Foreword by the Series Editors

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The book series initiated by the Research Centre on Antigypsyism (RCA) and entitled *Interdisciplinary Studies on Antigypsyism* will offer insights into a young and dynamic research field that calls for different methodological approaches. Both acclaimed scholars and junior researchers will have the opportunity to publish new research findings in English or German. The spectrum is broad: monograph titles will alternate with anthologies and source editions. The aim of the series is to firmly anchor Antigypsyism Studies in the academic discourse and to establish a network of institutions and scholars. In short, it will serve as a source of impetus for further foundation work.

As the first specialised institution of its kind, the RCA has been based at Heidelberg University's Department of History since July 2017, with long-term funding provided by the State of Baden-Württemberg. The researchers working at the Centre examine the diverse manifestations of antigypsyism, which is understood as a specific form of racism against Sinti, Roma and other groups or individuals stigmatised as 'gypsies'. The focus of our research interest is directed towards the mechanisms of antigypsy stereotyping and its different functions in European societies from the early modern period to the present day.

Given the virulence of antigypsy attitudes in the increasingly polarised public space in Europe, the series is intended not only for scholars but for all interested in the topic. It is to be hoped that the published results will also feed into the ongoing anti-discrimination work. We are therefore delighted that we could win Heidelberg University Publishing (heiUP) as a publisher where the book series will be freely accessible

online. We would like to thank the heiUP team for the trusting and fruitful cooperation.

Rooted in European history, antigypsyism still shapes public perceptions of the largest and probably most marginalised minority groups in Europe, the Sinti and Roma. This not only underscores the need for an intensified scientific debate, but also points to the high socio-political relevance of the book series, and we wish it many interested readers.

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