INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
BODIES ON THE EDGE: LIFE AND DEATH IN MIGRATION

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
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 Délané 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 Drugeon_ 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