

## **HI255 Research-Creation: Artistic Approaches to Forced Migration and the Dilemma of the Nation State**

Seminar Leader: Marion Detjen, Dorothea von Hantelmann

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Course Times: Mon 14:00-17:15; there will be two cross-campus sessions 12:45-16:00

Office Hours: Tue 13:00-15:00 and by appointment (Marion Detjen), Fri 11:00-13:00 and by appointment (Dorothea von Hantelmann)

### **Course Description**

This cross-campus class, taught in collaboration with Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia) explores the way research-based art-making generates new kinds of knowledge about migration and displacement as urgent global challenges. Building on a Research-Creation approach to teaching migration history in dialogue with the visual arts, students will develop individual or collaborative open-media artistic projects relating to the discourses of the “modern refugee” and their impacts on the lives of forced migrants.

Thematically, the course revolves around a dilemma that seems fundamental in all attempts to find humanitarian and human rights related responses to forced migration, throughout the 20th and 21st Century: On the one hand, nation-states and the international community based on nation-states forged institutions – legal provisions and procedures, agencies, NGOs etc. – to mitigate, to alleviate, to control and to hedge, even to “solve” the humanitarian, social and civic consequences of forced migration. On the other hand, these institutions never intended to address the political causes that produced and to this day produce forced migration in the first place. Not getting at the roots of the underlying political and social problems, the institutions failed to keep the promise that every displaced, stateless person would eventually get on a road to state-citizenship, through integration, repatriation or resettlement. And still, a world without the Geneva Refugee Convention, the UN agencies, and national Asylum and refugee laws, would be a place even more hostile, even more dangerous and deadly for the forcibly displaced than the world that we live in right now.

The „research“ dimension of the course will address this dilemma with readings, lectures and discussion sessions from a European perspective, in close exchange with a parallel course taught at the Universidad de los Andes, that approaches these questions from a Latin-American perspective. Guest lectures from the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research/South Africa will add an African perspective, as much as new thinking about migration and mobility. In the „creation“ dimension of the course research-based artistic projects will be produced that will be presented in a public (online) exhibition at the end of the semester.

## **Requirements**

The experimental character of the class, combining historical research and artistic work, requires active participation and a special commitment at the end of the term for setting up a final exhibition project.

Students are also expected to:

- Turn off phones during the entire class and workshop time
- Be prepared to present assignments/presentations without reminder
- Engage in critiques and discussions

## **Academic Integrity**

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

## **Attendance**

Attendance at ALL classes is expected. More than two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes) in a semester can significantly affect the participation grade for the course. Please inform us about any potential absence in advance. Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence. Tardiness after ten minutes might be considered an absence.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPRING 2021:**

Some students might need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Instructors should make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

## **Assignments, Assessment and Grade Breakdown**

There will be reading assignments of 20-30 pages weekly for the first four sessions, and shorter reading assignments scattered throughout the semester. The texts will all be uploaded in the Google Classroom of the Seminar, and the main readings will also be accessible on a reserved shelf in the library.

Active participation in class discussions and communication with students and professors:  
40% of your grade (20%/20%).

Midterm writing assignment on the readings. Prompts will be given in advance:  
20% of your grade - deadline: 27.3.21

Final artistic project, accompanied by a brief exhibition text (ca. 100 words):  
40% of your grade

### **Policy on Late Submission of Papers**

Assignments that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). Professors are not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where Professors agree to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and might not receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student might receive a failing grade for the assignment.

## **Schedule**

### **Week 1**

01.02., Monday, 14:00 – 17:15

#### **Part I, 14:00-15:30 „Refugees“ and the International Order (I)**

##### **Readings/to watch:**

- Human Rights Watch World Report 2020 on the European Union and its member-states: <https://www.hrw.org/tag/europe-refugees-migrants-rights>  
<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/european-union>
- Professor Paul Collier of Oxford University in conversation with Social Europe's Editor-in-Chief Henning Meyer, 3. 10. 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-bIaIgcBu>

#### **Part II, 15.45- 17:15 Introduction to Artistic Research**

Anri Sala, *Intervista* (Finding the Words)

### **Week 2**

08.02., Monday, 14:00 – 17:15

#### **Part I, 14:00-15:30 „Refugees“ and the International Order (II)**

##### **Reading:**

Charles B. Keely, “How Nation-States Create and Respond to Refugee Flows”, in: *The International Migration Review*, 1996, Vol. 30, No. 4, pp. 1046-1066, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2547603>

#### **Part II, 15.45- 17:15**

Hito Steyerl, *Mission Accomplished: Belenciege*

### **Week 3**

15.02., Monday, 14:00 – 17:15

#### **Part I, 14:00-15:30 „Refugees“ and the International Order (III)**

##### **Reading:**

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, New York 1962 (1951), Chapter 9, pp. 267-302.

#### **Part II, 15:45- 17:15**

Hans Haacke, *Forensic Architecture*, Lawrence Abu Hamdan

#### **Week 4**

22.02., Monday, 14:00 – 17:15

#### **Part I, 14:00-15:30 „Refugees“ and the International Order (IV)**

Reading:

- Peter Gatrell, *The Making of the Modern Refugee*, Oxford 2013: Introduction and Chapter 3 („Europe Uprooted“);

#### **Part II, 15.45- 17:15**

To Do: Bring an image, a story, a song, an object and develop a first idea for your project. Marion will present her collection of images and sources.

#### **Week 5**

01.03, Monday, 12.45 – 16.00

#### **Cross-Campus Discussion with Universidad de los Andes**

Recap of Arendt's Chapt. 9 *The Origins of Totalitarianism*

#### **Week 6**

08.03., NO CLASS (International Women's Day)

Individual meetings to discuss project ideas and production plan

#### **Week 7**

15.03., Monday, 14:00 – 17:15

#### **Part I, 14:00-15.30 Global perspectives on forced migration / South Africa**

To watch:

Achille Mbembe: Concerning the Right to Mobility, Albertus Magnus Lecture at Cologne University, 18. 7. 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQiX5zrNNj4>

#### **Part II, 15.45 - 17:15**

Group discussion of projects (I)

#### **Week 8**

22.03., Monday, 14:00 – 17.15

#### **Part I, 14:00-15:15 Cross Campus: Global perspectives on forced migration / Colombia**

Reading:

Juan Aparicio: “From the 'Suffering Stranger' to the IDP: The Emergence of a New Problem Area”, in: *Liquid Borders. Migration as Resistance*, Mabel Moraña ed., New York 2021 (forthcoming).

#### **Part II, 15.30 - 17:15**

Group discussion of projects (II)

*SPRING BREAK (29.03. – 5.4.)*

**Week 9**

05.04., *NO CLASS (Easter Monday)*

*Individual meetings to discuss project updates*

**Week 10**

12.04., Monday, 14:00 – 17.15

**Part I, 14:00-15.15 Cross Campus: Global perspectives on forced migration / Europe**

**Reading:**

- Recap of Gatrell, *The Making of the Modern Refugee*
- Optional: Marion Detjen, „The Germans’ ‚Refugee‘: Concepts and Images of the ‚Refugee‘ in Germany’s Twisted History Between Acceptance and Denial as a Country of Immigration and Refuge“, in: *Global Refugee Crisis and Local Refugee Lives*, Erol Balkan and Zumray Kutlu-Tonak eds, Oxford/New York 2021 (forthcoming).

**Part II, 15:30 – 17:15**

Exhibition subject and title: brainstorming and discussion

**Week 11**

19.04., Monday, 14:00 – 17.15

Discussion of final projects and their discursive and epistemological potential.

**Week 12**

26.04., Monday, 12.45 – 16.00

**Cross Campus Class tbc**

**Week 13**

03.05., Monday, 14:00 – 17:15

Final edits and feed-back on final projects and exhibition texts

**Week 14**

Exhibition set-up, dates tbc