

# **CULTURE BEYOND BORDERS: THE ROMA CONTRIBUTION**

*Thompson Room | Barker Center | 12 Quincy St., Cambridge, MA 02138*

Free and open to the public. Seating is first-come, first-served.

---

**Sunday, April 9, 2017, 6:30pm | Room 110, Barker Center**

***I Declare at My Own Risk***

**Alina Serban**, Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London, U.K.

The conference will debut Alina Şerban's highly acclaimed examination of conflicting identities, social discrimination, and the redemptive force of self-expression. The performance, inspired by the autobiographical story of the actress, a Romanian from the Roma minority, follows the dilemmas, challenges and revelations that accompany a girl from a poverty-stricken Roma community in Bucharest on her sinuous way to social emancipation as a performer trained in some of the best artistic schools in the world

*“A young Roma actress tells the tale of her painful journey, looking the public straight in the eyes...far from the flamboyant guitars of Gypsy kings... this solo performance becomes a troubling metaphor for all forgotten children.” - Judith Sibony, Le Monde*

**Introductory Remarks** | Dan Dimancescu, Boston's Honorary Consul of Romania

---

**Monday, April 10, 2017 | 9:00am-5:15pm | Room 110, Barker Center**

**9:00am**

**Welcome Address**

**Jennifer Leaning**, Director, Harvard FXB Center

**9:10am**

**Introductory Remarks** | *The Roma Contribution in Global Context*

**Margareta Matache**, Director of the Roma Program and Instructor, Harvard FXB Center

**9:20am**

**Keynote Panel:** *Word, Image, Thought: Creating the Romani Other*

Chair | **Bettina Kaibach**, Visiting scholar, Davis Center for Russian & Eurasian Studies, Harvard University

Discussant | **Homi Bhabha**, Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities, Harvard University

Keynote Speaker | **Kenneth Lee**, Author, *Orientalism and Gypsylorism*

- 10:15am**      **Panel One:** *The Romani Contribution to World Ideas, Arts, and Culture*
- Chair & Discussant | **Jacqueline Bhabha**, Director of Research, Harvard FXB Center
- Presenter | **Andrzej Mirga**, Chair, Roma Education Fund
- Presenter | **Alexandra Oprea**, Lawyer, Columbia University
- Presenter | **Herbert Heuss**, Senior Advisor, Central Council of German Sinti and Roma
- Presenter | **Aidan McGarry**, Author, *Romaphobia*
- 
- 11:45pm**      **Lunch | Book Launch:** *Realizing Roma Rights*
- Chair | **Jennifer Leaning**, Director, Harvard FXB Center
- Presenter | **Jacqueline Bhabha**, Director of Research, Harvard FXB Center
- Presenter | **Erika Schlager**, Contributor, *Realizing Roma Rights*
- Presenter | **Andrzej Mirga**, Chair, Roma Education Fund
- 
- 1:00pm**      **Panel Two:** *Roma Identity in Scholarship*
- Chair | **Betty Blythe**, Professor, Boston College
- Presenter | **Jelena Jovanovic**, Coordinator for Alumni Network and Outreach, Roma Access Programs, Central European University
- Presenter | **Cristina-Ioana Dragomir**, Assistant Professor of Political Science at SUNY Oswego; CASI 2016-2017 non-resident Visiting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania
- Presenter | **Kristin Raeesi**, Activist & Performance Artist, Researcher at WWAMI School of Medical Education, University of Alaska
- Presenter | **Veselina Lambrev**, Instructor and Program Advisor, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Presenter | **Petre Breazu**, PhD Candidate on Media and Communication, Orebro University in Sweden
- 
- 2:15pm**      **Panel Three:** *The Production of Roma Culture in Musical and Visual Arts*
- Chair | **Kay Kaufman Shelemay**, G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music and Professor of African and African American Studies, Harvard University
- Discussant | **Urs Heftrich**, Chair of Slavic Literatures, University of Heidelberg
- Presenter | **Alina Serban**, Actress, Romania

Presenter | **Carol Silverman**, Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Folklore,  
University of Oregon

Presenter | **Erika Lakatos**, Photographer, Painter, Singer

Presenter | **Radmila Mladenova**, PhD Candidate, The Slavic Institute, Heidelberg  
University

**3:30pm**      **Coffee Break**

**3:45pm**      **Panel Four: *Self and Other: Literary Representations (and Misrepresentations) of Roma***

Chair & Discussant | **Martin Puchner**, Professor of Drama and of English and  
Comparative Literature, Harvard University

Presenter | **Ismael Cortés Gómez**, PhD Candidate, Peace Studies, Instituto  
Interuniversitario de Desarrollo Social y Paz

Presenter | **Ronald Lee**, Author, *The Living Fire*

Presenter | **Oksana Marafioti**, Author, *American Gypsy: A Memoir*

Presenter | **Jud Nirenberg**, Author, *Johann Trollmann and Romani Resistance to the  
Nazis*

**5:00pm**      **Closing Remarks**  
**Jacqueline Bhabha**, Director of Research, Harvard FXB Center

**6:00pm**      **Cocktail Reception**

The FXB Center for Health and Human Rights hosts the Fifth Annual Roma Conference, **Culture Beyond Borders: The Roma Contribution**, at Harvard University to mark International Roma Day.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Berklee College of Music and the following departments and centers at Harvard University: The Center for European Studies, The Committee on Ethnicity, Migration, Rights, The Mahindra Humanities Center, The Department of Music, The *Provost's* Fund for Interfaculty Collaboration, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.