



Australia's
Global
University

Affective Shifts Inside and Outside the Nation and Body

Rethinking How Refugee Research is Engendered

Date: 21st February 2017

Venue: UNSW Art & Design Campus, Lecture Theatre EG02, Paddington, Sydney

Map link: <http://fmttoolbox.unsw.edu.au/comms/PaddingtonCampus.pdf>

Map reference Block E

Program

9:00 - 9:20am

Welcome to country and participants, Professor Ross Harley,
Dean of Art and Design

Welcome to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Susan Dodds,
Dean of Arts and Social Sciences

Opening address, Professor Ian Jacobs, Vice Chancellor, UNSW

9:20 - 11:00am

Shifting Perspectives, Interdisciplinary Research Spaces and Transformative Agendas

Stephanie Hemelryk Donald (chair) and Ruth Balint (co-organiser)

In this panel different disciplines and research traditions will interact and share ideas about the interdisciplinarity of their research on refugees and immigration. We invite panellists to focus on situated practice that characterises everyday life against the backdrop of increasing inequality and closing borders worldwide. These perspectives will interrogate and disrupt assumptions on how bodies and identities are conditioned, calculated and broken by flight and by the technologies of border protection, and the multitude of stories and memories that resist the silencing effects of immigration. From interests as diverse as biopolitics, emotion, labour policy, and the body as symbol and metaphor the aim is to harness a multitude of issues of being and becoming, knowing and remembering, bodily experiences and potentialities. It is hoped the nexus of this panel's theme of interdisciplinarity will open itself to a wide range of research fields with intent towards a fluid and productive collaborative spirit between diverse disciplines.

Panellists

Rose Butler (Ethnographer and Sociologist; UNSW)

Ruth Balint (Historian and Documentarist; UNSW)

Omid Tofighian (Philosophy; University of Sydney)

Stephanie Hemelryk Donald (Film, Media, Asian Studies; UNSW)

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Grand
Challenges

11:00 - 11:30am

Morning tea

11:30 - 1:00pm

Researcher, Researched and partnerships with communities: ethical and methodological issues in engaged academic practice

Claudia Tazreiter (chair) Nayana Bibile (co-organiser)

The panel will highlight some of the tensions and ethical dilemmas of refugee-focused research and collaborations with research participants. The panel aims to draw out different disciplinary approaches and theoretical origins that steer methodology as well as the opportunities and challenges of working in a deliberative and inclusive manner, often antithetical to the priorities of the neoliberal university. Methodology that purposefully engenders a different politics of affirmation may help challenge the complexities of contemporary times and reframe the current tenor of public debate and its toxic undercurrents.

Panellists

Zanny Begg (Art & Design; UNSW)
Jennifer Hyndman (Human Geography; York University; Canada)
Belinda Liddell (School of Psychiatry; UNSW)
Sharon Pickering (Criminologist; Monash University)

1:00 - 2:00pm

Lunch in the courtyard

2:00 - 3:30pm

Post-representational Practice: Contemporary Art, Activism and Refugees

Caroline Wake (chair) and Veronica Tello (co-organiser)

This panel investigates the concepts of “post-representation” and “self-determination” in order to rethink relations between art, activism and refugees. The problems of representation are familiar: such practices risk reproducing refugees as silent spectacles, defined by their stories of displacement, and in need of a local expert’s translation. Hence, the turn to participation in recent years. Yet, as many scholars have pointed out, participation is not necessarily any more empowering for refugees and can in fact be just as limiting, premised on problematic power relations and assumptions. This panel asks: What might a post-representational and self-determined practice look like and how might we recognise it as such? And how might such a practice contest and recast the very concepts of, and relations between, “citizen” and “refugee”?

Panellists

Suvendrini Perera (Curtin University) and Joseph Pugliese (Macquarie University)
Verónica Tello and James Nguyen (both Art & Design, UNSW)
Mary Zournazi (Sociology, UNSW)

3:30 - 4:00pm

Afternoon tea

4.00-5.00pm

Roundtable discussion and Q&A

Chair: Jane McAdam (Law, UNSW)

Panellists

David Sanderson (Faculty of Built Environment, UNSW)
Violeta Moreno-Lax (Queen Mary University, London)
Eileen Pittaway (School of Social Sciences, UNSW)
Dan Tyler (Norwegian Refugee Council)

5:00 - 7:00pm

Evening Event and exhibition at UNSW Galleries

Join us for a live performance by Vietnamese/Australian artist and UNSW Art & Design PhD candidate James Nguyen and a special viewing of EXIT.

Through his work, James Nguyen explores the difficulties faced by many migrant communities in their adopted countries. For this performance, Nguyen continues his collaboration with family members to reconstruct the story of his aunt's failed attempt to flee post-war Vietnam. The performance navigates gender politics within the family as each member retells the story from memory.

EXIT is a 360 degree immersive video installation that visually correlates global human migratory trends with urgent social and economic issues: increasing urbanisation, economic displacement, political disruption, climate change, natural disasters, and deforestation. Data gathered from over one hundred sources is geocoded, processed through a programming language, and presented visually by a rotating globe that translates statistics into maps, texts, and trajectories as it orbits the space.

Recently updated, EXIT was universally acclaimed when it was first exhibited at the Palais de Tokyo to coincide with the COP21 United Nations Climate Change Conference. Commissioned by the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris based on an idea by Paul Virilio created by Diller Scofidio + Renfro with Laura Kurgan, Mark Hansen, Ben Rubin in collaboration with Robert Gerard Pietrusko, Stewart Smith.

RSVP to: unswgalleries@unsw.edu.au

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