

Inside Out: Re-making Citizenship

Thursday 2 and Friday 3 April 2020

Goethe-Institut London 50 Princes Gate, Exhibition Rd, Knightsbridge, London SW7 2PH (5-minute walk from South Kensington tube)

This is a free event, but it is essential to book via Eventbrite.



Daniela Ortiz, *Jus Sanguinis*, Collage of Peruvian passport and medical book illustration, 2016
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This two-day event seeks to understand citizenship as a set of deeds, acts and practices rather than an institution governed by legal membershipⁱ.

What is a peopleⁱⁱ, and what does it mean to be a 'citizen' in post-Brexit UK, across Europe, and beyond? How are artists, political and cultural thinkers contesting and reframing notions of citizenship? Can citizenship be understood as a form of political and creative practice that is continually remade? Do the consequences of colonialism, and borders, and day to day racism, and new divisions, set the challenges beyond our reach? Or can normative models of citizenship be reconceived and altered to create new frameworks of solidarity, belonging, equality and participation?

Thursday 2 April 2020

2.00 Introduction and Welcome: Katrin Sohns, Head of Culture, Goethe-Institut

Art, Citizenship and the Politics of Autonomy

Chair: Bernadette Buckley

Lise Autogena and **Joshua Portway**

Joshua Portway and Lise Autogena are artists based in the UK. Lise Autogena is a Professor of Cross Disciplinary Art at Sheffield Hallam University. There will be a screening of *Kuannersuit; Kvanefjeld* (2018), their film exploring the difficult decisions and trade-offs faced by a culture seeking to escape a colonial past and define its own identity in a globalised world.

Daniela Ortiz

Artist, born in Peru, lives in Barcelona. Her work aims to generate visual narratives in which the concepts of nationality, racialisation, social class and gender are explored in order to critically understand structures of colonial, patriarchal and capitalist power.

Daphne Plessner

Artist and assistant professor at Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design, Vancouver. Her work *Citizen Artist Project* is an online platform for art projects and publications that interrogate the notion of citizenship and its aesthetic dimensions.

3.30 Break

4.00 *Activating citizenship on the streets: power and identity*

Chair: Michaela Crimmin

Ulf Aminde

Artist and filmmaker based in Cologne and professor of time based arts at Weisensee Academy of Art, Berlin. His latest works explore memory and resistance. Unable to attend in person, he will be represented by a 10-minute video made for this event.

Tanja Ostojić

Artist originally from Belgrade, lives in Berlin, but claims no particular nationality. Her performative work draws inspiration from her own experience as a non-European Union citizen, a traveller and female artist.

Larry Achiampong

Artist based in London. His solo and collaborative projects drawing on his communal and personal heritage employ imagery, aural and visual archives, live performance and sound to explore ideas surrounding class, cross-cultural and post-digital identity.

5.30 Drinks Reception

6.30 Introduction: Katrin Sohns

Keynote: **Ulrike Guerot**

Lives and works in Berlin and Krems. Professor at Danube-University Krems where she heads the Department for European Politics and the Study of Democracy. She also founded the European Democracy Lab in Berlin, a think tank dedicated to the future of European democracy. A political thinker with a focus on European affairs, political theory and the future of democracy

Friday 3 April 2020

Chair: [Helen Nisbet](#), curator, artistic director Art Night 2020

9.30 *Citizenship and the Nation State*

[Engin Isin](#)

Professor of International Politics, Queen Mary, London. His research and teaching focus on *doing international politics*: the ways in which people constitute themselves as actors or subjects of international politics through performances, movements, and struggles.

10.30 The 'hostile environment', sentiment, and populist politics

Chair: [Dave Beech](#)

Artist and writer, based in Sweden and London. Professor at the University of Gothenburg and Chelsea College of Arts UAL, his research focuses on the formative social conditions for artistic practice and its relations to broader social and political forces.

[Will Davies](#)

Professor in Political Economy, Goldsmiths, University of London. Interests focus on neoliberalism, history of economics and economic sociology, exploring the way in which economics influences our understanding of politics, society and ourselves.

[Richard Whitby](#)

Video and performance artist, and writer, living and working in London. His work includes, for example, *The Lost Ones* which follows a disparate group of individuals, people in limbo, who are waiting to have their residency status assessed.

11.30 Break

12.00 Keynote: (TBC)

1.00 Lunch

2.00 *Citizenship, memory and recollection*

Chair: Helen Nisbet

[Willie Doherty](#)

Artist, living in Derry, Northern Ireland. Basing much of his work around Derry he uses photography, video and sound installations to explore the fallibility of human memory and recollection, revisiting and re-viewing familiar places from alternative positions.

[Helen Cammock](#)

Artist., based in London and Brighton. Her work features historical loss, racism, and a focus on raising up oppressed voices, usually female, including the struggle for civil rights during the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

3.30 Break

4.00 *Citizenship and the digital*

Chair: [Rod Dickinson](#)

Artist, based in Bristol. Senior lecturer in Digital Media, University of the West of England. His work explores how technology and media systems act as a form of control and how we interact with them, often unconsciously performing prescribed roles.

[Francesca Bria](#)

Associate Professor at University College London. Her work focuses on the ownership of personal data, exploring how societies can regain control over digital technology, data, and infrastructure, and the services that are mediated by smart technologies.

[Heath Bunting](#)

Artist based in Bristol. Committed to building open democratic communication systems and social contexts, his current work, The Status Project, uses artificial intelligence to search for artificial life in both societal and natural systems.

5.30 Final questions and comments

This event is programmed by Dr [Bernadette Buckley](#), Goldsmiths, University of London; and [Michaela Crimin](#), Reader in art and conflict at the Royal College of Art and co-director of Culture+Conflict

Please also note that in relation to the events above, the Goethe Institute presents [\(Re-\)constructing Identities: Tales of Belonging](#) on the preceding night, Wednesday 1 April 2020. Journalists Loveday Wright and Julia Smirnova will present and reflect on their impressions and findings with respect to social and cultural issues in relation to Brexit and increasing nationalism throughout Europe.

ⁱ *Acts of Citizenship*, edited by Engin F. Isin and Greg M. Nielsen, 2008

ⁱⁱ [‘What is a People’](#), Alan Badiou, Columbia University Press, 2016. In which *Alain Badiou surveys the idea of a people as a productive force of solidarity and emancipation and as a negative tool of categorization and suppression.*
