

***Nomads and Criminals:
The “Gypsy” Struggle for Social Justice in India and Romania***

BY

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**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2016 ♦ 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at CASI
3600 Market Street, Suite 560 (5th floor) ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19104**



CRISTINA-IOANA DRAGOMIR is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at SUNY Oswego. Previously, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany. She is the recipient of the 2007 Ted Robinson Memorial Award by the South West Political Science Association, Bucerius Ph.D. Fellowship “Settling in Motion,” and The Global Network Grant from Open Society Institute. Her work is in the field of social justice, subaltern studies, immigration and citizenship. Currently, she examines how the traveling Roma or “Gypsies” organize access to social justice and their mobilization against racial and ethnic discrimination. She received her Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research in Politics in 2014.

About the Lecture:

Nomadic people like the “Gypsies,” also known as the Roma (particularly those who are not settled) have always challenged the political and social status quo, raising questions about who they are and where they come from. They instill curiosity, fascination, and fear within settled communities, which often lead to discrimination and racism. As a result, people identified as “Gypsies”/Roma are often relocated to the margins of societies, with little or no (traditional) access to economic, social, and political resources. In this lecture, Dr. Dragomir will present comparative and qualitative fieldwork conducted over the past three years with two “Gypsy”/Roma communities, one situated in Transylvania, Romania and the other in Tamil Nadu, India—outlining their struggle for social justice and exploring their acknowledgement and/or denial of discrimination.

About CASI

Founded in 1992, the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) at Penn is the first research institution in the U.S. dedicated to the study of contemporary India. The Center’s key goals are to nurture a new generation of scholars across disciplines and to provide a forum for dialogue among the academic, business, and foreign policy communities.

