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Editorial

Teresa Sordé-Martí¹

1) Research Group on Migration & Ethnic Minorities (GEDIME) of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

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Editorial

Teresa Sordé-Martí

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

It is our pleasure to present the first number of the International Journal of Roma Studies (IJRS), a stimulating project that sees the light after years of dialogue and preparation with the support of an outstanding Editorial Team, based on different institutions and with promising careers within the field.

The IJRS is aimed at the publication of excellent research conducted on Roma constituencies from all around the world. IJRS welcomes empirically based research articles, broader reviews as well as theoretical reflections that contribute to the advancement of the existing scientific knowledge on Roma from a wide range of disciplines. Another of the mission of the journal is to serve as a platform to publish cutting edge and innovative research in the field of Romani Studies that contribute to addressing the needs and problems affecting Roma groups, while moving beyond exclusionary perspectives that objectify and essentialize Roma people. We welcome contributions of works that are conducted from a wide range of methodologies: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. We are delighted of launching IJRS which will specially value those works conducted from a research methodologies which promote Roma participation.

We are pleased to publish in this first issue of the IJRS four articles that cover a wide range of topics. All the papers are wide in their scope and diverse in their methodology. The first article is entitled “Nothing New Under the Sun: Romany Gypsies, Travelers and their entwined historical relationships with London working-class communities,” authored by Prof. Margaret Greenfields from Buckinghamshire New University, and Prof. David Smith from Anglia Ruskin University. The article reviews from a historical approach, those policy enactments and urban developments that have impacted on accommodation options to the British Romany, Gypsies

and Travelers. Greenfields and Smith deepen in exploring the working-class neighborhoods of the Gypsy and Travelers within London communities, and the social relationships established between nomadic and settled, marginalized populations. She reflects on how intensified gentrification offers new challenges to the resilience of working-class culture in London, thus impacting on Gypsies and Travelers' amongst other long-established communities.

The second article authored by Jerusalem Amador, from the Universitat de Barcelona. Dr. Amador has been recently awarded with the Extraordinary Prize for her PhD (2017). With the article “¿Quién dijo sumisas? El pentecostalismo y la mujer gitana luchando contra la violencia de género” [Who said ‘submissive’? Pentecostalism and Roma women struggling against gender violence], Jelen Amador brings in to *IJRS* some of the results of her doctoral work and with it, reflections about the role of Pentecostalism on shaping and transforming gender relations within the Roma community, as well as preventing gender violence. Specifically, this manuscript explores how Pentecostalism and the participation of Roma people in the Iglesia Evangélica de Filadelfia (Evangelical Church of Philadelphia) is contributing to contest violence and specifically, gender violence within the Roma community.

The third article gathered comes by the hand of two authors based at the University of Columbia and the *University of Pennsylvania*, Cristina Dragomir and Mara Zafiu. In their work “‘Vulnerable populations’ Access to health care: a study of the nomadic ‘Gypsy’ Narikuravars in Tamil Nadu, India. Analyzing the nomadic Narikuravar community,” know as the Gypsy from Tamil Nadu, India, authors explore how the poor, marginalized, those most vulnerable and also nomadic, access to health insurance in India. Against what other have said, Dragomir and Zaviu evidence that the Narikuravar women actively seek health care access and were eager to use government provided health insurance schemes.

Finally, the last article of the Issue is authored by Tania Garcia, Dolores Santiago and Manuel García, “Diseñando e implementando políticas públicas con y para la comunidad gitana. El impacto social del Plan Integral del Pueblo gitano en Catalunya [Designing and implementing public policies with and for the Roma community. The social impact of the Comprehensive Plan for the Roma people in Catalonia]. This work is focused on discussing which are key principles that have enabled the impact of the Comprehensive

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Plan for the Roma people in Catalonia. One of the key contributions of this work is evidencing the importance of the participation of Roma constituencies in all the process of design and implementation of the plan, on achieving international recognition, as well as on its efficient development and implementation.

I am convinced that the IJRS will contribute with excellent works to broaden the field of Roma studies and enrich the debates, providing substantive evidence to inform policies and actions that would impact positively the lives of Roma constituencies worldwide.