

SESSION 5 (Film)

Petr Nuska

Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia

***Hopa lide: An Ethnomusicological Documentary* on (and with) Slovak Romani Musicians**

Who are Romani musicians? Members of a mysterious minority gatekeeping the carnival atmosphere, endowed with musical blood and a special talent to make people sing and dance? Or is that just one big myth? The documentary *Hopa lide* tackles this question unorthodoxly. Each of its three chapters depicts a collaboration between a Czech ethnomusicologist and Slovak Romani musicians in making music videos. The contact moving camera takes us through humorous scenes from both the stages and backstages of Romani performances but also through intimate moments uncovering musicians' everyday struggles and secret dreams. The film challenges several preconceptions about Romani music, musicianship, and Roma in general. Out of the film's three complementary yet independent chapters, the screening at the symposium features only its second part.

Bio

Petr Nuska is a visual ethnomusicologist and ethnographic filmmaker. His recently completed doctoral research at Durham University concerned the musicianship of the Roma in Slovakia. The film *Hopa lide* is his feature-length directorial documentary debut based on long-term research in this locality.