



SPRING SCHOOL 2020

The Arts of Integrating: MayDay

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS / INTERVENTIONS / PERFORMANCES / PAPERS

5-7 May 2020
Glasgow - Scotland

We've borrowed language to make the international radio distress signal
The dictionary tells me that Mayday comes from the French: m'aider
English gained the word from the French speaking helpers.
Help – Hilfe - it gained from German speaking assisters. Charity came via the Romans.
There are ironies here. Multiple ironies. Multilingual ones.

We invite artistic, academic, artistically academic and academically artistic contributions to our third spring school which connect with this theme of 'MayDay' - of the 'International Radio Distress Signal'.

We are interested in proposals which...

- ♪ explore the ways in which the arts are used to express distress and in the questions of efficacy which are raised when artists engage in applied work or align their work with groups. Is this work exploitation or is it mutuality?
- ♪ address how we affirm dignity when dignity is stripped. What is the role of the arts and language and culture in dignifying human beings and their environments?
- ♪ explore multilingual dimensions and origins of words for 'help' or 'aid'. How do we avoid sentimentalising care or aid or hospitality? We are especially keen to open out critical discussions of humanitarianism and aid to human-centred understandings of the ethics of care.
- ♪ provide reflections and stories from those who help and have been helped in the creation of refuge, from those who understand their stories as those as people seeking sanctuary and those who understand themselves as aligned to and connected through critical reflection and practical or artistic work to the movements of people saying 'Refugees Welcome'.
- ♪ provide policy discussions of what help looks like pragmatically when delivered through services, councils, NGOs, and the absences around assistance.
- ♪ tell the many stories of those engaged in volunteering, art making, academic research who are ambivalent about the place of help, of 'white saviour complex' and humanitarianism and those who are focused on legal remedies. For more info see the [Manifesto of RISE](#) setting out guidelines for arts engagements with those seeking refuge.

Suggested duration of presentations:

- **Workshop / panel / performance: single slot of 45 mins or double slot of 90 mins**
Session blocks through the day will be either 45 or 90 mins in length, so any proposals with a performative or workshop element should bear this in mind. This is just a guide and proposals of a longer/shorter duration will be considered.
- **(Academic) papers / presentations: 30 mins including discussion**
If your proposal has a more academic slant then please submit as a presentation. Presentation proposals will be allotted 30 mins; we suggest 15/20 mins presentation plus 15/10 mins discussion.

Please be aware that the size of the audience will be a maximum of 80 people. If your session only works with a smaller number of people, please state this clearly in your proposal and we will try to accommodate this where we can.

Format of submission

Please send your submission to UNESCO-RILA@glasgow.ac.uk in one of the following formats:

- Written description/abstract of maximum one side A4 (11pt Arial)
- Link to an Audio/video recording of maximum 2 minutes

Please include the names of the people involved in your session, as well as the name(s) of the organisation(s) they are from. If you need audio-visual equipment on the day, get in touch with us to see what is available in the venue.

Deadline for submission is midnight on 13 January 2020. Proposals will be reviewed the following weeks and you will be notified of the outcome by 24 January 2020.

Fees & Expenses

The organisers cannot pay fees to those who will present at the Spring School in Glasgow. We have a very small travel budget to support a limited number of presenters. If your proposal is accepted, you will receive more information on how to apply for travel support.

Childcare: Due to the location of the event, it will not be possible to provide on-site childcare. If you will require childcare, please get in touch with the organisers as soon as possible, to see if we can assist or partially subsidise childcare as required.

For questions, comments or to discuss your ideas, please contact Bella Hoogeveen in the UNESCO Secretariat at UNESCO-RILA@glasgow.ac.uk.

Information on previous UNESCO RILA Spring Schools can be found at:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/unesco/events/springschool/>



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• UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration
• through Languages and the Arts,
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