

## “VWI goes to the Romano Centro”

Wednesday, 23 October 2019, 6.00 pm  
Romano Centro  
Hofmannsthalgasse 2, Lokal 2  
1030 Vienna

### György MAJTÉNYI

#### Transnational Memory of the Roma Holocaust/Porajmos



© Gyula Nyári

Roma history can be illustrated either in the context of the history of a given country or – breaking somewhat from national histories – in the context of a unified Roma history. This latter approach might be called the ‘transnational’ depiction of Roma history. Recent decades have seen the publication of several Roma history books that describe the history of Roma communities from ethnogenesis to the present in the framework of a unified narrative in a ‘transnationalised’ space (partly independent from the histories of nation states). Discussions and working through collective traumas might also play a role in the construction of a unified Roma history and in the strengthening of a Roma national/ethnic identity.

This presentation examines the actors and stages in the process through which the Roma Holocaust/Porajmos became a ‘site of memory’ within the Roma minority communities living in different nation states and later the role of this ‘site of memory’ in the making of a unified Roma history and in the transnational process of Roma national identity building.

#### Commented by Gerhard Baumgartner

*György Majtényi* is a social historian and professor at Károly Eszterházy University in Eger. Between 2000 and 2011, he was head of department of the National Archives of Hungary. He received his doctorate in 2004 from Eötvös Loránd University with a thesis on social mobility in post-1945 Hungary and his habilitation in 2010. His current research interests include Roma social history, the history of East-Central Europe in the twentieth century, intellectual history, and historiography.

*Gerhard Baumgartner* is a historian and Director of the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DÖW).