

GRT INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM - MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2018 - SWANSEA, WALES

GYPSY, ROMA & TRAVELLER
ARTS & CULTURE 2018
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



ROMANI
CULTURAL & ARTS COMPANY

DELEGATE GUIDE

MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2018 – TALIESIN ARTS CENTRE
SWANSEA UNIVERSITY, SINGLETON PARK, SWANSEA SA2 8PZ



Dear Delegate,

The Romani Cultural & Arts Company is proud to welcome you to the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Arts & Culture National Symposium 2018. The event, hosted by Taliesin Arts Centre, will feature artists Dr Daniel Baker and Daniel Turner plus guests including Dr Ethel Brooks, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology at Rutgers University, US and a Tate-TrAIN Transnational Fellow at the University of the Arts London, Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros, professional dancer, dance historian, critic, and Roma scholar of Coventry University, Dr Annabel Tremlett, Senior Lecturer in Social Work in the School of Health Sciences and Social Work at Portsmouth University and Isabel Raabe, co-founder together with Franziska Sauerbrey of the office for cultural affairs in Berlin who are also the instigators and coordinators of the international project RomArchive: Digital Archive of the Roma. This varied range of speakers with their diverse areas of expertise will open debate regarding the contemporary climate of GRT arts and the wider implications for society.

This exciting event takes place in the context of the Gypsy Maker 3 project; the unique RCAC venture that facilitates the development of innovative works by established and emerging artists from GRT backgrounds. The project aims to stimulate dialogue across communities about the ways in which art continues to inform the lives of individuals and communities today. For this third phase of the project the RCAC, in association with g39 gallery, toured an exhibition of newly commissioned works by Daniel Baker, Artur Conka, Shamus McPhee and Billy Kerry titled Shiftwork across venues in Wales.

"The arts bring enjoyment and inspiration to our everyday lives. Taking part in the arts, whether as an individual or a member of a community, helps bind us together in a celebration of our common humanity. But the arts can also help us to understand what is distinctive and important to protect in the differences that define us all. The arts help us to explore and express the things we have in common and our place in the world. A fair-minded and tolerant society values and respects the needs, interests and creativity of everybody. It's a society that's impatient of disadvantage, which embraces equality and celebrates diversity. We want the arts in Wales to include everyone. We know this will make the arts in Wales more vibrant, exciting and relevant. We warmly welcome the contribution that this Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Arts & Culture International Symposium will make to that debate." Nick Capaldi, Chief Executive Arts Council of Wales

"I'm delighted that Taliesin is hosting the 2018 symposium and helping to break down the ignorance and prejudice that persists about GRT communities. Artists are again at the forefront of busting stereotypes and bringing light and understanding to what remains a serious problem in our society"—Sybil Crouch, Head of Cultural Services, Taliesin Arts Centre

'As representatives of an international project that itself seeks to break down prejudices through promoting culture and the arts, we are convinced that Gypsy Maker 3 will play an important role for the recognition and appreciation of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller culture—a culture that is centuries old, most lively and varied to this day.' Isabel Raabe and Franziska Sauerbrey, Project Initiators and Directors of RomArchive – Digital Archive of the Roma

General Information



How to Get Here by Car

The routes to Swansea are very straightforward. You can get directions from: www.maps.google.co.uk. The postcode for Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea University is SA2 8PZ.

Parking

We regret that we are only able to offer Monday-Friday daytime parking for Blue Badge holders. Nearby public parking is available at Brynmill Recreation Ground and the Pub on the Pond. Outside of office hours, visitors are welcome to park in any of the campus car parks. Please see map for details.

Visit us by bike

There are cycle racks outside of Taliesin located next to both the Digital Technium and the Egypt Centre.

Visit us by bus

Bus numbers 2A, 3A, 4, 4A, 8, 14, 41 and 42 serve the university from the city centre Quadrant bus station. In addition, bus numbers 2, 2B and 3 stop on the Mumbles Road near to the University. For further information on the local bus services, see <http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/wales/swwales/home/index.php>

Visit us by train www.nationalrail.co.uk Swansea railway station is 45 minutes' walk from Taliesin

Air Cardiff International Airport is 45 minutes by road from Taliesin. There are regular train and bus links from Bristol, Heathrow, Gatwick and other major UK airports.

Assistance and medical help: If you have any concerns during the day either speak to one of the stewards or someone in the registration area and you will be directed to the relevant staff. First Aid assistance will be available throughout the day.

Security: There are no cloakroom and storage facilities available for delegates.

Mobile Phones: As a courtesy to speakers and other delegates, please ensure that all personal mobile devices are 'on silent' or are switched off during the events.

Evaluation Form: For quality assurance purposes and in order to improve our services, please complete the attached Evaluation Form and place in the relevant box at the registration desk at any point during the day.

Symposium Agenda



9.00 **Registration**

9.30 **Welcome & Official Opening**

Isaac Blake - Director of the Romani Cultural & Arts Company

Sybil Crouch - Head of Cultural Services of Taliesin Arts Centre

9.40 **Key Note Opening Speech**

Professor Martin Stringer - Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Julie James AM - Leader of the House and Chief Whip

10.00 **Panel I: Action**

Participants: Rosamaria Kostic Cisnero, Dr. Daniel Baker, Dr. Ethel Brooks

Chairperson: Dr. Ethel Brooks

11.30 **Break and networking opportunity**

11.45 **Panel II: Image**

Participants: Dr. Annabel Tremlett, Daniel Turner, Isabel Raabe,

Chairperson: Dr. Ethel Brooks

13.45 **Event Summary & Close**

Sybil Crouch, with Isaac Blake

The Romani Cultural & Arts Company is grateful for the support of the following:

Arts Council of Wales

Art Central

Big Lottery Fund

g39

Heritage Lottery Fund

RomArchive

Taliesin Arts Centre

Tŷ Pawb

Welsh Government

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Daniel Baker

Daniel Baker is a Romani Gypsy born in Kent, United Kingdom in 1961. An artist, curator and theorist, he holds a PhD on the subject of Gypsy aesthetics from the Royal College of Art, London. Baker acted as exhibitor and advisor to the first and second Roma Pavilions: *Paradise Lost* and *Call the Witness* at the 52nd and 54th Venice Biennales respectively. Baker's work examines the role of art in the enactment of social agency through an eclectic practice that interrogates contemporary art discourse and its social implications via the reconfiguration of elements of the Roma aesthetic. Publications include *We Roma: A Critical Reader in Contemporary Art* (2013) and *Ex Libris* (2009).

Solo exhibitions include: *Daniel Baker*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow, Scotland, 2017; *100 thousand blows*, Gallery8, Budapest, Hungary, 2015; *Dark Glass*, Galerie Kai Dikhas, Berlin, Germany, 2015. Group exhibitions include: *Shiftwork*, g39, Cardiff, Wales, 2018; *The Travellers*, KUMU Art Museum of Estonia, Tallinn, Estonia, 2017; *(Re-) Conceptualizing Roma Resistance*, Hellerau, Dresden, Germany, 2016. Bibliography includes: *Nomadic Sensibility*, in *Posthuman Glossary*, eds. Rosi Braidotti and Maria Hlavajova, Bloomsbury Academic, London, UK, 2018; *Shifting Visibilities: the social implications of a Roma aesthetic*, in *IDENTITIES, Romaphobia and the Media*. Vol. 4 issue 6, 2017; *The Travellers: Voyage and Migration in New Art from Central and Eastern Europe*, Magdalena Moskalewicz, Lugmik, Tallinn, Estonia, 2017. Baker's work is exhibited internationally and can be found in collections worldwide. Former Chair of the Gypsy Council (2006–2009). He lives and works in London. www.danielbaker.net

Isaac Blake - Director - Romani Cultural & Arts Company, Cardiff

Isaac Blake is a Romani Gypsy and has worked as a professional dancer and choreographer. He is currently Director of the **Romani Cultural & Arts Company** in Cardiff, UK, which is funded by the the Arts Council of Wales, the Big Lottery, Heritage Lottery Fund, and works with Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities across the country.

From 2000 – 2003, he studied Dance Theatre at the Laban Centre London (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance). Whilst at Laban, Isaac worked with numerous artists and companies including Adventures in Motions Pictures (AMP), DV8 and Ballet Rambert. After graduating from Laban, Isaac furthered his studies in New York at Martha Graham School. He then went on to choreograph performances at the Wales Millennium Centre and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, where he continues to teach.

As Executive Director of the Romani Cultural & Arts Company (RCAC), Isaac has developed arts and performance programmes on Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites with young children and adults, worked in schools and colleges, and promoted arts as a medium for empowerment and advocacy throughout Wales with Gypsy, Roma and Travellers. He has engaged widely with non-Gypsy communities to promote dialogue and improve social cohesion. His leadership and management of the RCAC has seen the organisation grow from a small voluntary group to a major third sector

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(NGO) agency that leads the Romani and Traveller field in Wales and is one of the major players in Romani and Traveller advocacy and empowerment in the UK.

Dr. Ethel Brooks

Ethel Brooks is Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology at Rutgers University, where she has taught since 2000. Since 2012, she has been a Tate-TrAIN Transnational Fellow at the University of the Arts London. She was Undergraduate Director of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers (2017-2018; 2012-2014) and the US-UK Fulbright Distinguished Chair at the University of the Arts London (2011-2012). Dr. Brooks has been awarded numerous grants and fellowships, including from the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council as a co-Principal Investigator (PI) for the project, "Performing Romani Identities," with Professor Jane Collins. She is currently co-PI on the project, *Divergent Fates: Travelling Circus People in Europe under National Socialism*.

Brooks is a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and Chair of the Board of the European Roma Rights Centre. Brooks is a member of the Bavarlipe Academy of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture. She has served as a Public Member of the United States Delegation to the Human Dimension Implementation meetings of the OSCE and was a speaker in the General Assembly hall for the United Nations Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony; she is currently a member of the US Delegation to the IHRA and its Roma Genocide Working Group. Brooks is a member of the Alliance for the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture. Since 2007, she is the co-Director of the annual *Feminist Critical Analysis* course in Dubrovnik, Croatia and co-directed the 2013 Summer Campus in Romani Studies in Lyon, France. She is the Director of the 2015 and Co-Director of the 2016-2018 Summer University course on Romani Studies at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

Dr. Brooks serves on several advisory boards, including the USC Shoah Foundation VHA External Advisory Committee, the RomArchive, or the Digitales Archiv und Forum der Sinti und Roma in Europa (AT), IPAK Centar (Cultures, Politics, Identities), the Rutgers British Studies Center and the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis. She is a member of editorial boards of a number of academic journals.

Brooks is the author of [*Unraveling the Garment Industry: Transnational Organizing and Women's Work*](#), winner of the 2010 Outstanding Book from the Global Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Brooks edited, wrote the text, and curated the photos for the Autograph/ABP Newspaper *Roma: Europe is Ours* (2013). Brooks worked with Daniel Baker on "A Roma Model/The Cosmopolitan Other" for the 2013 *FormerWest* in Berlin. Brooks is a co-founder of the *Kakka Collective* and the PRISaC Network, with whom she did the performance piece "Romani Triangle Walking Tour" in London (2015). She had a photographic project in the exhibition *Family Lineups* in Bucharest, and a discussion with Delaine LeBas, "Sister Outsider, after Essays and Speeches by

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Audre Lorde," (2013) for *Feminist Critical Analysis* in Dubrovnik. Brooks is the editor of the 2012 Comparative Symposium on "Romani Feminisms" for *Signs*, and co-editor of the 2007 special issue of *WSQ* on "Activisms;" Brooks has contributed articles to a number of books and journals, including *We Roma, White Zinfandel, Nevi Sara Kali* and *International Working Class History, Sweatshop USA* and *Sociology Confronts the Holocaust* stand op-eds for the *Guardian, the EU Observer* and *Der Standard*.. Her current book project focuses on histories of encampment and Romani and refugee futures.

Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros

Rosamaria is a Dance Historian and Critic, Roma Scholar, Flamenco Historian and Peace Activist who graduated from the UW-Madison Dance Program and went on to complete her Master's in Dance History and Criticism from UNM-Albuquerque. Rosamaria is a professional dancer, choreographer, curator and qualified teacher, who has lived and danced in various parts of the world and collaborated with many Flamenco greats and other leaders in the Dance field. She has taught throughout Europe and the US at places like UW-Madison, UIUC, Boston Conservatory, Brown University and at various other places in Germany, Spain and Turkey. She is a dance writer who makes regular contributions to *Bachtrack Magazine* and *Flamenco News* having also danced with *Protein Dance Company* in the UK.

Rosamaria is involved in various EU funded projects which aim to make education accessible to vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities and sits on various Boards: Roma Coventry Project (UK), Drom Kotar Mestipen Roma Women's Association (Spain), Roma Futures (UK) and the Early Dance Circle (UK). At the moment, she is a Senior Research Assistant at Coventry University's Centre for Dance based in the UK. She is inspired by interdisciplinary work and collaborative projects and modes of working. The combination of the practical and the theoretical underpins all of her research interests and she is guided by bringing people together. Working with vulnerable groups and using the arts and education to engage communities and participate in projects that lead to a more inclusive society, is what underpins her academic research. Cultural heritage and digital technologies is also a key part of her current practice.

Rosa is also an independent artist, dancer, curator and teacher who has organized various festivals and exhibitions. Her dance films have screened in the UK, US, Colombia, Brazil, Greece, Mexico and Germany and her latest documentary won best documentary from the UK in 2016. She has started her own production company, RosaSenCis Film Production Co., [www.rosasencis.org] which is recently finished the Society for Dance Research Oral History Project. Rosamaria also collaborates closely with the University of Barcelona's Centre for Research on Theories and Practices for Overcoming Inequalities (CREA) and is continuing her PhD in Sociology.

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Julie James, Leader of the House and Chief Whip

Julie James was born in Swansea but spent significant portions of her youth living around the world with her family. Julie spent her early career in London and then moved back to Swansea with her husband to raise their three children and to be closer to her family. Julie is a committed green campaigner, environmentalist and a keen swimmer and skier.

Until she was elected as Assembly Member for Swansea West, Julie was a leading environmental and constitutional lawyer. Prior to this, she was assistant chief executive at Swansea Council. She spent most of her legal career in local government, working as a policy lawyer with the London Borough of Camden before returning to Swansea to work for West Glamorgan County Council and then the City and County of Swansea.

Since being elected Julie sat on the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee, Enterprise and Business Committee and Environment and Sustainability Committee. Julie published the 'Influencing the Modernisation of EU Procurement Policy' Report as Chair of the Enterprise and Business Committee's Procurement Task and Finish Group. Julie also sat as Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee's Common Fisheries Policy Task and Finished Group.

Julie James was appointed Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology in September 2014. In May 2016 Julie was appointed as Minister for Skills and Science. Julie was appointed Leader of the House and Chief Whip on 3 November 2017.

Isabel Raabe

Isabel Raabe studied stage dance and, later on, cultural management in Berlin.

As a cultural producer she worked for various institutions in Berlin's cultural scene, inter alia as a project coordinator for "Büro Kopernikus – German Polish Cultural Projects", an initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation. In 2007, she and Franziska Sauerbrey co-founded the independent *büro für kulturelle angelegenheiten* ("office for cultural affairs") to curate and produce their own cultural projects, mostly in an international context. They developed exhibitions, multimedia performances, and theatre festivals with, e.g., artists from Kosovo, Moldova and Ecuador. First artistic involvements with and analyses of the cultures of Romani people followed. In 2012, the Central Council for German Sinti and Roma Central commissioned the *büro für kulturelle angelegenheiten* to oversee the programme accompanying the inauguration of the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe Murdered under the National Socialist Regime. In 2014, Isabel Raabe and Franziska Sauerbrey produced an audio book about Zoni Weisz's life ("[Ein gutes Leben. Zoni Weisz erzählt seine Biografie](#)"; Berlin: Vebrecherverlag, 2016).

After extensive research on the artistic and cultural self-presentation of the Romani people, Isabel Raabe and Franziska Sauerbrey initiated the project "RomArchive – Digital Archive of the Roma". RomArchive is devised as an international digital archive for the arts of Roma – a constantly growing collection of art of all types, complemented by historical documents and scholarly texts. The project is mainly supported by the German Federal Cultural Foundation. It will be launched in January 2019 and will subsequently be transferred to an international Roma NGO.

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Professor Martin Stringer, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Professor Martin Stringer was born in Tanzania, educated in South Yorkshire and undertook his first degree in Social Anthropology at the University of Manchester. Following a year in Tanzania he completed his PhD at the University of Manchester focusing on the way in which congregations understand their worship, and spent five years doing church related community work in Manchester's eastern inner-city estates.

In 1993, Professor Stringer took up a lectureship in the sociology and anthropology of religion at Birmingham University. During his 23 years at the University of Birmingham Professor Stringer was Head of Theology and Religion, Head of the College of Arts and Law and Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor with responsibility for the University's strategies for employability, valuing teaching, equality and diversity, Africa and community relations.

In 2015, Professor Stringer joined Swansea University with responsibility for Arts, Humanities and Social Science as well as Teaching and Learning across the University. Responsibilities within Strategic Development include leading on the University's STEP4Excellence programme around student engagement, and the Go Beyond programme that is focused on curriculum development. External Relations roles include interactions with HEFCW, Welsh Government, the HEA, WISERD, South West Wales Reaching Wider Partnership as well as other key external stakeholders.

Professor Stringer's own research is based on the anthropological methods of ethnography in detailed and extended studies of real life situations as a means to make sense of religious behaviour.

Dr. Annabel Tremlett

Dr Annabel Tremlett is a Senior Lecturer in Social Work in the School of Health Sciences and Social Work, teaching on the undergraduate and Masters programme along with supervising PhD and Professional Doctorate students.

My research focuses on the interface between public and local representations of minority groups in Europe with a particular concern for Roma (sometimes known as Gypsy or Traveller) people and post-EU accession migrants. My PhD research focused on how best to attend and access the voices of children in Hungary using ethnographic approach (spending 15 months carrying out fieldwork) and creative methodologies such as photo elicitation (self-representations). Overall, my research focuses on the everyday, which means in-depth research with a focus on the art of listening and paying attention to how people's self-representations differ from public representations, such as those used by the media or policy. I look at what this interface between the public and local representations means for the way people integrate into their communities and how they perceive their position in society. Hence my published work falls into three threads:

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(i) Questioning how we can best access and attend to the voice of the child and other research participants in research and practice.

(ii) Understanding the power of visual representations (e.g. in the media, social policy and popular culture) and how research can challenge misleading images.

(iii) Focusing on the way language (and communication) is used in the research process and how that affect the way we (researchers) present that research and therefore affect the way we represent our research participants.

My research is regularly published in leading journals such as *The Sociological Review*, *Ethnicities*, *Identities* and *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Daniel Turner

Dan Turner is an artist and educator from London, a Romani Gypsy born in Kent. Dan trained at St Martins School of Art where he completed a BA Hons in Fine Art (Sculpture).

With increasing numbers of the Romani community now static, Dan's work explores the end of traveling as a way of life. His art is concerned with changes in group identity and social cohesion. It uses traditional iconic objects to explore themes of transaction, scrutinising interactions between Romani and mainstream cultures. He reflects on how these objects affect Traveller cultural experience within mainstream society, and how these experiences feed into collective memory.

Recently Dan has worked with the Wellcome Trust Reading Room and Chisenhale Art Place on collaborative projects which examine traditionally perceived ideas Romani of luck and healing. In these projects, Dan worked with small diverse groups to explore the use of good luck objects and their use in modern society.

In future work Dan will continue to explore the importance of caravans and wagons. He is interested in how they embody attitudes concerning Traveller life and their continued meaning as the legacy of Romani iconography and symbolism.