Gaunt: “Socio-economic conditions and inequalities of Romani communities in Wallachia in the beginning of the Nineteenth century.”

Link to program: <http://www.demostorica.it/>

**Two panels organized and papers presented:**

4. **12-15 April 2023: 14th European Social Science History Conference**, Gothenburg, Sweden,

**Panel** organized by Antoinette Fauve-Chamoux, EHESS, Paris and Julieta Rotaru: “Sibling Position & Marriage Patterns”.

**Paper:** Julieta Rotaru, “Sibling co-residents and marriage patterns in the Gypsy population of the Nineteenth century Wallachia.”

5. **26-29 June: European Society of Historical Demography (ESHD) Conference:** Pécs, Hungary; <https://demografia.hu/en/news/15-news-more/190-eshd-conference-2019-pecs>.

**Panel** organized by David Gaunt and Julieta Rotaru, “Demographic and Social Trends and Patterns of Eastern European Romani population in 19th and beginning of 20th century.”

**Paper:** Julieta Rotaru: “A census-like based demographic and social analysis of the Romani slaves in Wallachia in the first half of the 19th century.”

**Paper:** David Gaunt and Ryan Dias: “Preliminary results of the MapRom project”.