

Report on the activities of the Minor Media/Culture Research Centre in 2018

The Minor Media/Culture Research Centre, founded in 2017, has its roots in the analytical tradition of the ELTE Department of Media and Communication on minority representation, and more specifically in the active participation of the founder of the research centre in the organisation of the Roma Visual Lab, which has been running as a course and open film programme since 2011. A further, more direct antecedent is the talent care programme that grew out of the latter, running between 2015-2017. (The research conducted in the framework of this programme resulted in a conference and a book, which can be downloaded in Hungarian from the Department of Media and Communication's website: <http://media.elte.hu/letoltheto-tanszeki-kiadvanyok/>)

In 2018, two students became active members of the research centre: Krisztina Varga, a PhD student, is researching the topic of Roma cultural institutionalisation, specifically the Roma museum, while Balázs Cseke, a Master's student in Communication and Media Studies, is researching the international and domestic practice of participatory video. The research started by the Centre has been further expanded. We have prepared a preserving process, during which we started digitizing the Hungarian Roma cultural heritage in spring 2019 (the VHS collection of Ágnes Daróczi and János Bársony, which contains media material made by the cultural organizer–historian duo).

In spring 2018, with the support of a Visegrad Partnership grant, two members of the Roma Visual Lab visited Prague (Iringó Horváth, András Müllner) to study the presentation of Czech film in a museum setting with a strong museum pedagogical emphasis, and with a historical and technical focus. (Národní filmové muzeum/National Film Museum, Prague <http://www.nafilm.org/en/>). One of the results of this cooperation is the English version of the Roma Visual Lab's methodological handbook written by András Müllner and Andrea Pócsik: *Roma Visual Lab Report 2011-2016* <http://www.romakepmuhely.hu/english-romani/>.

As it can be seen from the above, the flagship of the Minor Media/Culture Research Centre is currently the Roma Visual Lab. The film programme, which has been organised every Spring semester since 2011, was also held in spring 2018 with the usual 6+1 events. The six scheduled events featured presentations and analyses of Roma images from national and international archives, while the one extra-programme event on International Roma Day was organised simultaneously in three locations, Szeged, Pécs and Budapest. The latter were organised in cooperation with the Parforum Cultural Association and the film screened was resulted from a participatory action research project led by Parforum, with the involvement of the communities concerned in the respective locations. (The film is called *Remake_Bodony*, and the invited guests were the actors and makers of the film, the local participatory action researchers, and the audience included representatives of local communities, such as students from schools.) The programme (and the report) can be found on the website: <http://www.romakepmuhely.hu/romakep-muhely-8/>. The programme was supported by the National Cultural Fund.

The collaboration with NaFiLM will continue in 2019. In the first round, another visit to view the second exhibition in Prague and to meet with curator partners; in the second round, we plan to organise an exhibition in Hungary on participatory image-making in the same Visegrad framework in 2020. This planned exhibition would grow organically out of the Roma Visual Lab programme in spring 2019. The theme of the project is MyStreet community filmmaking in European, Asian and Hungarian contexts. The 6+2 programme will take place in different cultural venues in Budapest. The first of the two extra programmes was a workshop at Trafó with representatives from participatory video workshops in Hungary; the second will take place on International Roma Day, a tradition of the

Romakép Visual Lab that goes back several years. Although the 2019 programme will be part of the report on the Centre's work in 2019, it is important to stress that the preparation of the programme took place in autumn 2018.

The preparation of the programme was not only realised in the research conducted in the Master's course in autumn 2018, as well as in film selection and contact with expert guests, but also in a study trip, in which two members of the research centre, Balázs Cseke and András Müllner, participated. The aim was to study the Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival in the autumn of 2018, in which Balázs Cseke participated with the help of an ELTE student grant and András Müllner with the help of an Erasmus+ research grant. In addition to attending screenings, workshops and masterclasses at the festival, the study trip included two interviews, one with Dominika Andrasko, the Czech organizer of MyStreet, and the other with Zoya Laktionova, the winner of the Ukrainian MyStreet (one of her works is included in the Roma Visual Lab's 2019 season opening programme).

In connection with the festival in Jihlava, we should add that we were also partners in a festival in Hungary in the framework of a double seminar. Specifically, we collaborated with the Verzió International Human Rights Film Festival, which resulted in film reviews, synopses, and critiques, some of which were published on the Verzió blog. In addition, with the support of a grant from the ELTE Faculty of Humanities, Student Self Government, we were present at the festival with students and reported on its events.

András Müllner,

head of the Minor Media/Culture Research Centre

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