



Roma Visual Lab 4

Spring term 2013/2014

ELTE Media Department / DocuArt

Supported by Erste Stiftung Foundation

Structure

In 2014 we started to rebuild the Lab similarly to the 2011 structure: András Müllner who co-tutored the 2013 term and cooperated in the lab work started two courses: a theoretical one connected to the film club topics and a practical one whose attendants took part in the organization of the film club itself. Thus – in one way – we have gained the end of the course development process: it has got fully embedded into the curriculum of ELTE Media Department.

The students partly were recruited during a workshop screening in December where with András Müllner and a few members of previous years we introduced our concept and program organizing practices. We discussed and analyzed together the film chosen for our opening, a Hungarian documentary from the late sixties.

I took the organizational, PR and administrative tasks.

Student involvement was accomplished similarly to but even more intensively than in previous years:

Facebook events were created by Emese Sándor, ELTE Media Studies BA.

Follow-up discussions were recorded by Balázs Nyitrai, ELTE Film Studies BA.

Our website was further developed in Word Press system by Borbála Lukács, ELTE Library and Information Science BA.

Students – members of Roma Visual Lab 4 who worked in a team for each program:

Balogh Kata, Balogh Tamás, Besnyő Janka, Csabai Bernadett, Csernai Dóra, Demeter Fanni, Dömény Gréta, Faniszló Kitty, Fodor Orsolya, Fogl Márton, Fórizs András, Gergely István, Gottfried Júlia, Gyenis Ajándok, Herczeg Hajnalka Anikó, Horváth Bálint, Kálazy Zsuzsanna, Karácsony Nikoletta, Kovács Villő, Leányfalvi Valentina, Nagy Edina, Emese Sándor, Sóky Bernadett, Süle Dániel Péter, Tiszai Orsolya, Varga Gergő, Varga Mónika, Végh Nóra, Vörös Dóra Rebeka, ELTE Media Studies, BA.

Program organizing process

Since the 2014 program had to be prepared and fixed in order to be able to promote it in January, with András Müllner we took this task: after having worked out the concept, we planned and fixed all the events.

The grant from Erste Stiftung Foundation made it possible to pay first time in the history of Roma Visual Lab – not symbolic but correct, market value – fees for project management, extra work for course, Facebook and website development, administrative tasks, honoraria for invited guests and

recordings, screening rights and cinema rent. We also managed to screen and subtitle foreign films, most of them shown first time in Hungary.

It also meant – staying independent from governmental sources – sustainable cultural resistance, continuing struggle for undermining power relations that determine Roma representation in general.

The lab working process consisted of introducing the whole program and its concept to the students. Then they chose a topic/ an event and created teams shared in a Google Drive sheet. András Müllner and I wrote the description of the programs, invited guests and took care of the screening copies. We also collected literature for each subject in order to help the students to prepare for the follow-up discussion. There were two consultations both lead by András Müllner and occasionally myself: one a week before and one right before the beginning of the event. The students took the task very seriously and stood in the gap despite of any professional or human difficulties.

The recordings were uploaded a few days after the event on our Youtube channel so the students who for some reason could not participate were able to follow the program.

#### Program, concept

The program consisted of twelve events as usual which we divided into two parts and conceptualized, organized six by each with András Müllner. The series of films was called “Border crossings” understood in several meanings: generic, thematic and geographic. We were focusing on the filmic devices that constitute a thin borderline between fiction and documentary. Thematically we were analyzing from different angles the tropes connected to wandering, “the road” and migration.

To the follow-up discussions we invited Roma and non Roma film experts, social scientists, journalists, film heroes and had very good feed-backs from them.

#### Press

We had a few important media coverage: one right at the beginning of the film club:

Nóra Balkányi: Community film club about the Roma

<http://vs.hu/kozossegi-filmklub-ciganysagrol-mi-az-0219>

An other in the middle of the term:

Dávid Bajnok: Roma Visual Lab: cultural resistance in DocuArt Cinema: [\[Click here\]](#)

And a long radio interview with András Müllner summing up the events: [\[Click here\]](#)

#### Student assessment – final paper

Apart from participating in the events (with three missed occasions allowed), preparing oneself for the discussion students had to write a final paper analyzing one of the screened films or the whole event. Some of them wrote excellent papers: they were selected and published on the website.

#### “Afterlife”

In May and in June I guest edited a thematical issue of the online journal on film and  
visuality Apertúra. Many authors were referring to the film club or the Intersection I-III. events and  
analyzed them. <http://uj.apertura.hu/>

Part of the grant will be spent on a promotion video selected and edited by Máté Kerényi, a founder  
lab member.

Andrea Pócsik