

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

BODIES ON THE EDGE :

LIFE AND DEATH IN MIGRATION



Ai Weiwei - Remains, 2015 (Courtesy Neugerriemschneider and the artist)

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

APRIL 28-30, 2022

MAISON FRANÇAISE
D'OXFORD
UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Project Co-convenors

Dr. Bidisha Banerjee, *Centre for Popular Culture in the Humanities, The Education University of Hong Kong*
Dr. Thomas Lacroix, *Sciences Po-CERI/Maison Française d'Oxford*
Dr. Judith Misrahi-Barak, *EMMA, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3*

Organizing Committee

Dr. Justine Feyereisen, *Ghent University/Maison Française d'Oxford*
Dr. Marie Godin, *COMPAS-RSC, University of Oxford*
Dr. Alessandro Corso, *ODID, University of Oxford*
Prof. Judith Rainhorn, *Maison Française d'Oxford*

PROGRAMME

APRIL 28TH

09:00–09:30 **Welcoming Speech**

By Pascal Marty, Head of the Maison Française of Oxford
Introduction by the Thanatic Ethics co-conveners, Bidisha Banerjee,
Thomas Lacroix, Judith Misrahi-Barak

09:30–11:00 **The Afterlives of Slavery** *Chair: Judith Misrahi Barak*

Claudine Raynaud Death and the Afterlife of Slavery: Afro-Pessimism,
“Live” Performance, “Life” Writing

Alan Rice Lubaina Himid’s Memorial to Zong: Death, Spectrality and the
Memorial Process

Elsa Gomis Storytelling the Analogy Between Contemporary Refugee
and Atlantic Slavery. A Screenwriting Case.

11:15–12:45 **Body Repatriation and Families** *Chair: Yumna Marsawa*

Linda Haapajärvi Monies, Bodies and Belonging. Transnational Family
Dynamics from the Perspective of Post-mortem Repatriation
Arrangements

Sofia Stimmatini Missing Migrants’ Political Absence in Tunisia

Laura D. Gutiérrez “Chastisement for Dreamers”: Death and the Post-
Deportation Experience in Mexico

12:45–14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00–15:00 **Necropolitics of (In)visibility** *Chair: Alejandra Delano*

Olga Michael Graphic Thanatopoetics and the (In)Visible Spectacle of
Death

Dominic Davies Clandestine Crossings: Graphic Narrative as Counter
Forensic

15:15–16:15 **Keynote Address by Didier Fassin** *Chair: Judith Rainhorn*

- 16:30–18:00 **Death Journeys: Materiality and Symbolics** *Chair: Bidisha Banerjee*
Martina Tazzioli “They Target and Hit My Feet”: Harming, Maiming and Undressing the Migrant Along the Route
Federica Mazzara Objects of Hopes and Death: The Semiotics of the Life Jacket in Contexts of Migration, from Mainstream Media to Art and Activism
Emily Askew and Kaia Rønsdal Every Bone Has a Story
- 18:00–20:00 **Majid Adin in Conversation with Marie Godin**
Followed by a conference cocktail

APRIL 29TH

- 09:00–10:30 **Necropolitics at the Border** *Chair: Alessandro Corso*
Marianna Karakoulaki A Political Thanatos: Migratory Deaths in the Greek Borderlands
Lisa Senecal Mapping Malta's Regime of Borders through Deathnography
Ruta Nimkar and Matthew Porges Borders, Necropolitics, and the Migrant Experience: Case Studies on the Route from Afghanistan to Europe
- 10:45–11:45 **Invisibility** *Chair: Alan Rice*
Cédric Courtois African (Precarious and Invisible) Lives in Europe: Caryl Phillips’s “Northern Lights” and Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi’s “Memoirs of a Namaaso” and “Our Allies the Colonies”
Alexandra Délano Alonso and Benjamin Nienass The Politics of Mourning: Deaths and (in)visibility at the US Mexico Border
- 12:00–13:00 **Keynote Address by Elleke Boehmer** *Chair: Bidisha Banerjee*
- 13:00–14:30 **Lunch Break**

- 14:30–16:00 **Body Repatriation in Times of COVID-19** *Chair: Nada Afiouni*
Yumna Masarwa Enacting Death and Islamic Funerary Rites in the Shadow of COVID-19
Syd Bolton and Catriona Jarvis Contemporary Rituality, Its Economics, Its Administration and Politics
Félicien de Heusch States and Diasporas Facing Death in Migration: A Comparative Analysis of the Senegalese and Tunisian Cases Before and During the Covid-19 Pandemic
- 16:15–17:45 **Narratives of Death and the Humanitarian** *Chair: Thomas Lacroix*
Nando Sigona 'We Must Stop This Carnage': Migrant Deaths and the Politics of Mourning in the Production of Europe's 'Migration Crisis'
Diana Volpe Humanitarian Crisis or Human Tsunami? A Case Study of Italy/NGO Discourses on Search and Rescue Operations
Filippo Furri, Carolina Kobelinsky and Françoise Lestage Databases for the Dead Border-crossers. Activist and Academic Uses Under Scrutiny
- 18:30 **Elsa Gomis: Short Movies, Wolfson College**
- 19:30 **Conference Dinner**

APRIL 30TH

- 9:30–11:00 **Spectrality** *Chair: Henriette Korthals*
Arnaud Richard Spectrality: Ghosts, Spectres and Zombification in the Postcolonial Perspective on Migration
Siobhán McGuirk Spectres, Spectacles and the Cruel Optimism of The Walk
Marianne Dugeon The Haunted Stages of Calais and London: Giving Voice to the Dead in Migration in Joe Murphy and Joe Robertson's The Jungle and Selina Thompson's Salt

- 11:15–12:45 **Unritual as Resistance** *Chair: Marie Godin*
Franck H. Andrianarivo Textual Famadihana in the Work of Jean-Luc Raharimanana
Chiara Denaro and Paolo Boccagni Challenging “Ungrievability” for People Missing at Sea: Spaces of Public Mourning, Search Infrastructures and Claims for Justice
Maurice Stierl CommemorActions
- 12:45–14:00 **Lunch Break**
- 14:00–15:30 **Politics of Grievability** *Chair: Marianne Drugeon*
Sonja Loots Disturbed Graves and Disturbing Afterlives: Reimagining the Remains of Hendrik Witbooi and Sitting Bull
Nada Afiouni Dead Migrants: The Journey from a Taboo to a Media Subject
Henriette Korthals Speaking for the Voiceless/Speaking for the Dead: Ai Weiwei’s Poetics and Ethics of Witnessing
- 15:30–16:30 **Keynote Address by Achille Mbembe** *Chair: Justine Feyereisen*
- 16:30–17:00 **Concluding Remarks**
by Alessandro Corso, Justine Feyereisen and Thomas Lacroix