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ART ACTIVISM RESEARCH

Workshop - 25-26 January 2018



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25 & 26 January 2017, The Kings Manor, York

emotion

There is a lot of pressure on activists to show that they are brave; many find it really difficult to talk about their feelings and emotions. Human rights interventions often limit discussions of emotion to discrete psycho-social interventions. But emotions – fear, passion, sadness, joy – are what make change possible and living worthwhile. The arts can allow the expression of emotion and help us know in a more experiential way, understanding that we are all part of and affected by the world around us. Using the arts in research can help expose the sensory, emotional and kinaesthetic aspects of lived experience.

imagination

Sometimes activists are so caught up with the everyday, with tactics for resisting injustice, that they forget to talk about what they are campaigning for - what they want the world to look like. But without imagining different possible worlds, we are left with the dreams of the powerful. For the vast majority, they are experienced not as dreams but as nightmares of insecurity, precarity and powerlessness. "Change starts in the mind. If you can imagine it, if you can really see it, then you can walk towards its fruition." (Patience Nitumwesiga)

heroes

The idea of the hero and its contingent characters – the villain and the victim – is central to dominant ways of understanding human rights and humanitarianism. But a focus on rescuing so-called victims from specific injustices masks the inequalities in global society that turned them into "victims" in the first place. Few human rights activists regard themselves as heroes, but as part of a movement, and many are campaigning for fundamental changes in how society is structured. The arts can help uncover or inform an alternative understanding of human rights that better responds to this reality.

the hidden

There is a long tradition of activists using the arts to make political statements that would otherwise be forbidden; the more arbitrary the political environment, the more those with less power will need to fall back on allusive forms of communication. Becoming better at reading art can help us access insights communicated in philosophies and approaches that we are unfamiliar with. And the arts can help us tap into aspects of experience which are difficult to articulate in words, whether because they are too sensitive or because we don't usually pay attention to them.

A G E N D A

Day 1	Thursday 25 January 2018
<p>10.00 - 12.00</p>	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Art, Activism and Research <i>Professor Maggie O’Neill, Professor in Sociology (Criminology) University of York</i></p> <p>Art, Risk and Protection <i>Todd Lester & Sidd Joag, Artist Safety Net</i></p>
<p>12.00 - 3.00</p>	<p>Arts + Activism Exhibition & Lunch</p> <p><i>Introduced by Emilie Flower, Curator</i></p> <p>Art and Activism is a multi media exhibition of the work and words of human rights activists and artists from around the world, at the Kings Manor, York Explore and Pica Studios. It showcases for the first time a collection of work by international artists inspired by the Centre for Applied Human Rights, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Workshop participants will be invited to take part in an interactive walk through the exhibition.</p> <p><u>A buffet lunch will be available between 12.00 and 2.00.</u></p>
<p>3.00 - 5.00</p>	<p>Reflection & Debate</p> <p>Jane Arnfield <i>Associate Professor, Theatre and Performance, Subject Head, Performance Film and Television Production, Northumbria University</i></p> <p>Julia Farrington <i>Associate Arts Producer, Index on Censorship</i></p>
<p>5.30 – 8.00</p>	<p>Music for Activism</p> <p>A performance at The Basement, City Screen, York by Afro-Latin percussion & brass duet Ladies of the Midnight Blue, and Kenyan revivalist John Otieno Rapasa.</p> <p>Free tickets at Eventbrite</p> <p>https://www.york.ac.uk/cahr/news/events/2018/musicforactivism/</p>
<p>8.00 onwards</p>	<p>Meal at Las Iguanas</p> <p>Please contact miriam.hemingway@york.ac.uk for booking details.</p>

Day 2	Friday 26 January 2018
9.00 - 10.45	<p>emotion Arresting Emotions – Good practice on how artists can support human rights defenders <i>Magda Adamowicz, Senior Specialist, Open Society Foundations</i></p>
Parallel Sessions	<p>Artistic practices as a path to collective healing <i>Rosa Borrás, Embroiderer and Artist, Bordadoras por la paz Puebla - Embroiderers for Peace (Puebla), Mexico</i></p> <p>Poetry is Not a Luxury - finding new ways to speak of ourselves, our emotions and our work <i>Juliana Mensah, Research Associate, Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York</i></p>
	<p>heroes For Those Who Died Trying <i>Luke Duggleby, Freelance Photographer, Bangkok, Thailand (in collaboration with Protection International)</i></p>
	<p>Time and Space Within <i>John Otieno Rapasa, Multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and dancer, Kenya</i></p>
10.45 - 11.15	Break
11.15 - 1.00	<p>imagination Art, Creative Activism and the Political Imagination in Bangladesh and Uganda <i>Ruth Kelly, Researcher - Creative activism, art and alternatives project Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York</i></p> <p><i>Emilie Flower, Film maker and multimedia artist, Pica Studios York</i></p> <p><i>Patience Nitumwesiga, Screenwriter and director, Kampala, Uganda</i></p> <p><i>Shohrab Jahan, Sculptor and installation artist, Jog Alternative Art Space, Chittagong, Bangladesh</i></p>
Parallel Sessions	<p>Creating Hope through Performance: Theatre-based migration research in South Africa <i>Dr Lena Opfermann, Teaching Fellow in Post-Conflict Reconstruction, School of Government and International Affairs Durham University</i></p>
	<p>the hidden Debating, Performing and Curating Symbolic Reparations and Gender Justice <i>Dr Jelke Boesten, Reader in Gender and Development King's College London</i></p>
	<p>The Iceberg of Community Activism: or Why You Need To Work In A Place For A Long Time If You Want To Understand Anything <i>Professor Jane Plastow, Professor of African Theatre, University of Leeds</i></p> <p>Street Art and the Hidden Story of Conflict Transformation in Mostar, Bosnia Herzegovina <i>Dr Susan Forde, Department of Politics, University of York</i></p>

<p>1.00 - 2.00</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>2.00 - 3.30</p>	<p>Closing Addresses and Reflections</p> <p><i>Professor Kate Nash</i> <i>Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London</i></p> <p><i>Dr Helen Pheby</i> <i>Senior Curator, Yorkshire Sculpture Park</i> <i>(curator of YSP's forthcoming exhibition on Revolt and Revolutions)</i></p> <p><i>Sarah Corbett</i> <i>Founder, Craftivist Collective</i></p>
<p>6.00 – 8.00</p>	<p>Art, Activism and the Political Imagination – Film Screening</p> <p>Join Pica Studios for an evening of screenings and conversation with visiting Bangladeshi sculptor Shohrab Jahan, Ugandan director and screenwriter Patience Nitumwesiga, and the researchers behind the Centre for Applied Human Rights' research on creative alternatives and the political imagination.</p> <p>Free tickets at Eventbrite</p> <p>https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/art-activism-and-the-political-imagination-film-screening-tickets-40095141648</p>