

# NOW WHAT?



# Oxford Human Rights Festival

17TH-26TH MARCH 2023



OXFORD  
BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY

CENDEP  
Center for Development and Emergency Practice



# Oxford Human Rights Festival 2023

## Foreword to the festival



Dr Supriya Akerkar  
Director of CENDEP

Welcome to the Oxford Human Rights Festival 2023. This year's festival theme selected by our students is Now What?. The theme reflects a range of emotions: impatience with the pace of justice to those who have suffered human rights abuses, optimism, with a call for solidarities to the human rights defenders around the world, provocation to think about a better future and to work to reduce inequalities and affirming the dignity of every person. The festival is led by student steering committee involving CENDEP students, architecture, arts and film studies students, under the coordination of Jacqueline Kearney, also an alumni of CENDEP. I invite you to join the festival events symbolising the festival theme and its spirit through exhibitions, art, films, talks, seminars, musical band, among other activities.

## Friday 17th March

18:00 - [Re]building in wartime:  
20:00 how architects shape  
Ukraine's future while  
preserving its past | The  
Annual Nabeel Hamdi  
Lecture delivered by Slava  
Balbek

The Annual Nabeel Hamdi Lecture will be given by Slava Balbek, an award winning Ukrainian architect, founder and CEO of a Kyiv-based award-winning architecture and interior design studio balbek bureau, and who has been fighting against demolition of historic buildings, preparing rescue kits and creating an emergency housing plan within just 10 days of the conflict in Ukraine starting.

John Henry Brookes  
Lecture Theatre,  
Oxford Brookes  
University & Zoom



## Monday 20th March

15:00 - Human Rights and The  
16:00 Sámi People | A Jean  
Monnet Roundtable  
Discussion

The Sámi people are an Indigenous community that have inhabited the far north of Europe for thousands of years. Over the years, the Sámi have faced significant human rights abuses and discrimination due to a long history of racism and forced assimilation efforts. More recently the 'green shift' has resulted in further land grabs, limiting the Sámi's ability to maintain their traditional way of living, putting the younger generation at risk of losing their cultural heritage. In this discussion our panellists will present their research concerning the threats faced by the Sámi people today. This event is hosted by the Oxford Human Rights Festival in collaboration with the Migration and Refugees Network.

Room JHB305, John  
Henry Brookes  
Building, Oxford  
Brookes University &  
Zoom



## Tuesday 21st March

12:30 - Becoming Adult on the  
14:00 Move: transitions to  
adulthood of  
unaccompanied migrant  
minors in a hostile  
environment | Jean Monnet  
Lecture delivered by  
Nando Sigona

Migration regimes often fail to protect the 'best interests' of unaccompanied migrant children in transition to adulthood. Why is this the case? Drawing from the findings of the ESRC-funded Becoming Adult project, in this talk Nando Sigona addresses the misalignment between young people's wellbeing and conceptualisations of their futures and the immigration and social care policies governing their lives.

Room JHB205, John  
Henry Brookes  
Building, Oxford  
Brookes University &  
Zoom



18:30 - Hostile Documentary  
20:00 Screening with Q&A with  
Director Sonita Gale

Hostile is a documentary focusing on the UK's complicated relationship with its migrant communities. Told through the stories of four participants from Black and Asian backgrounds, the film focuses on the impact of the evolving "hostile environment" policies, which are designed to make living conditions so difficult for migrants that they voluntarily leave the country.

John Henry Brookes  
Lecture Theatre,  
Oxford Brookes  
University

## Wednesday 22nd March

12:30 - 14:00	What About the Rights of Older Refugees?	In this session, the research team behind a current Ageing in Displacement research project will discuss their findings related to the rights and experiences of older refugees in the UK.	Room JHB303, John Henry Brookes Building, Oxford Brookes University & Zoom
17:00 - 20:00	An Evening of Solidarity with the Women, Life, Freedom Revolution in Iran	An evening of discussions, music and mingling in solidarity with the 'Women, Life, Freedom' Movement in Iran. The evening will include discussions as well as a performance by Iranian traditional musicians who have created tailored original compositions that have been performed in venues such as London Trafalgar Square as part of the protests for women's and human rights in Iran.	Holywell Music Room, Wadham College Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PN

## Thursday 23rd March

12:30 - 14:00	Traces   Talk and Exhibition by Katie Taylor	An exhibition and talk regarding the unidentified dead, including homeless people in the UK, and victims of genocide in Rwanda. Katie is an artist and PhD student in the School of Arts at Oxford Brookes University.	Room JHB202, John Henry Brookes Building, Oxford Brookes University & Zoom
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## Friday 24th March

12:30 - 14:00	Emigrant's Adieu   Talk and Performance by Richard Carver	Millions of Irish and Scottish people have left their countries over the centuries to settle in North America, Australasia and elsewhere. And they have taken their music with them. This event uses the traditional music of Scotland and Ireland to tell the story of this great migration and to relate it to the experience of refugees and others who leave their homes today.	Room JHB203, John Henry Brookes Building, Oxford Brookes University & Zoom
18:30 - 20:00	Human Rights in the Spotlight: A Showcase of Short Films on Human Rights	An evening of enlightening short films and engaging conversations exploring various aspects of human rights today. This event will feature a diverse selection of short films, each highlighting a specific human rights issue, ranging from racial discrimination, to medical rights, disability inclusion, and more. We will be joined by a range of distinguished guests involved in the making of these films who will share their insights and experiences on the issues raised by the films. Following the screening, we'll open up the floor for a lively discussion and Q&A session.	John Henry Brookes Lecture Theatre, Oxford Brookes University

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to all who have contributed to the delivery of this festival. Firstly, a warm thank you to all guest speakers and performers. Thank you also to the staff and students of the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) at the School of Architecture, Oxford Brookes University, without whom this festival could not go forward each year. Special thanks also to the following collaborators: Jeremy Macclancy and the Migration and Refugee Network at Oxford Brookes; Andrée Latham and the team at Modern Art Oxford; Doris Suchet and the team at Wadham College.

Thank you to the 2023 Planning Committee:

David Barron	Lilli Spearing
Fadhlin Shameer	Lucas Lam
Gabriela Tancheva	Max Schmeelke
Jacqueline Kearney	Sara Jaafar
Jemmy Yusoef	Shehara Kannangara
Joshua Bazeley	Shereen Raslan
Laura Campbell	Tathagat Goswami

# Exhibitions

## **Voices by Lilli Tranborg and Laura Campbell**

*Modern Art Oxford, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford, OX1 1BP*

What do you think should be a human right?

The Oxford Human Rights Festival is excited to be collaborating with Modern Art Oxford through Voices, a new art project by Oxford-based artists Lilli Tranborg and Laura Campbell. Responding to the theme of this year's festival, 'Now What?', Lilli Tranborg and Laura Campbell take a voices-as-research approach to creating their new project, which invites us to reflect on our rights in light of the current political uncertainty of the Human Rights Act in Britain. This is a sculptural and sound exhibition, with an added online presence, designed around 'Voices' gathered from the general public in Oxford.

## **From Education to Employment? by Young Refugees in Lebanon and Jordan**

*The Glass Tank, Abercrombie Building, Oxford Brookes University*

Through the "From Education to Employment?" project, which was co-led by the Centre for Lebanese Studies at the Lebanese American University, and the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice at Oxford Brookes University, researchers looked at what this tension between short-term and long-term means for young people's education and employment, asking "In displacement settings, what shapes the trajectories of young people from education into employment?"

The researchers worked with young people – nationals, Syrian and Palestinian refugees – in Jordan and Lebanon in different ways to understand how they experience these tensions, navigate critical points in their lives, and envision their futures. This exhibition brings together some of that work, produced by the young people and facilitated by creative professionals, in the form of video, creative writing, art work and documentary film.

## **Trace by Katie Taylor**

*The Glass Tank, Abercrombie Building, Oxford Brookes University*

Trace comprises a body of work that explores the individuality of unidentified human remains. As an artist Katie's approach is through creative practice, questioning the boundaries between being and not being, existing and not existing as well as the borders between these spaces. Can we acknowledge a previous existence in a way that cares, without simply being a number on a database? Memory is held within belongings, the smell of the person, the stain or mark left after a memorable event. There is so much held within these items and it is this that recognises the life lived. In death our senses seek the bodily imprint left, captured and preserved to maintain a physical connection. This transformation is subtle and immediate and brings to mind ideas of relics as a form of sacred memory and healing.

Katie's work explores ideas of absence and presence, the impressions left after interactions or brief encounters and asks the viewer to question how we consider, think about and remember the lives that were lived by unidentified human remains. Subjects of KATIE's work includes homeless people in the UK, and victims of genocide in Rwanda.

## **The Oxford Global Agenda Project 2023 by Seeun Kim**

*The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7JN*

Seeun is an Oxford-based South Korean artist and alumna of Oxford Brookes.

Seeun's social art projects combine jewellery with various global social issues, emerging as works of art. She uses her work to communicate her many ideas; working with courage and dreaming of a society where everyone can live with a smile. With photography and film, Seeun conveys her thinking in the most inclusive ways possible – using text, British sign language and English braille. This exhibition consists of the following social art projects that highlight pressing social issues in our global society.

## Register Now!

For more information about each of the events, to access the Zoom links, and to register your attendance, please visit [oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net](https://oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net).

Follow us on social media to be informed about next year's festival!



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