



Museum Dr. Guislain Gent

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# Culture & Mental Health

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PROGRAMME

International Conference

28 & 29 NOVEMBER 2024

OPENING

27.11.2024

evening in Museum Dr Guislain

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DAY 1

28.11.2024

09.00

Registration, coffee and tea on arrival

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**PLENARY 1** Host Bart De Nil, conference chair

10.00

Music performance (throughout the plenary)

10.10

Welcome by Sylvie Dhaene (Iedereen Leest)

10.15

Keynote by Marit Törnqvist

10.55

Keynote by Sulaiman Addonia

11.35

Pause

11.45

Panel about cultural programmes for refugees,  
their importance and challenges with:  
An Vandermeulen (Globe Aroma, Belgium) and Matea  
Šafar (De Vrolijkheid, Netherlands).  
Moderator: Karen Moeskops (Red Star Line Museum)

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12.30

**LUNCH**

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13.30 - 15.15

**SESSIONS**

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15.15

**REFRESHMENTS BREAK**

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15.40 - 17.10

**WORKSHOPS**

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## Place and Language

Chair: Thomas Kador (UCL)

ROOM X

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### **“Feeling at home in the Red Star Line Museum: Homesickness project**

*Nadia Babazia and Winny Ang  
(Red Star Line Museum)*

Homesickness, between comfort & pride. From reflections to practice in the Red Star Line Museum.

### **Gardening to create new assemblages with people, places and, and, and**

*Nele Buyst (University Antwerp)*

We will present TOMAT: a new learning project at ligo (the center for elementary education for adult newcomers in Ghent) that takes students and teachers outside of the school to allow for different types of knowledge and relationships to grow.

### **The Scratch Band: how co-creating songs facilitates representational equality for young refugees**

*Tina Reyneart (Ghent University)*

As research-facilitator, I want to elucidate how my participatory music practice “The Scratch Band” delivered representational equality for young newcomers and hands-on tools for responsive and inclusive facilitation.

### **Opening sensitive conversations through cultural heritage**

*Celien Stevens and Diederick Nuytens*

(TOON, L.D.V. Heritage and care)

In 2023 TOON collected the stories of caretakers who are the children of the first migrant workers in Belgium. They acted as interpreters of language and culture for the medical staff. As such they testify about the impact of migration and the struggle of growing up between two cultures.”

## Lived experience of displacement

Chair: Bart Marius (Dr Guislain Museum)

ROOM X

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### **“Asylum: Refugees and Mental Health during WWI**

*Jozefien De Bock and Christophe Declercq (University Utrecht)*

In this paper, we present the AHRC-funded project Asylum, which seeks to give voice to the mental health struggles of refugees in the past through a case-study of Belgian refugees in British asylums during WWI.

### **Co-collaboration with refugees — photos, videos, and texts**

*Vincen Beeckman & Aimee Kelley*

Vincen Beeckman and Aimee Kelley will present their work on a collaborative arts project with young refugees in Brussels, sharing videos and images and highlighting themes of participation, wellbeing and belonging.

### **“Putting people at the heart of care”**

*Eveline Chevalier (Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP))*

### **Light after loss: The role of creative community engagement in guiding grief over the loss**

*Katya Provornaya (Group for Education in Museums)*

This presentation explores how innovative creative engagement programmes with a focus on object-based learning and co-creation can help people with a lived experience of displacement process their loss and build a sense of community and belonging as well as promote empathy.

**Communities and resilience Chair:**

Dorine De Vos (Red Star Line Museum)

ROOM X

**“Creative practice and refugees’ citizenship-forming: a refugee artist’s reflections***Amadu Khan (The Welcoming Association, Edinburgh - Scotland, UK)*

This presentation shares my lived personal experience and those of other refugee creative practitioners to explore how refugee artforms and cultural productions are spaces for facilitating refugees’ feelings of belonging and identity and public empathy and acceptance among the host communities in the UK. The gaps in research to improve our understanding of the role of art and culture in facilitating refugees’ citizenship-forming will also be explored.

**Empowering Community Resilience: Emergency Smile at Nea Kavala Reception Centre***Chiara Manavella (RED NOSES International)*

In 2013, RED NOSES International launched Emergency Smile to enhance psychosocial health for people in crisis, exemplified by a three-week mission in Greece’s Nea Kavala Reception Centre

where five clown artists implemented different artistic activities to engage with the community, including children, mothers, aid workers, and camp management, to foster connections, collective resilience, and culminate in a final community celebration.

**How does an art therapy intervention cultivate resilience in migrant populations facing adverse circumstances?***Natacha Pitotte (The Red Pencil (Europe))*

The article examines the process of change as perceived by refugees who took part in an art therapy intervention aimed at building resilience.

**Digital Arts for Youth and Community Wellbeing***Sofia Casas (UNHCR- UN Refugee Agency)*

The “Digital Arts for Youth and Community Wellbeing” presentation highlights UNHCR’s pilot project that utilizes digital arts to improve mental health, community involvement, and global connections among forcibly displaced youth.”

SESSION 4

## Children and young adults

Chair: Simon Bequoye (Iedereen Leest)

ROOM X

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“This session will highlight some inspiring cases of how arts and culture support the mental, physical and social health of forcibly displaced children and young adults.

This session is curated by the conference’s programme committee.”

WORKSHOP 1

**Walk a Mile in my Shoes**

Thahmina Begum

(Centre for Regional and Economic Social Research (Sheffield Hallam University))

ROOM X

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An immersive Artist process led workshop using a various of art materials, the workshop will be a practical hands-on demonstration of how we can use arts methods to centre hybrid community voices and multifaceted lived experience. (max. 20 participants)”

WORKSHOP 2

**Amplifying Refugee Voices: Arts-Based Storytelling for Linguistic Inclusion**

Daniel Welegbreal Welearegay  
(UNHCR)

ROOM X

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This workshop guides participants in leveraging expressive arts like storytelling, music, and visual arts to bridge language divides, amplify refugee narratives, and co-create empowering spaces for processing displacement experiences. (max. 30 participants)”

WORKSHOP 3

**small to xxxl spool knitters**

Carolien Evers

(Carolien Evers for bedtime for  
Bonzo in collab with de Vrolijkheid)

ROOM X

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Punniken the way to make connections. Punniken is the dutch word for it , the translation spool knitting doesn't cover it totally. (max. 15 participants)"

WORKSHOP 4

**Exploring Homesickness in Movement and Dance**

Sarah Kaerts

(Workshop intangible heritage)

ROOM X

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This workshops gives a little taste of exploring in movement and dance what home and homesickness mean to you. (max. 15 participants)"

WORKSHOP 5

**Shared Reading as a starting point for deep conversation**

Ilona Plichart (in collaboration with Red Star Line Museum)

ROOM X

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We will explain how the method of shared reading and deep talks have proven to be a beautiful starting point to connect with refugees and immigrants, to really meet each other, to bridge different perspectives and to enjoy beauty. (Max. 25 participants)"



DAY 2

29.11.2024

09.00 Registration

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09.00 - 10.00 **WORKSHOPS**

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11:15 - 13:00 **SESSIONS**

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13:00 **LUNCH**

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14.00 **PLENARY 2** Host Bart De Nil, conference chair

Spoken word (throughout the plenary)

14.00 Wellcome by Geert Serneels (Solentra)

14.05 Keynote by Nils Fietje, Research Officer at the WHO  
Regional Office for Europe

14.35 Keynote by Sarah Linn, Manchester University

15.05 Keynote Heritage Exchanges: Cultural Contexts of Health  
and the Contribution of Museums by Manon Parry,  
Amsterdam University

15.40 Q&A

15.40 Closing words by Bart Marius, Dr Guislain Museum

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**CLOSING DRINK**

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## Communities and resilience

Chair: Benji Jame (Solentra)

ROOM X

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### **“Psychosocial support using drama and playback theatre**

*Fayez Alabbas (HoGent)*

Staging Resilience: How Theatrical Engagement Aids Refugees in Coping with Displacement and Change.

### **MIITTI: Bridging Gaps And Creating Bonds in Helsinki**

*Maija Mustajoki (Pro Lapinlahti mielenterveysseura ry)*

Alaa Altamimi, human rights activist and co-founder of MIITTI, discusses how MIITTI fosters social connections and reduces cultural prejudices through shared activities at Lapinlahden Lähde, Finland’s oldest psychiatric hospital, now a vibrant community hub.

### **From Here to Home: Constructing a Dialogue between Contemporary and Historical Migration Narratives**

*Alison Luyten (collectief MOOS)*

The local heritage project *droomluis* collects historical and recent stories about migration from and to the Kempen area, thus aiming to uncover how migration is part of many people’s history and to foster mutual understanding and connection between different communities.

### **Body-maps as empowerment tool for refugees living with HIV**

*Christiana Noestlinger (Institute of Tropical Medicine)*

Body mapping as a creative self-reflection process powerfully demonstrates how structural factors (e.g. migration-related trauma, receiving an HIV diagnosis, requesting asylum, living without documents) influence individual agency of refugees living with HIV, while also supporting their positive coping strategies with HIV and migration-related stressors.“

## Lived experience of displacement

Chair: Sylvie Dhaene (Iedereen Leest)

ROOM X

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### “Bridge stories or film projection

*Annabelle Van Nieuwenhuysse*  
(*Cinemaximiliaan*)

Cinemaximiliaan is a platform with and by newcomers. We bring newcomers and locals together through film and sharing the untold... Because Europe needs to keep a human view on migration. We started in 2015 with an open air cinema in an improvised camp at the Maximiliaan Park in Brussels, Belgium. Our community quickly grew through the commitment of a vast network of volunteers, amongst them many newcomers.

### My Life on the Way of Moria Camp

*Rouddy Kimpioka* (*Rad Music International*)

My Life on the Way of Moria Camp, we must raise up the voice of people who don't have a voice, “”sharing personal experience to save the lives of people.

### To be a Muslim in Lithuania: the story of Hala and Ahmad

*Raimonda Agne Medeisiene* (*the Lithuanian Academy of Performing Arts /Applied Theatre 4ROOMS*)  
Forum theater perspective: the influence of context on audience insights in response to the changing geopolitical situation of Lithuania.”

## Lived experience of displacement

Chair: Claire Wellesley-Smith (OU)

ROOM X

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### “Shelanu: Women’s Craft Collective

*Emma Daker (Craftspace: representing Shelanu: Women’s Craft Collective)*

Shelanu is a collective of migrant and refugee women working with Craftspace to develop craft skills, confidence and well-being through a social enterprise model, demonstrating how craft narratives can support migrant and refugee women’s mental health.

### Threads of Hope: Nurturing Well-Being in Displacement Through Textile Art

*Henrike Gootjes (ArtEZ, school of Arts, Arnhem)*

Making, stitching and mending; nurturing well-being in displacement through regenerative textile practices.

### The Use of Art in the Exploration of Identity Formation of Asylum Seeker Children

*Elyse Steinfeld and Ephrat Huss*

This research contributes practical recommendations for developing future art workshops with asylum-seeker children and a unique critical lens through which to understand their experiences and identity formation processes.

### Struggling to return to balance and psychological well-being in working with and for refugee artists from Ukraine and Belarus.

*Elżbieta Wrotnowska-Gmyz (Zbigniew Raszewski Theater Institute)*

In my talk, I will tell how our work with them proceeded, which also included psychological assistance, since many of these people came to Poland with post-traumatic stress syndrome, and how they themselves talked about their measurement of this dramatic experience in person and in their theatrical works.”

## Public Libraries as Places of Care

Chair: Alexander Vander Stichele (FARO)

ROOM X

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“This session will highlight how public libraries function as ‘places of care’ for refugees.

This session is curated by the conference chair supported by Iedereen Leest, UCL dept. Arts & Sciences and dept. Information Studies.

*Jamie Johnston (OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University)*

Jamie Johnston is coordinator of Public Libraries for Immigrants and Refugees (PubLIB) an international research group dedicated to studying how public libraries address the needs of recently arrived refugees and immigrants. She uses the contact theory to explain how programming might support the social dimension of integration and the implications for the other aspects of integration such as the cultural dimension.

### Public libraries as social infrastructure for creative health?

*Bart De Nil (UCL)*

An interdisciplinary research with in-depth qualitative field studies in the UK and Belgium that will explore the staffing implications of cultural heritage-based activities for displaced people in public libraries.

### Muntpunt in Brussels

*Roel van den Sigtenhorst (Director Muntpunt)*

Muntpunt is a public library in the heart of Brussels that offers activities around integration and practice opportunities for refugees.”

WORKSHOP 6

**Social theatre: Ghosts of the Past, Echoes of the Future**

Anna Ochmanska  
(International Organization  
for Migration)  
ROOM X

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A workshop experience that blends the life-inspired narratives of refugees and migrants with the transformative power of social and documentary theater. Our session, crafted to engage and educate, will offer participants a unique insight into both the process and impact of using theater as a tool for social change and community integration. (max. 20 participants)”

WORKSHOP 7

**Best of both worlds**

Bright Richards and  
Margriet Stuurman  
(Stichting New Dutch  
Connections)  
ROOM X

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(max. 30 participants)  
New Dutch Connections supports (ex-)asylum seekers in the Netherlands in becoming the entrepreneur of their own future, wherever that may be. We will share methods that New Dutch Connections developed in the Future Academy (especially with youngsters) and their culture / theatre projects in the Netherlands.”

WORKSHOP 8

**Expressive Painting:  
Abstract Visual Modality  
Community Workshop**

Amani Ansari  
(University of Vermont)  
ROOM X

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Expressive Abstract Painting Workshop for Collective Trauma Mitigation - this workshop is a hands-on sample of a workshop designed for communities who have collectively undergone trauma from war, destruction and displacement.”

WORKSHOP 9

**Feeling at home in the  
Red Star Line Museum -  
Make your own home-  
sicknessbag**

Laura Vargas  
(Red Star Line Museum)  
ROOM X

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Make your own homesickness-bag with memories and the scent of home. (max. 30 participants)”

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WORKSHOP 10

**From Palestine to the UK: the  
art of displacement as a social  
practice**

Gil Mualem-Doron  
(Freelance artist)  
ROOM X

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In the workshop, Decolonising Art Practices & Healing the Wounds of Displacement, Dr Gil Mualem-Doron will present several projects carried out with migrants and refugees in Palestine/Israel and the UK and deliver two short exercises that were part of these projects.  
(Max 30 participants)”