



Katalin Bársony

is a documentary filmmaker and Executive Director of the Budapest-based Romedia Foundation, which creates films, social media campaigns and other tools to promote Roma self-representation. Ms. Barsony created and directed *Mundi Romani, the World through Roma Eyes*, an award-winning half-hour TV newsmagazine broadcast monthly on Duna TV from 2007 to 2011. *Mundi Romani's* 42 episodes were shot in 28 countries and tell the stories of Roma communities around the world through their own voices. Under Ms. Barsony's direction, Romedia Foundation created *Buvero*, a two-week residential summer camp for young Roma woman that focuses on media training. Each year 20 girls from three countries learn how to make films and produce new media content. Alumna of the program stay connected through the Romedia's online media campaign *I'm a Roma Woman*. In 2012, Romedia organized the Budapest leg of *Requiem for Auschwitz* to commemorate Roma victims of Nazi terror. The program included a concert, a film festival and an art exhibition. Ms. Barsony is currently at work on two feature length documentary films. *3Brothers* tells the story of a German Roma family torn apart by forced "repatriation" to Kosovo. The film is in post-production. *Jazz Way Out*, a co-production with HBO Europe, follows a Roma composer and pianist who has created a new style of music that fuses traditional rhythms with contemporary Jazz. Ms. Barsony is completing her doctoral dissertation in communications and behavioral science at Corvinus University in Budapest.

The stereotype:

"The Gypsy Girl"



Rodrigo Balogh

is a Hungarian film and theater director, drama pedagogue and actor. He is the founder and art director of the Independent Theater Hungary, devoted to the production and management of high quality artistic productions with Roma and interethnic topics. Some of his notable projects are Peer Gynt's Children (2012-13; International Ibsen Scholarship winner for a drama project), Feather Picking (2012; Maria Soos prize on the 4th International Romani Film Fest for script, film and stage play) and Mirad - A Boy from Bosnia (2007; UNHCR Refugee Prize for theater). He was also awarded the Junior Prima Prize of Hungarian Education. Balogh is a Member of the International Romani Film Commission (2013, Berlin).

The stereotype:

“The gangster”



Mária Bogdan

is a media theorist. Her main research interest is related to media representation and the modern forms of racism. She has been doing her PhD at the Corvinus University of Budapest, focusing on the media representation of the Roma in Hungary. She is a Fulbright Alumna and has done part of her PhD research for one year at the Columbia University in the City of New York. She made her graduate studies at the University of Pécs and at the Academy of Drama and Film in Budapest. During her studies she was a scholar of the Romaversitas Foundation where her tutor was Miklós Jancsó film director. She works at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and before that she was an assistant lecturer at the University of Pécs. Beside the scientific field she had been working as a journalist since her student years at different television programs and radio stations (e.g. Roma Magazin, Radio C, RadioTilos). She is the member of the Fulbright Hungary Association, board member of the European Roma Cultural Foundation and the head of the board of the Romaversitas Foundation. She was awarded by the Silver Cross of Merit of the Republic of Hungary (civil division) in 2010. She is of Roma origin (Boyash).

The stereotype:

“The Gipsy fortuneteller”



Bettina Kállai

was born in a Roma musician family. She is a descendant of JanosBihari the great 19th Century composer. Playing music is a tradition in her family, she played the violin when she was little just like her father. Her parents always encouraged her to study and raised her to become a strong and independent Roma woman. She grew up in Belgium, where she obtained her Bachelor's degree as a Communication Specialist. She had the chance to work on different communications and cultural projects in Brussels where she gained a lot of experience. Her biggest passion is music and fashion and she already worked for the marketing departments of the famous fashion brands Chanel and Louis Vuitton. She keeps in contact with a wide network of talented – and mainly Roma – musicians, and she is the organizer of numerous music events, concerts and individual performances. The last event she managed was a modern classical music concert for young adults at the Conservatory of Brussels. When she moved back to Budapest a few years ago with the objective of spending more time with her family she found employment at an international financial company, where she is now the country specialist for Belgium and Luxembourg, using her fluency in three languages. Besides her regular daily work she continues to work for the musician community, as a music producer, event manager and volunteer.

The stereotype:

“The Gipsy Maffia-leader’s mistress / Goddess Káli”



Ágnes Daróczi

is a minority researcher, journalist. She has been actively involved in promoting Roma rights in Hungary, and at European level. Organizer of the very first Roma Fine Art Exhibition's, founder of the first Roma TV-Magazin, beginner of the Roma Folklore movement, etc. She published many articles and films. Roma activists relentlessly pursuing the goal of "emancipating" her people, which she promotes through the Human Rights Days, Roma Holocaust Remembrance Days and other public events. Her co-edited book: Janos Barsony-Agnes Daroczi: The fate of Roma during Holocaust (Idebate Press, 2008), Vranamamimesel (Grandma Vrana'sferythales, Sulinova, 2005, Budapest, Historiaromani – 6 part teaching film series about history of Roma, Romedia Foundation, 2004, Budapest)

The stereotype:

"The old Gypsy woman with the pipe"



Dr Marius Taba

is Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of Roma Education Fund. Marius is a Roma from Romania working with REF from the very beginning; currently he is coordinating and managing the Bulgarian, Hungarian and Macedonian portfolio. He has extensive experience on education systems from various countries from the region and he has working experience with academics and practitioners from the Balkans and Central Europe. He has worked for more than 5 years for Romani CRISS- Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies in Romania, where he was implementing projects dealing with education and public awareness campaigns. Marius Taba is founder and Board member of the Romanian Students Organization from Hungary. Dr. Taba graduated with an MA in Public Administration, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest. In 2011 he obtained a PhD in Sociology from the University of Bucharest.

The stereotype:

„The pig-eating, barbarianGipsy”



Dr. Rita Izsák

is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues appointed by the Human Rights Council as of 1st August 2011. She is independent from any government or organization and serves in her individual capacity. Rita Izsák holds a Masters in Law diploma from the PéterPázmány Catholic University, Budapest, Hungary. Inspired by her own experiences of prejudice and discrimination - her father's family was forcibly moved under post-war population transfers from Czechoslovakia (present day Slovakia) to Hungary due to their Hungarian ethnicity in 1947 and her mother is of Romani origin - she has been working on human and minority rights since her early university years. She started her career in the Budapest-based European Roma Rights Center and later became a Consultant with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Open Society Institute, the Roma Education Fund, and the Association for Women's Rights in Development. During 2008-2009, she worked in Somalia with the Somaliland National Youth Organization (seconded by the London-based Progressio) and gave human rights lectures at Hargeisa Law University. Later she moved to Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina to join the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe as a Human Rights Officer. During 2010-2011, she was the Chief of Staff of the Social Inclusion State Secretariat of the Hungarian Ministry of Justice and Public Administration and was responsible for several key priorities under Hungary's EU Presidency, including the establishment of the European Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. In 2011, until the birth of her first daughter, MsIzsák was the President and CEO of the Tom Lantos Institute (TLI) based in Budapest, Hungary, a research institute and think-tank with a particular focus on human rights and minority rights.

The stereotype:

“The Gipsy nursing mother, Gipsy Madonna”



Clara Farkas

has grown up in a multicultural environment: a Columbian mother, a Hungarian father and a French education made her speak the three respective languages at an early age. Clara's father made his living out of music: as a cimbalom player, he is the leader of a successful Gipsy band and has taught his daughter to play the piano and the cello. After passing her final exam at the French School of Budapest with a specialization in literature, Clara started a master degree in International Relations at the Social Science Department of ELTE, followed by a bachelor degree in Film Theory and History at the Faculty of Art of ELTE. After the French Embassy of Hungary, Ms. Farkas worked as a creative assistant at the Hungarian National Film Fund. Besides these, she took part in many projects concerning especially hip hop related subcultural initiatives and Roma activism and also started producing videos and short films. Nowadays she works as a free-lancer production manager.

The stereotype:

“The Gipsy migrant sex-worker (victim of human trafficking)”



Dr Iulius Rostas

is Visiting Lecturer at the Corvinus University of Budapest and an Open Society Fellow. Iulius obtained his PhD from Babes Bolyai University of Cluj and holds an MA in Human Rights from Central European University. He served in several institutions: as an expert for the Government of Romania, as an international advocacy coordinator with the European Roma Rights Center, as program manager within the Roma Participation Program, Deputy Director and Director of Roma Initiatives Office with the Open Society Institute, as a researcher with the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities. Dr. Rostas consulted the World Bank, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Roma Education Fund, the Open Society Institute and other institutions. Dr. Rostas is the editor of the book „Ten Years After: A History of Roma School Desegregation in Central and Eastern Europe” (Budapest: CEU Press & REF, 2012) and is the author of „Social Inclusion or Exclusion: the Rights of Persons Living with HIV in the Republic of Moldova: (Chisinau: Cartier Publishing House, 2011). He had also published articles and book chapters regarding policies towards Roma, Roma identity, Romani movement and school segregation.

The stereotype:

“The Gipsy king”



Zeljko Jovanovic

is director of the Roma Initiatives Office, at Open Society Foundations, Budapest which aims to strengthen the voices and leadership of Roma as well as to improve public policies and services provided to Roma and other people. Before joining the Open Society Foundations in 2006, Jovanovic worked for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on assisting the Serbian government to implement EU-funded municipal projects for Roma and on introducing Roma coordinators and teachers' assistants at the local level. He also managed an international project on the participation of Roma in local policy-making and elections. Previously, he worked with Catholic Relief Services on humanitarian aid for refugees and the poor, and on grassroots advocacy and project-management training for Roma organizations in Serbia.

Of Roma ethnic background, Jovanovic comes from a family that, through a belief in self-determination and education, moved from extreme poverty to the middle class. He has an academic background in law and has completed the Harvard University Executive Education program on Strategic Management for Leaders of Non-Governmental Organizations. In secondary school and during his university studies, Jovanovic was involved in protests against the Milosevic regime. During this period, he also volunteered as a journalist for a Roma radio magazine broadcasted on B92, the only independent broadcaster in Serbia at the time, and was an activist for a Roma political party.

The stereotype:

“The Gipsy musician”



Tímea Junghaus

is an art historian and contemporary art curator of Roma/Sinti origin. Since 2010 she is the research fellow of the Institute for Art History, at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. She is author and co-editor of the comprehensive publication on European Roma visual art, *Meet Your Neighbours – Contemporary Roma Art from Europe* (2006). In recognition of her curatorial works –including the founding and exhibitions of the Budapest based JánosBalázs Gallery (2004), the Roma component of the Hidden Holocaust- exhibition in the Budapest Kunsthalle (2004), and the First Roma Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Contemporary Art Biennale (2007) – Junghaus received the Kairos - European Cultural Price from the Alfred ToepferStiftung F.V.S in 2008. Junghaus is currently completing her PhD studies at the Doctoral School for Philosophy at the EötvösLóránd University, Budapest. She has researched and published extensively on the conjunctions of modern and contemporary art with critical theory, with particular reference to issues of cultural difference, colonialism, and minority representation. Junghaus is the founding director of the European Roma Cultural Foundation an independent foundation, which established Gallery8 - Roma Contemporary Art Space, the winner of the 2014 Katalizátor Award and the 2014 Otto Pankok Prize awarded by the For Roma Foundation of German writer and Literary Nobel Laureate, Günter Grass.

The stereotype:

“The Gipsy ghetto-resident”