ESRC Seminar Series
Seminar Three

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

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The House of Lords, Westminster, London, UK
Overview

• Third and final seminar in a series funded by the ESRC.

• Participants at this seminar are from range of Universities in UK. They have also come from Harvard University and the University of Amsterdam, Gypsy & Traveller communities, politicians, print and broadcast media professionals.
Programme: Day 1

15.30: *Afternoon tea in the Attlee Room*
17.15: Welcome (Committee Room 4A)
17.20: Key note speeches from:
• Baroness Janet Whitaker
• Professor Malcolm Dean
• Professor Kimberlyn Leary
• Dr John Sturrock QC
Followed by question and answer session
19.00: *Close*
Programme: Day 2 (Committee Room 3)

10.00: The impact of political and media discourse; control and conflict.
10.15: Political Representation of Gypsies and Travellers
12.00 – 12.45: Lunch – guests will be escorted to the café off Westminster Hall.
12.45: Media Representation of Gypsies and Travellers
14.30: Short break
14.45: Changing the story of political and media discourse
16.00: Conclusions
16.15: Close
Seminar Aims

• The key aim for this final seminar in the series is to discuss the ways in which Gypsies and Travellers are (mis)represented in political and media discourse; with a view to changing the story.

• Some details we already know - facts about Gypsies and Travellers can be distorted in order to sell newspapers or political parties, but we need to reflect on the examples where this has had severe impact. We will also compare with other groups, for example asylum seekers and disabled people to see what lessons can be learned.

• Looking to the future though, we must think about how to change the story – through leadership, change and conflict resolution techniques.

• The presentations in the seminar, therefore, reflect a mixture of ideas and issues, from specific Gypsy and Traveller examples to ideas on leadership and change. This idea of using change and conflict resolution links back to my JRF study (2007) and is a central theme of this seminar series.
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