



We ! Refugees – Constellations 1933 2022

- # MAY 21 + 22 / at the GOETHE-INSTITUTE THESSALONIKI, Vasilissis Olgas 66:
- # IMPULSE PAPERS / DISCUSSIONS / FILM SCREENINGS / ARTISTIC PROJECTS / GUIDED MUSEUM TOUR
- # **We ! Refugees** explores the SIGNIFICANCE OF EXILE/MIGRATION FOR THE POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL MODELS OF THE FRANKFURT SCHOOL and associated Critical Theorists who were forced to emigrate during the rule of National Socialism.
- # **We ! Refugees** addresses the possibility to TRANSFER THEIR EXPERIENCES AND THEORIES TO CURRENT PHENOMENA OF MIGRATION AND REFUGE.
- # **We ! Refugees** is organized by MARIA OIKONOMOU [Department of German Studies, Aristotle University Thessaloniki], ILIAS PAPAGIANNPOULOS [International and European Studies, Piraeus University Athens] and ULRICH MEURER [Visual Studies Program, Central European University Vienna].

Becoming alien or remaining native, complete adaptation to the other or attachment to the self – it is between these poles that many German-Jewish intellectuals must position themselves after leaving Nazi Germany for the United States or other countries. For the founders of the Frankfurt School [Max Horkheimer, Theodor W. Adorno, Herbert Marcuse ...] this challenge of exile, in New York or Los Angeles, will become a task of both life and thought. Likewise, many other refugee advocates of Critical Theory experience and reflect on that »rupture of the world« that also passes through human beings: the political theoretician Hannah Arendt, the exegete of culture and cinema Siegfried Kracauer, the historical materialist Walter Benjamin [who shall never reach America].

In light of current global migrations, **We | Refugees** revisits their cultural, political and aesthetic concepts to determine what a Critical Theory in exile might have been and what it has to say to us in today's ›post-capitalist‹, ›post-digital‹ and possibly ›post-human‹ lifeworld. To what extent is its thinking, which can hardly be separated from the experience of displacement, still relevant for a reality in which migration becomes increasingly ›normal‹?

In this sense, the event aims for a mutual illumination of two historical sections, where past exile and contemporary refuge might be understood as what Benjamin calls a »constellation«, the flash-like emergence of meaningful connections that give insight in [and into] the current »moment of danger« ...

We | Refugees addresses the TIMES AND SPACES OF MIGRATION

We | Refugees examines the PRACTICES AND TACTICS OF MIGRATION

We | Refugees investigates the POLITICS OF MIGRATION

We | Refugees delineates the MEMORIES AND RETROSPECTIONS OF MIGRATION

We | Refugees explores the new epistemologies of migration and its productions of knowledge, the political embodiments, cultural figures, and mythical characters of migration, the ethnicities and religions of migration, the languages, accents, and [multi-]lingualisms of migration in critical theory, minor art, populism, activism ...

PROGRAM

- ★ in German – with simultaneous interpretation in Greek
- in Greek – with simultaneous interpretation in German
- in English

DAY 1 / MAY 21		
10:00 - 12:00	<p>IMPULSE 1 / Goethe-Institute Auditorium</p> <p>Sebastian Tränkle (Free University Berlin) <i>Language lost, language regained: childhood, exile and experience in Adorno's concept of language</i> ★</p> <p>Ilias Papagiannopoulos (Piraeus University Athens) <i>The ›now of perceptibility‹ and the other memory: remarks on W. G. Sebald's Austerlitz</i> ★</p> <p>Katja Schubert (Université Paris Ouest – Nanterre-La Défense) <i>The recess of hell</i> ★</p>	<p>parallel to the conference:</p> <p>open gallery</p> <p>installation <i>Archive of Refuge</i> +</p> <p>exhibition of submissions to the artists call</p>
12:30 - 13:30	<p>MIDISSAGE / Goethe-Institute Gallery</p> <p>Gallery visit + presentation of submissions to the open artists call [some of the artists will be present]</p>	
15:30 - 17:30	<p>IMPULSE 2 / Goethe-Institute Auditorium</p> <p>Georgios Sagriotis (University of Patras) <i>Obsessive travels, forced travels</i> ★</p> <p>Maria Oikonomou (Aristotle University Thessaloniki) <i>Being clumsy, becoming collective: melancholic and enthusiastic narratives about border-crossing</i> ★</p> <p>Judith Kasper (Goethe University Frankfurt) <i>No man's land: on Barbara Cassin's thinking of the untranslatables</i> ★</p>	
18:00 - 20:00	<p>SCREENING / Goethe-Institute Auditorium</p> <p><i>Exile</i> [Zoe Beloff, 2017]</p> <p>+ Ulrich Meurer (Visual Studies, CEU Vienna) <i>zoom</i>-interviews the director ■</p>	

DAY 2 / MAY 22		
10:00 - 12:30	Museum visit Guided tour at the Jewish Museum Thessaloniki ■	parallel to the conference: open gallery installation <i>Archive of Refuge</i> + exhibition of submissions to the artists call
14:00 - 15:00	PODIUM / Goethe-Institute Auditorium <i>›Placeless place‹, as in: ›unlivable life‹</i> Presentation + discussion of the book <i>Leros: neural genealogies and the saltatory conductivity of space</i> Neni Panourgia (Columbia University NY) discusses with Maria Oikonomou and Akis Parafelas ●	
15:30 - 17:30	IMPULSE 3 / Goethe-Institute Auditorium Eva-Maria Ziege (University of Bayreuth) <i>The Jews and Europe</i> ★ Drehli Robnik (Freelance-Theoretician / Vienna-Erdberg) <i>We Fascists: political vanishing points of the dispersed concepts of outsider, refuge and exile in Siegfried Kracauer</i> ★ Vassilios Paipais (University of St Andrews) <i>The life of power and the power of life: between political theology and biopolitics</i> ●	
18:00	SCREENING 2 / Goethe-Institute Auditorium <i>WE ! REFUGEES</i> – shorts + scenes [original with English subtitles] curated and commented by Ulrich Meurer ★	

Parallel to the conference, the exhibition ›We ! Refugees‹ shows

ARTWORKS BY

- # Maria Belivani (Thessaloniki)
- # Mary Dai (Thessaloniki)
- # Cristiana de Marchi (Beirut / Dubai)
- # David Hafer Garcia (Vienna)
- # Julia Haugeneder (Vienna)
- # Laura Krok (Salzburg)
- # Neda Nikolic (Vienna)
- # Paris Petridis (Thessaloniki)
- # Andrea Ressi (Vienna)
- # Manolis Skoufias (Thessaloniki)
- # Stefania Strouza (Vienna / Athens)

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