



Those Who Count: Expert Practices of Roma Classification

Dr. Mihai Surdu

Chair in Science and Technology Studies, University College Freiburg
8 December 2016, 14 – 16.00, Peterhof R 1

Dr. Surdu's recently published book, *Those Who Count*, scrutinizes the scientific and expert practices of Roma classification and counting, and the politics of Roma-related knowledge production. The book takes a historical perspective on Roma group construction, both as an epistemic object and a policy target, with a focus on the expert discourse of the last two decades. The author argues that knowledge of Roma is neither objective nor disinterested but rather is co-produced by academic and political actors driven by organizational interests with rather narrow disciplinary research traditions, as well as by political manifestos. State-led population censuses, policy surveys, as well as academic and scientific research together craft an essentialized Roma identity. The result of such co-production is a negative Roma public image that circulates well beyond the expert discourse and reinforces stereotypes.

Part of the Science and Technology Studies Colloquium Series
Sponsored by the Chair in Science and Technology Studies | University College Freiburg