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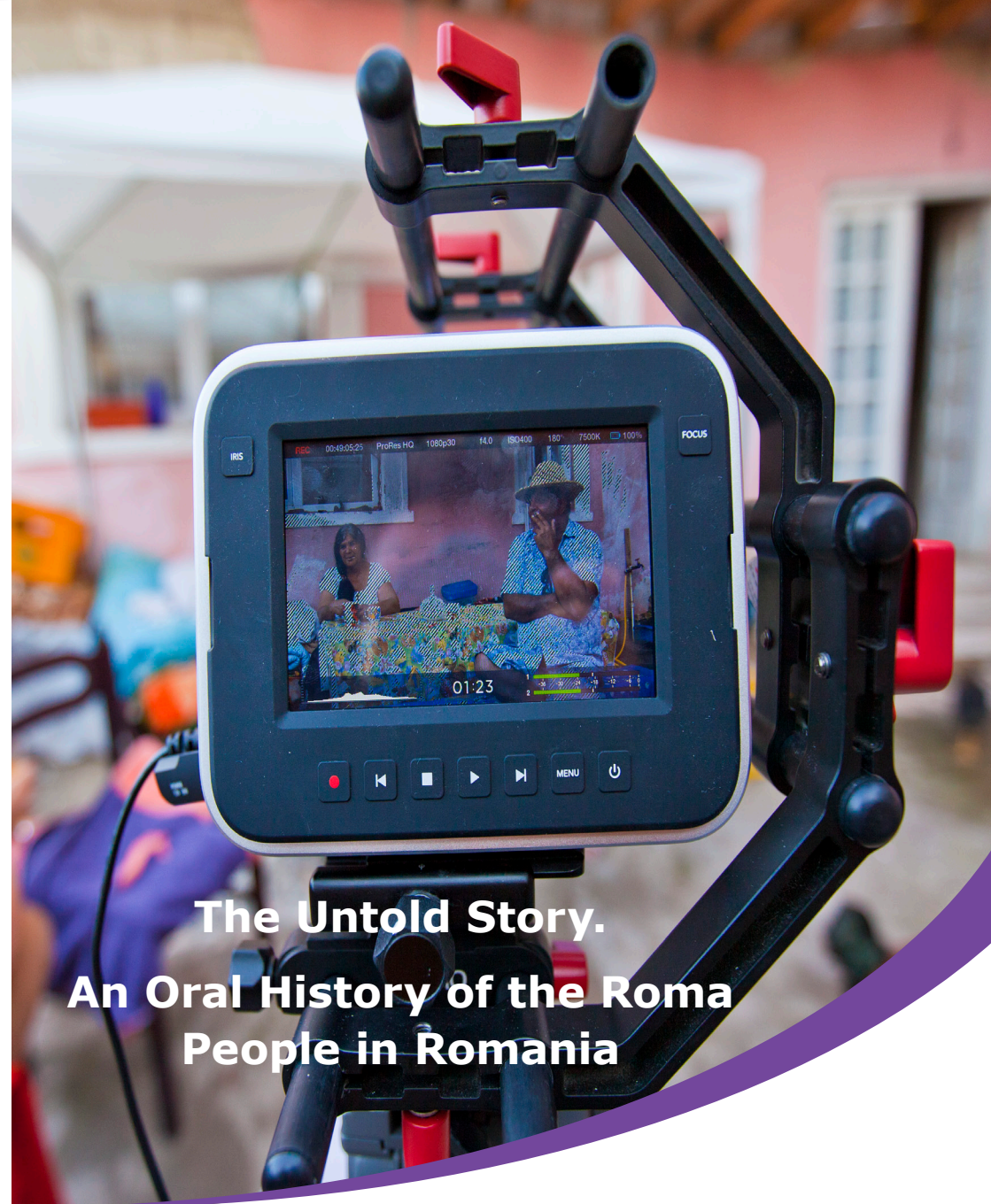
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## **The Untold Story. An Oral History of the Roma People in Romania**



UNIVERSITATEA  
BABEŞ-BOLYAI



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND







## RESUME

Recently, minorities became a fashionable research subject, but Roma people in Romania do not have, in spite of some notable exceptions, their own history. One explanation for their absence from history is that their oral tradition has not generated written evidences, the documents related to Roma's past, available in archives, being about them and never by them. The purpose of the project is to recover and (re)construct their histories by collecting, preserving and interpreting oral testimonies of the Roma, providing a voice for the silent ones. To manage the complexity of such issues, our Romanian-Icelandic team will undertake an interdisciplinary approach that combines oral history research with anthropology, ethnology, sociology, and media studies. The project will attempt to answer questions about the nature of their cultural heritage and explore ways in which the (in)tangible cultural heritage, respectively traditions (e.g. music) can become tools for empowering Roma communities.



**Photo 28.**

Nani Cianghir, Ristea Cianghir,  
interview done by  
Lavinia Costea,  
Șimian, Mehedinți co.,  
19th August 2015.  
Photography: Nicolae Cristea

**Photo 29.**

Victor Rădulescu,  
interview done by  
Lavinia Costea,  
Măguri, Timiș co.,  
23th August 2015.  
Photography: Nicolae Cristea



**Photo 30.**

Elisabeta and Maria Căldărar,  
interview done by Ionela Bogdan,  
Brateiu, Sibiu co.,  
28 noiembrie 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota







**Photo 25.**

Ileana Mihai,  
interview done by  
Lavinia Costea,  
Strehaia, Mehedinți co.,  
9th August 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 26.**

Alexandru Crecea,  
interview done by  
Diana Nistor,  
Bechet, Dolj co.,  
11th August 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 27.**

Ion Dobrin,  
interview done by  
Diana Nistor,  
Craiova, Dolj co.,  
13th August 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota

## Places of memory and the Roma

Between 2014 and the end of 2015 our team visited some of the diverse Roma communities in Romania, managing to conduct more than 400 oral history interviews. We listened and collected stories of grief, sorrow and joy. Oral history widened our understanding and bridged our relationships with the people we had spoken with, establishing connections and often long lasting friendships. During our research we have visited many towns, villages and remote settlements in the following counties:

- Alba: Sebeș, Sebeșel, Răchita, Loman, Căpâlna
- Arad: Căpâlnaș
- Brașov: Cincu, Sâmbăta de Jos, Ucea de Jos, Sâmbăta de Sus
- Cluj: Florești, Bonțida, Pata Rât, Huedin, Călățele, Săcuieu
- Dolj: Bechet, Bistreț, Craiova, Grindeni, Lișteava, Orășani, Ostroveni, Plopșor, Poiana Mare, Radovan, Vîrtop
- Hunedoara: Vulcan
- Iași: Sprânceana
- Mehedinți: Burila Mică, Dudaș-Cerneț, Eșelnița, Fața Cremenii, Orșova, Strehaia, Șimian, Drobeta-Turnu Severin
- Mureș: Beica, Budiu Mic, Ceuașu de Câmpie, Crăciunești, Gheorghe Doja, Hodac, Mihai Viteazu, Petelea, Reghin, Saschiz, Satu Nou, Sighișoara, Șaeș, Șoard, Târgu-Mureș, Tirimia, Uila
- Sălaj: Fildu de Sus, Someș Odorhei
- Sibiu: Merghindeal, Porumbacu de Jos, Arpașu de Jos, Brateiu, Buzd, Ighișu Vechi, Nocrich, Bârghiș, Brădeni, Dealu Frumos, Târnava, Voila
- Timiș: Măguri, Timișoara





**Photo 1.**

Anonymous,  
Sibiu county, 22nd January 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 22.**

Aurica Crețu,  
interview done by  
Sînziana Preda,  
Lișteava, Dolj co.,  
7th August 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota

**Photo 23.**

Nelu and Maria Mihai,  
interview done by  
Petre Petcuț,  
Ostroveni, Dolj co.,  
6th August 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 24.**

„Satellite dish hut”,  
Lișteava, Dolj co.,  
7th August 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota







**Photo 19.**

Grancea Traian,  
interview done by  
Sînziana Preda,  
Voila, Sibiu co., 8th July 2015.  
Photography: Nicolae Cristea



**Photo 2.**

Iacob Stoica,  
interview done by Diana Nistor,  
Sebeș, Alba co., 7th February 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota

**Photo 20.**

Dumitru Panait,  
interview done by  
Sînziana Preda,  
Craiova, Dolj co.,  
4th August 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 3.**

Ana Fagyura, Aranka Olah, Samoil Olah, Ghéza Dilo,  
interviews done by Ionuț Costea, Adrian Boda and Nicolae Cristea,  
Sighișoara, Mureș co., 24th April 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota

**Photo 21.**

Gheorghe Dumitrașcu,  
interview done by  
Diana Nistor,  
Grindeni, Dolj co.,  
5th August 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota







**Photo 4.**

Ioan Lăcătușu and Rupî Dîlo,  
interviews done by Ionuț Costea and Diana Nistor,  
Șoard, Mureș co., 25th April 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 5.**

Lucreția Lăcătuș,  
interview done by Nicolae Cristea,  
Șoard, Mureș co., 25th April 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 16.**

Ioan Adam,  
interview done by  
Lavinia Costea,  
Tirimia, Mureș co.,  
1st July 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota

**Photo 17.**

Ida Gabriș,  
interview done by  
Ionela Bogdan and Diana Nistor,  
Satu Nou, Mureș co.,  
1st July 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 18.**

Ștefan Burcea,  
interview done by  
Ionela Bogdan and Diana Nistor,  
Crăciunești, Mureș co.,  
2nd July 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota







**Photo 13.**

Anton and Paraschiva Căldărar,  
interview done by  
Valentin Orga,  
Cluj-Napoca, Cluj co.,  
24th June 2015.  
Photography: Nicolae Cristea

**Photo 14.**

Clara Feri,  
interview done by  
Ionela Bogdan,  
Gheorghe Doja, Mureș co.,  
30th June 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 15.**

Ecaterina Gabor,  
interview done by  
Ionela Bogdan,  
Tirimia, Mureș co.,  
30 June 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 6.**

„Elfărn” Tower,  
Cincu, Brașov co., 3rd June 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota





**Photo 7.**

Nicolae Cercea, Elisabeta Căldărar,  
interview done by Ionela Bogdan,  
Cincu, Braşov co.,  
3rd June 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 10.**

Maria Căldărar,  
interview done by  
Diana Nistor,  
Ucea de Jos, Braşov co.,  
5th June 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota

**Photo 8.**

Elisabeta Căldărar,  
interview done by  
Sînziana Preda,  
Porumbacu de Jos, Sibiu co.,  
5th June 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 11.**

Anonymous,  
interview done by  
Sînziana Preda,  
Braşov co.,  
7th June 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 9.**

Elisabeta Căldărar,  
interview done by  
Lavinia Costea, Ionela Bogdan  
and Diana Nistor,  
Porumbacu de Jos, Sibiu co.,  
5th June 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota



**Photo 12.**

Iova Căldărar, Elisabeta  
Căldărar and Veta Căldărar,  
interviews done by  
Ionela Bogdan and Diana Nistor,  
Merghindeal, Sibiu co.,  
21st June 2015.  
Photography: Cristian Bota