

**ESRC Seminar Series  
Seminar Three:**

**Representation of Gypsies and Travellers in political and media discourse – a conflict resolution approach**

**12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013  
The House of Lords, Westminster, UK**

Day One: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June

3.30 – 5.00pm Afternoon tea served in the Attlee Room, House of Lords.  
Registration of delegates

5.15pm Welcome from Jo Richardson (Committee Room 4a, House of Lords)

This is the final seminar, in a series of three, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. The aim of this particular seminar is to focus on the challenges and conflict in the representation of Gypsies and Travellers in political and media debate. The first two seminars focused on (1) conflict in planning and accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and (2) challenges in accessing public services such as health and education.

In this seminar we want to focus on understanding the dominant, circular and self-sustaining political and media narrative surrounding Gypsy and Traveller issues in an attempt to suggest ways in which the negative discourse might be destabilised and replaced with a more realistic and representative story. The practical impact of changing the story should be more balanced representation in national and local political and media debate leading to more measured responses to planning applications, housing and planning strategies and to better public services.

5.20pm Key note speeches

*Are the alternatives worse: parliamentary democracy and Gypsies and Travellers?*

- Baroness Janet Whitaker, APPG Gypsy, Roma, Travellers

*Media coverage: how the reptiles search for scapegoats to demonise*

- Professor Malcolm Dean, Guardian Newspaper & Nuffield College, Oxford

*When there is more than one story: Adaptive leadership and public conversations*

- Professor Kimberly Leary, Harvard University Programme on Negotiation

*Breaking the Ice: Respectful Dialogue in Times of Change*

- Dr John Sturrock, QC, Chief Executive Core Solutions

There will be time in this session for questions and debate.

7.00pm **END of day one**

Day Two – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June : Committee Room 3a

- 10.00am Welcome to Day 2  
The impact of political and media discourse: control and conflict – Dr Jo Richardson
- 10.15am Political representation of Gypsies and Travellers
- National political discourse on Gypsies and Travellers:
    - Lord Eric Avebury, Baroness Janet Whitaker, Andrew George MP on the role and aims of the APPG
  - Gypsy women in local politics:
    - Candy Sheridan on her experience as a district councillor in North Norfolk
    - Siobhan Spencer MBE on her role as a parish councillor in Derbyshire
  - Insights on the Local Government Association Gypsy/Traveller training programme to inform local councillors:
    - Sally Woodbury, Councillor Ric Pallister OBE and Richard Bennett
- 12.00 – 12.45 LUNCH  
*Refreshments are not available in the committee room, delegates may like to take lunch in the café in Parliament and you will be escorted to the venue.*
- 12.45pm Media representation of Gypsies and Travellers
- Challenging the stereotypes:
    - Dr Andrew Ryder reflecting on the response to ‘Stamp on the Camps’
    - Matthew Brindley, with Tina Purcell, on ITMB’s media watch
  - Creating more representative news and images:
    - Damian LeBas, editor of Travellers Times
    - Simon Evans, Open Productions on his own film and photograph work
    - Katharine Quarmby, journalist and author
- 2.30pm SHORT BREAK
- 2.45pm Changing the story of political and media discourse
- Next steps – dealing with the impact of negative political and media discourse on Gypsies and Travellers. How might we learn from conflict resolution and negotiation practices?
    - Professor David Laws
    - Professor Kimberlyn Leary
- 4.00pm Conclusions – Jo Richardson
- 4.15pm **ENDS**