

November 21, 2023  
La Model. Memory site  
C/ d'Entença, 155 - Barcelona



2nd International Conference  
**SUBALTERN MEMORIES**

# EUROPEAN SINTI & ROMA

**EUROM**  
EUROPEAN  
OBSERVATORY  
ON MEMORIES

  
*Fundació Solidaritat*  
UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

  
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Barcelona 



Organised by the European Observatory on Memories (EUROM) of the Solidarity Foundation of the University of Barcelona and the Institute Novact of Nonviolence, with the support of Barcelona City Council and co-founded by the European Union's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV).

The European Observatory on Memories (EUROM) is a transnational network of institutions and organisations committed to the analysis and promotion of public policies of memory. It reflects on the recent history of the struggle for democracy and freedom in Europe, advocating for a plurality of memories and contributing to a more solidarity-based, tolerant and inclusive society. The EUROM has been led by the University of Barcelona's Solidarity Foundation since 2012. It is supported by the European Commission throughout the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme. [www.europeanmemories.net](http://www.europeanmemories.net)

The NOVACT Institute of Nonviolence is a non-profit association dedicated to the transformation of conflicts and the construction of peace. For more than 20 years, we have worked to build positive peace through nonviolence in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Our commitment is to drive change in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, creating transformative policies that promote peace, defend civic space, generate human security, ecological justice, gender justice, digital justice and prevent abuses of companies, with the aim of ensuring that the decisions that affect the future of the communities can be taken by the communities themselves. [www.novact.org](http://www.novact.org)

Since 2022, the EUROM hosts an annual conference dedicated to the debate about the subaltern memories, a concept that refers to those memories related to certain social groups that have systematically suffered from marginalization and silencing. In this second edition, the discussions will focus on the memories of the Roma and Sinti in Europe. These communities have faced centuries of discrimination and persecution.

In 20th-century Europe, the rise to power of Nazism in Germany intensified discriminatory laws against the Sinti and Roma people. The outbreak of the Second World War was a new stage of exclusion of these people in Germany and occupied countries that led to mass deportations to Nazi concentration and extermination camps. It is estimated that nearly 500,000 Sinti and Roma were killed in Europe during that period, in what is known as Porajmos or Samudaripen.

Hate speech towards and the stigmatization of the Sinti and Roma people continued in the following decades. During the Franco dictatorship in Spain, for example, Roma families were subject to measures particularly focused on them and always with the same goal: to make them feel that they were of a lower human category.

Despite all the exercises on memory performed afterwards, the Roma community is still far from receiving recognition and reparation. Even today, structural racism against the Roma, known as anti-Gypsyism or Romaphobia, is one of the causes of their exclusion throughout Europe. Addressing this is essential to ensure that the people of this community can enjoy the same rights as their fellow citizens throughout the European Union.

At this conference we will explore the transformative potential of the exercise of historical and collective memory from different perspectives, either through public policies related to memory, art and culture or civil society initiatives. We will explore different ways to combat hate speech, contribute to reparation and guarantee non-repetition, as well as to create new inclusive opportunities in today's society.

## PROGRAMME

*Simultaneous interpretation will be available (Catalan/Spanish-English)*

**9.30 – 10 a.m.**

Registration

**10.00 a.m.**

Welcome and opening

**10.15 – 11.30 a.m.**

Keynote: *The German Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Victims of National Socialism*



**Jana Mechelhoff-Herezi**, head of the Department of Commemoration of the Nazi Genocide of the European Sinti and Roma of the Memorial Foundation of the Murdered Jews of Europe (Germany)

Moderator: **Oriol López** (EUROM)

**11.30 a.m.**

Coffee break

**12.00 – 1.30 p.m.**

First table: ***Against discrimination: memory to stop Romaphobia.***



**Emir Grbić** (SRRH KALI SARA - Roma Memorial Centre Uštica, Croatia). An experienced political advisor, expert in human and minority rights, he is a member of the Croatian delegation to the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) and a member of the Human Rights Council of the Croatian Government.



**Leif Hagert** (Finnish Roma Association and Roma Youth Forum of Finland). Activist expert in the Roma people, Young European Award of the year in 2021, promoter of the “Roma History Month” campaign.



**Chiara Nencioni** (Universities of Pisa and Florence, Italy). Affiliated to the National Institute for Resistance and Contemporary History Ferruccio Parri, she researches on contemporary history and politics, the Roma people, the Balkans and the Holocaust.

Moderator: **Núria Millan** (Novact)

**1.30 p.m.**

Pause

**4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.**

Screening of the documentary **“Samudaripen. The forgotten Holocaust”** (2015)

Synopsis: August, 2014. A group of young women from the project Roma Voices travel to the former Nazi concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau (Poland) to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the annihilation of the Roma family camp the night of August 2, 1944. During one week, they join a group of over 1,000 Roma youngsters from all over the world. Together, they approach one of the worst atrocities of the recent history of humanity as well as the current reality of Sinti and Roma people, still full of racism and injustice. More than ever proud of their origin, they feel the inner need to understand the reasons for the historic mistreatment of Roma people and adopt a strong commitment to their own future.

Original Version with English subtitles

Duration: 40' 10"

Director: Eva Cruells

Production: Rromane Glasura (Roma Voices)



**5:00 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.**

Second table: ***Memory, anti-Francoism and the struggles against Romaphobia***

**Ricard Valentí Gutiérrez** (Youth Roma Association of Gràcia, Rromanipe's). Roma activist and human rights defender, historian on the field of Roma people and expert on Samudaripen.



**Paqui Perona** (Rromane Glasura and Fundació Surt). Social and feminist referent in the Mina neighborhood (Barcelona), where she works for the economic and community empowerment of women. Member of the board of directors of the Federation of Gypsy Associations of Catalonia (FAGIC)



**Gabriel Gómez i Plana** (Helios Gómez Cultural Association). Son and biographer of the artist and activist Helios Gómez, he is a promoter and defender of the “La Model per la Cultura” project.



Moderator: **Fernanda Zanuzzi** (EUROM)

**6.30 p.m.**

Closing remarks





National Memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe murdered under National Socialism in Berlin. Designed by **Dani Karavan**, the monument opened on October 24, 2012