

*Special issue of Romani Studies 32.2/2022*

***Phonemic segment quantity in Romani: Vowel length  
and consonant gemination***

For more details see the call for papers on the *Romani Studies* website:  
<https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/journals/id/76/?flush=1>

*Guest editor*

Viktor Elšík, Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, Charles University,  
Prague, Czech Republic, viktor.elsik@ff.cuni.cz

*Call for papers: Abstract*

Issue 32.2/2022 of *Romani Studies* aims to explore the linguistic synchrony and diachrony of phonemic segment quantity, i.e. vowel length and/or consonant gemination, in Romani.

There was no phonemic segment quantity in late Proto-Romani, the reconstructed ancestor of all Romani dialects, as Proto-Romani had lost this Middle Indo-Aryan feature. Nevertheless, numerous Romani varieties have newly developed phonemic vowel length and/or phonemic gemination, principally due to dialect-specific contact with languages that possess such phonemic distinctions. Despite numerous dialect-specific descriptions of Romani varieties possessing phonemic segment quantity, few studies have explored in detail the phonotactics of segment quantity or the mechanisms underlying the development of phonemic vowel length or consonant gemination in a particular Romani dialect. Also lacking is a detailed and up to date cross-dialect study of the synchronic distribution of phonemically long vowels and geminates in Romani.

The topics relevant to the general theme of the issue – and, at the same time, parameters of variation between different Romani varieties – include a) long segments in loanwords; b) long segments in pre-contact lexicon; c) development of long segments through sound change and d) through analogical extension; e) synchronic status of segment quantity; f) synchronic distribution of long segments; g) structural types of long segments; h) functional load and structural integration of segment quantity; and i) loss or transformation of segment quantity. (See the full version of call for papers for details.)

This call for papers welcomes both studies that analyze data of a single Romani variety and studies that apply a cross-dialect perspective; both studies that analyze first-hand, fieldwork, data, and studies involving a (re)analysis of data from published sources; studies of both synchronic and diachronic aspects of phonemic segment quantity; both studies focusing on contact-induced changes and studies devoted to internal and universal aspects of the development of phonemic segment quantity; and both descriptive studies and studies aiming to contribute to linguistic theory.

**Final date for abstracts: 15 March 2022**

Only the authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit a full paper. An invitation to submit a full paper does not constitute a commitment for publication; all papers will be subject to anonymous peer review following the submission.

**Final date for papers: 15 May 2022**

Feel free to contact the guest editor with any queries regarding the issue. If you would like to contribute, please send the title of your contribution and an abstract of the paper to [viktor.elsik@ff.cuni.cz](mailto:viktor.elsik@ff.cuni.cz)