

Simina Dragoş (she/her)

Research Fellow, Queens' College, University of Cambridge

Affiliated Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge

Education

Doctor of Philosophy

2020-2025

University of Cambridge (Fitzwilliam College)

ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership, full scholarship (Award reference: ES/J500033/1)

Doctoral Supervisors: Prof Joanne Dillabough & Dr Ali Meghji

Social Science Research Methods Programme: qualitative & quantitative methods training

New Frontiers in Romani Studies: Insights from Critical Race Theory, Central European University

June 2021

- Two week intensive theoretical course in Critical Race Theory and Critical Romani Studies
- Group project: [A Resource Guide to Bringing Critical Romani Studies into Anti-Racist Pedagogy](#)
- Fully funded participation from Central European University

MPhil in Education – Pass with Distinction

2019-2020

University of Cambridge (Fitzwilliam College)

- Dissertation: *State experiments and the temporalized figure of 'the Roma' in the Romanian landscape: the (necro)politics of knowledge production and Roma representations between 1919 and 1945*
- Training on qualitative & quantitative research methods

BA (Hons) Education – First Class

2016-2019

University of Cambridge (Emmanuel College)

Awards and grants

Junior Research Fellowship - Queens' College	≈ £100,000 – stipend, benefits, research expenses	2024-2027
Grant for research lab from CRASSH Cambridge - with Dr Ali Meghji	£20,000	2024-2026
Rittner Niederste Hollenberg Fund	£350	2023
Fitzwilliam College Senior Scholarship	Honorary	2023
Fitzwilliam Society Trust Research Fund	£369	2022
Fitzwilliam College Graduate Scholarship	£1460	2022
Fitzwilliam College Senior Scholarship	£350	2022
Nomination Student-led Teaching Award	Honorary	2022
The Mrs Malatibai and Sulabha Joshi Prize	£175	2020
Fitzwilliam College Senior Scholarship	£350	2020
ESRC DTP Studentship	≈ £60,000 – stipend & research expenses	2020-2023
Sudbury-Hardyman Prize	£300	2019
Ash Senior Scholarship	£300	2018
Bursary for Excellence - Rotary	€3,000	2016

Publications

Peer reviewed journal articles

Singh, Y., **Dragoş, S.**, Oddy, J., Sriprakash, A., & Walker, S. (2025). A case for embedding structural analyses of race and racism in comparative and international education. *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03057925.2025.2544508>

Dragoş, S. (2024). Towards a Decolonial and Anti-Racist Analysis of the Nation-State and Nationalism. *Sociology Compass*, 18: e70002. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.70002>

Dragoş, S. & Hughson, T. A. (2024). Furthering racial liberalism in UK higher education: The populist construction of the 'free speech crisis'. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.13119>

Hughson, T. A. & **Dragoş, S.** (2024). The United Kingdom's 'free speech crisis': From the fringes to a mainstream political project 2010-2023. *Current Sociology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00113921241264559>

Dragoş, S. (2022). Romani students' responses to Antigypsyist schooling in a segregated school in Romania. *Critical Romani Studies*, 4(2), 122-140. <https://doi.org/10.29098/crs.v4i2.95>

Book Reviews

Dragoş, S. (2023). Review of 'Learning Whiteness: Education and the Settler Colonial State' by Arathi Sriprakash, Sophie Rudolph and Jessica Gerrard. *British Journal of Educational Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00071005.2023.2171342>

Dragoş, S. (2021). Review of Peter Berta's 'Materializing Difference: Consumer Culture, Politics, and Ethnicity among Romanian Roma'. *Ethnic Studies Review*: 44 (1): 99-103.

Invited Presentations

Leipzig University, Romanian Language Programme (May 2025)

Paper title: *Contextualising the rise of the far right in present-day Romania*

The Senate of Romania (April 2025)

Panel on the rise of the far right in Romania organised by Senator Irineu Darău

Centre of Figurational Research, Warsaw University (March 2025)

Paper title: [*Violent nationalist politics: A historical approach against tropes of 'resurgence' and pathological leaders*](#)

Wolfson College, University of Cambridge (April 2024)

Paper title: *Understanding anti-Roma discrimination as anti-Roma racism*

- Event: [The Place of Antigypsyism within Debates on Racism](#)

UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies (March 2024)

Paper title: [The far-right visual grammar in present-day Romania: the case of the map of Greater Romania](#)

Centre for Historical Culture - Erasmus University Rotterdam (June 2023)

Paper title: [Examining hegemonic historical culture as a mechanism of racialisation: an inquiry into state education in post-1989 Romania](#)

Hannah Arendt Centre for Politics and Humanities - Bard College (February 2023)

Paper title: [*Nation, Race and Coloniality of Memory in Romania: An examination of History and Historical Culture*](#)

European Centre for Minority Issues: 'Bullying and microaggressions against Roma children in schools' (November 2022)

Paper title: *Romani students' responses to Antigypsyist schooling in a segregated school in Romania*

- Panel with practitioners, activists and scholars regarding Roma education

BSA Decolonial Transformations Study Group Seminar Series (April 2021)

Presentation title: *Racialized modernity, modern violence & states of exception*

- Panel: [*Thinking Europe Otherwise*](#) with Prof Manuela Boatcă & Dr Ali Meghji (chair)

Conference Papers

Memory Studies Association (MSA) Annual Conference (July 2025)

Paper title: *Mnemonic justice by report: the constraint of the radical political imagination in post-1989 Romania*

Paper title: *Geopolitics & 'difficult histories': curricula*

British Sociological Association (BSA) Annual Conference (April 2025)

Paper title: *Towards a theory of the role of collective memory in struggles over hegemony*

Social Figurations: Long-term processes, present concerns and future directions (December 2024)

Paper title: *Reframing nationalism as a longue durée process*

British Association For Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) Annual Conference (April 2024)

Paper title: *Why Europeanization fails to lead to inclusive remembrance: the post-1989 national History curriculum in Romania*

Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism (ASEN) Annual Conference (April 2024)

Paper title: *On the coloniality of national(ist) collective memory in Romania*

British Journal of Sociology Inaugural Conference (April 2024)

Paper title: *Nationalism as a racialised system of representation: insights from racial formation theory*

European Consortium for Political Research (September 2023)

Paper title: *Ontological Insecurity and the Populist "Free Speech Crisis" in the UK: Tracing the Mainstreaming of a Discourse* with Taylor Hughson

Memory Studies Association (MSA) Annual Conference (July 2023)

Paper title: *State Education as a Site of Coloniality of Memory in post-1989 Romania*

International Sociological Association (ISA) World Congress of Sociology (June 2023)

Paper title: *The conditions under which nationalism slips into authoritarianism: lessons from the Romanian context*

Paper title: *The Populist 'Free Speech Crisis' in UK Higher Education* co-authored with Taylor Hughson

British Sociological Association (BSA) Annual Conference (April 2023)

Paper title: *The centrality of racism and coloniality to nationalism: lessons from the case of Romania*

Paper title: *Nascent Authoritarianism and the Populist "Free Speech Crisis" in the UK: The Importance of the Sociology of Education* co-authored with Taylor Hughson

Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Conference (February 2023)

Paper title: *The post-Brexit 'free speech movement', nation-building and emergency politics in UK Higher Education*
co-authored with Taylor Hughson

"The Place of Memory and the Memory of Place" International Conference (June 2022)

Paper title: *"On our ancient land": the representational racial politics of 'homeland' and territory captured through maps used for educational purposes*

"Recording Romani Voices, Documenting Romani Lives" International Conference (June 2022)

Paper title: *The politics, dilemmas and paradoxes of working with Roma Holocaust testimonies from publicly available sources*

British Sociological Association (BSA) Annual Conference (April 2021)

Paper title: *Confronting violent modernities in the archive: the promise of politics in genealogical research*

- Co-organised panel: *'The Promise of Politics': Research and knowledge-making as a theatre of justice and remembrance* with Prof Joanne Dillabough, Dr Lakshmi Bose & Caroline Breeden

Teaching Experience

Curated reading lists available [here](#).

Course coordinator, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge 2025-2026

- Coordination & administration BA year 3 module *soc 12: Empire, Imperialism, Colonialism*
- Leading a team of lecturers & supervisors (tutors)

Affiliated Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge 2021 - ongoing

- Lectured yearly on BA year 3 module *soc 12: Empire, Imperialism, Colonialism*
- Lecture topics: eugenics & coloniality; settler colonialism & genocide; coloniality & (East) Europe; nationalism; the construction of 'Europe'
- Selected reading materials, supervision questions, exam questions, supported students
- One guest lecture on MPhil research methods course *The Craft of Sociology* (2025-2026)
- One guest lecture on BA year 3 module *soc 11: Sociology of Race* (2023-2024)
- Supervising students on formative essays & coursework (small group teaching)
- Marking & assessment: exam scripts, coursework, undergraduate dissertations

Undergraduate Supervisor (small group teaching) **BA Education**, University of Cambridge 2020 - ongoing

- BA year 1 modules: *Education & Culture; Education & Social Justice*
- BA year 2 modules: *Emergence of Educational Thinking and Systems; Modernity, Globalization and Education; Designing Educational Research*
- BA year 3 modules: *Towards a Transnational Sociology of Education; Changing Landscapes of Childhood and Youth*

Academic skills tutor, Queens' College, University of Cambridge 2024-ongoing

- Supporting students with academic skills including critical reading and note-taking, essay planning, essay writing

Associate Lecturer, Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences, Anglia Ruskin University 2023

- Module: *Sociology of Education*
- Preparing and delivering course material, coaching students with writing skills, marking coursework

Invited Guest Lecture, MA Education, University of Bristol 2023, 2024

- Lecture title: *History's silence and violence: the role of history curricula in perpetuating anti-Roma racism in Romania*; Module: *Education, Inequality and Social Justice*

MPhil Dissertation Supervisor 2023-2024

- co-supervised MPhil dissertation student at the **Department of Sociology**
- dissertation title: *The affective politics of the Orban-regime's populist nationalism in Hungary: reconstituting collective identity along racialised and political lines*

Undergraduate Dissertation Supervisor 2021 - ongoing

- Supervised undergraduate dissertation students at the Department of Sociology and at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge
- Topics supervised: authoritarianism in Eastern Europe; whiteness in elite universities; critical race studies; memory studies; decoloniality in higher education; education inequality in Romania; history of education; media representations of education

Seminar facilitator 'Pathways to research' doctoral programme 2021 - 2022

- Facilitated 12 seminars for first year doctoral students as part of the 'Pathways to research' doctoral programme at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge

Assessor BA Education, University of Cambridge 2022 - ongoing

- Marking exam scripts across BA year 2 & 3 in Education and Sociology

Guest Lecturer BA Education, University of Cambridge 2020

- Lectured on the BA year 3 module *Towards a Transnational Sociology of Education*
- Lecture topics: Authoritarianism, nation-building, knowledge-production, borders and border-making
- Selected reading materials

Academic Leadership

Co-director [Catalysts for Decolonisation Lab](#) (2024-2026)

- Co-founded a research lab and secured funding, initially for 2 years (collaboration with Dr Ali Meghji)
- Leading a team of six
- Organising academic and public events on the history of decolonization and anti-colonialism
- Engaging with local teachers, students and school leaders around rethinking the way the 20th century is taught from the point of view of decolonisation
- My research contribution: integrating Southeast Europe in the study of colonialism, anti-colonialism and decolonization

Convenor *Study group for cultural studies and memory studies* (March - June 2023)

Convenor [Knowledge, Power, Politics research group Work in Progress Seminar](#) (October - December 2022)

Co-Chair Annual Graduate Student Conference: Kaleidoscope 2021

- Co-leading a team of 6 to organise the annual graduate student 'Kaleidoscope' conference at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge
- Securing field-leading keynote speakers Prof Linda Tuhiwai Smith and Prof Kalwant Bhopal
- Liaising with key stakeholders, such as virtual platform engineers & salespeople, keynote speakers, staff at the Faculty of Education
- Co-ordinating the logistical and operational aspects of the conference, including the double blind peer-review process, the creation of the conference schedule and the chairing of the conference panel

Community and Professional Service

Peer review

- British Journal of Sociology
- Sociological Theory
- Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law
- Cambridge Educational Research Journal
- abstracts Comparative and International Education Society annual conference

Admissions Interviews for Education BA - Downing College, Queens' College, University of Cambridge

Blog Editor – [Knowledge Power Politics Research Group](#) (2021-2022)

Outreach: Mentor SHARE Summer School, University of Cambridge (July 2021, July-August 2022)

- Mentored undergraduate students from widening participation backgrounds
- Introduced students to Cambridge academic and social life and to postgraduate studies more generally
- Helped students with application for postgraduate studies: concretize their research idea, write a research proposal, complete the application form

Member [The Politics of Representation Collective](#) (ongoing)

- Co-editing a special issue for the *Identities* journal; see a summary [here](#)

Member [Race, Empire and Education Collective](#) (ongoing)

- Working in a diverse cross-institutional, international team
- Managing social media presence
- Facilitating reading group sessions

Public Scholarship

Podcasts

[Race, Empire and Education Collective In Conversation with Prof Marius Turda](#) (March 2021)

[Education and Knowledge Production](#) - 'Sociology in Dialogue Podcast' (February 2021)

[Romania, racism and resistance in the light of Covid-19](#) - 'Cambridge Quaranchats' (May 2020)

Blog posts

Dragoş, S. (26 May 2020). [Between 'death worlds' and resistance: the Roma in Romania during the Covid-19 crisis](#). *Discover Society*. [last accessed: 01/06/2021]

Other Work Experience

Research Assistant – ESRC Grant [Higher Education, States of Precarity and Conflict in the 'Global North' and 'Global South': UK, Hungary, South Africa, and Turkey](#) (Grant Reference: ES/T015519/1) 2022 – 2023

- Co-lead on the UK case-study, working in a transnational team
- Systematic literature review
- Co-authored two peer reviewed papers (see publications list above)
- Presented at international conferences (see presentations list above)

Consultant [Cambridge ThinkLab](#) - **University of Cambridge Museums Project**

2022

- Consulted on the Cambridge *Collections-Connections-Communities* Strategic Research Initiative regarding equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility in museum collections

- Worked on a cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional team alongside other researchers, museum curators and administrative staff

Policy Intern at the Ministry of National Education of Romania

2017

Department of Higher Education; the Official Internship Programme of the Government of Romania

- Researched and prepared the material for a presentation of the Minister of Education to the Parliament of Romania
- Independently evaluated proposals and drafts of policy documents, such as the National Strategy against Drug Abuse
- Wrote reports about the official stance of the Department regarding legislative proposals from other Government departments

Languages

- Certificate in Advanced English- Grade A/Council of Europe Level C2; fluent
- Goethe-Zertifikat in German- Council of Europe Level C1; fluent
- Basic French
- Native Romanian