Historical Linguistic Approaches to Romani

Organizers

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The history of the Romani language – marked by migrations of Romani-speaking communities, multilingual contact and shifting contact situations, dialect differentiation, overlaying, and levelling, and, in some settings, language shift and the development of L2 registers with Romani-derived lexicons – offers important evidence for broader questions in historical linguistics (e.g. Matras 2002, several papers in Matras & Tenser 2020). This workshop aims to bring research on the Romani language, its varieties, and their speech communities into conversation with wider debates on language history and linguistic change.

We invite proposals that use Romani evidence to address both the specific history of the language and general questions about language history, linguistic change, and reconstruction. We welcome descriptive, theoretical, comparative, and interdisciplinary contributions from all areas of historical linguistics. Papers may focus on any Romani variety or group of varieties as well as on L2 registers with Romani-derived lexicons. Studies combining linguistic analysis with historical, philological, sociolinguistic, corpus-based, and digital methods are also welcome.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- phonological, grammatical, and lexical reconstruction of Proto-Romani;
- Indo-Aryan heritage of Romani, position of (early) Proto-Romani within Indo-Aryan;
- internal and contact-induced innovations in Romani;
- phonological, morphosyntactic, lexical, semantic, and pragmatic changes in Romani;
- Romani dialectology, models of classification, divergent and convergent developments, chronology and diffusion of innovations;
- historical sociolinguistics of Romani, patterns of multilingualism and diglossia, language maintenance and language shift;
- development of Romani ethnolects, Para-Romani varieties, and Romani-derived lexicons;
- historical sources on Romani, questions in Romani philology;
- language development processes in Romani, formation of written registers, and standardisation.

References

Matras, Yaron | Tenser, Anton (eds.) 2020. *The Palgrave handbook of Romani language and linguistics*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

Matras, Yaron. 2002. *Romani: A linguistic introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.