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These lectures, open and free to the public, aim to bring science and related areas closer to the society. The lecture tours of each speaker will take place across six cities in India between October 2015 and March 2016 in this series named *Science and Beyond*.



Public Lecture

HISTORY, LANGUAGE, AND STATUS OF THE ROMANI MINORITY

by **YARON MATRAS**



Date and Time

February 2, 2016; 5:30 PM

Venue

C.V. Raman Auditorium, IISER Pune

About the Speaker

Yaron Matras is a linguist specializing in Romani and other languages, including Middle Eastern languages. He is the author of several pioneering studies, including the books *Romani: A Linguistic Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 2002), *Romani in Britain: The Afterlife of a Language* (Edinburgh University Press, 2010), and *A Grammar of Domari* (De Gruyter Mouton, 2012). Matras has coordinated the Romani Project at the University of Manchester since 1999, and in 2010 he launched the Multilingual Manchester project. His other works include the book *Language Contact* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and co-editing a trilogy on *Mixed Languages, Linguistic Areas, and Grammatical Borrowing*.

Abstract of the Lecture

Romani is the only Indo-Aryan language that has been spoken exclusively in Europe since the Middle Ages. The talk traces the emergence of interest in Romani among European researchers and the way in which it provided insights into the early history of the Roma and their migration to Europe. I go on to discuss how the fragmentation of present-day Romani dialects provides a mirror into the social history of the Roma in Europe, and how language plays a role today in lending the Roma recognition as a dispersed ethnic-cultural minority in Europe, a process that is being facilitated by trans-national institutions of governance and is therefore sometimes referred to as the 'Europeanisation' of Roma-related policy and Romani identity.

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