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WORLD CONFERENCE ON STATELESSNESS

C-L

ARTS PROGRAMME

L-D

2019

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26-28 June, 2019. The Hague
empathyandrisk.com

WORLD CONFERENCE ON STATELESSNESS

C-NC-LL-D

PLATFORM **ARTS PROGRAMME**

#ForInclusiveSocieties
#StatelessnessCANCELLED
#ArtToDisrupt

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CANCELLED is an artists' programme designed to coincide with, complement and challenge the global meeting of policy-makers, academics and activists at the World Conference on Statelessness.

The work of 70 artists from around the world will be reflected in the **CANCELLED Arts Programme** ...

Artists who inherited statelessness

Artists learning about statelessness for the first time

Artists who have worked exclusively on

Statelessness throughout their careers ...

Visual artists, theatre directors, performance artists, poets, playwrights, film makers, installation artists, cartoonists, spoken word artists, musicians, designers, writers, photographers.

Over 120 individual artworks for you to discover ...

Dear Conference Delegate,

The **CANCELLED Arts Programme** is delighted and honoured to feature the work of over 70 artists within the World Conference on Statelessness.

One of the main aims of the **CANCELLED Arts Programme** is to bring together a global body of artists willing and committed to address the issues of Statelessness through their continued practice.

The **CANCELLED Arts Programme** has been curated so that conference delegates will encounter artwork on Statelessness that is both seminal as well as ephemeral, archival as well as contemporary. You will be introduced to new artwork and be offered insights into the processes behind the creation of this work. There will be opportunities for activists and artists to engage with each other on panels and for conference delegates to understand the work of local artists, working on issues of Statelessness, in The Hague.

CANCELLED Arts Programme is structured to help encourage artists and activists to engage deeper with each other's work - to draw actively from each other's practice and experience, so that we all may be enriched by new perspectives into common challenges.

It is our great pleasure to be part of this important gathering.

CANCELLED Arts Team

CANCELLED Team

The **CANCELLED Arts Programme** is part of an ongoing international artist-led inquiry by **Empathy & Risk**.

Empathy & Risk was born out of the conviction that the capacity of the arts to effectively influence policy development has not been systematically explored. Empathy & Risk hopes to address this by engaging artists with policy makers and communities experiencing conflict, in order to address the placement of empathy in individual and policy responses to threat.

Empathy & Risk was conceptualised by David Cotterrell and Ruwanthie de Chickera in 2015. Since then, it has been active in the UK, Sri Lanka, Rwanda, Pakistan and Palestine.

The work of **Empathy & Risk** involves independent research, artistic responses, interventions into government and institutional policy making, writing,

advocating and documenting of inquiries into areas of empathetic failure and escalating risk.

Empathy & Risk looks for opportunities to consolidate the languages of art, advocacy and academia, in order to undermine the hierarchies of knowledge between these disciplines and introduce persons working within these sectors, to parallel understandings of common issues.

As such, when in 2018, the **Institute of Statelessness and Inclusion** initiated conversations on the need to build long-term partnerships between artists and activists in the area of Statelessness, **Empathy & Risk** were inspired by this challenge.

The **CANCELLED Arts Programme** grew out of this opportunity.

EMPATHY & RISK

The **CANCELLED Arts Programme** is devised by **Empathy & Risk** as a co-curated, artist-led, interdisciplinary initiative. The project is being curated in collaboration with **Creative Court** and involves established and emerging practitioners willing to critically reflect on political challenges and the role of their practices within society.



David Cotterrell and Ruwanthie de Chickera
CO-FOUNDERS OF **EMPATHY & RISK**

Empathy & Risk is supported by the Arts & Design Research Centre of Sheffield Hallam University and the Global Challenge Research Fund.

Creative Court

Creative Court has been working on artistic installations related to statelessness for 5 years now. In 2020, a new exhibition on statelessness in Europe is expected to be launched in The Hague. For this 2019 conference, **Creative Court** has joined the teams of the Institute of Statelessness and Inclusion and **Empathy & Risk** with the intent to inspire and be inspired, while connecting the conference and the city.

Concepts of international law and democracy are always developing, one may wonder if they will ever be fully perfect. **Creative Court** develops art projects and reflects on global justice. They believe that it is quite impossible to achieve lasting peace simply through rules and regulations. True peace can only be found through our shared humanity.

Creative Court strives to be a leading source of inspiration for human consciousness and connection. They work from the understanding that empathy and reflection are vital characteristics for peaceful coexistence, and that art has the ability to incite these qualities. Exploring humanity and the systems humanity creates in response to inhumanity, **Creative Court** develops concepts, conducts artistic research and presents education programmes.

In their work, **Creative Court** collaborates with international artists, curators, journalists, scientists, and many others. Quality, imaginative power and accessibility are key to their work. **Creative Court** is based in The Hague, seat of the Dutch government and city of peace and justice.



The **Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion** promotes inclusive societies by realising and protecting the right to a nationality for all. **ISI** is the first and only human rights NGO dedicated to working on this issue at a global level and has emerged as the civil society focal point for the statelessness movement.

As an NGO, **ISI** places significant value on working with artists, and on seeking meaningful resolutions to statelessness which go beyond the mere granting of nationality and focus on inclusion of stateless and formerly stateless persons in society.

AMAL DE CHICKERA
CO-FOUNDER OF ISI

The perspective and honesty that art can generate in response to an issue such as statelessness, should not be underestimated. In a world of procedure, professionalism and institutional policies, we sometimes need something to jolt us out of auto-pilot mode. I believe that art has this capacity.

LAURA VAN WAAS
CO-FOUNDER OF ISI

We need to explore new avenues to break through the fear, discrimination and stigma that act as a driver for statelessness. I believe that the arts can enable people like me to deepen our own understanding of what our work is really about and offer us new ways of thinking about how we approach this work.

The **CANCELLED Arts Programme** benefits from the tripartite collaboration of the three partner organisations – **Empathy & Risk**, **Institute of Statelessness and Inclusion** and **Creative Court**.

CANCELLED Arts Programme

CANCELLED will present new artworks, initiate a global archive on existing art on Statelessness and open up the conference as a site for artistic intervention and critique.

The **CANCELLED Arts Programme** comprises five main sections:

CANCELLED Platform

New artwork created by research-led artists informed through conversations with delegates participating in the conference.

CANCELLED Archive

Cross section of seminal artworks on Statelessness sourced from artists working around the world. Available on a virtual platform and featured within the conference.

CANCELLED Experiment

Discrete artist interventions challenging the structure, process and programming of the conference.

CANCELLED Dialogues

Artist-led interdisciplinary discussions and debates on the subject of Statelessness.

CANCELLED Bridge

Art-related events connecting the closed conference to the city of The Hague and vice versa.

In addition to the main panel contributions of artists, curators and partner, there are **CANCELLED** hosted events you may want to catch.

CANCELLED : Risk

Wednesday 26th | 2.00pm - 3:30pm (@ the Club)

Discussing the politics of personal and institutional risk within the issue of Statelessness.

Prof. John Packer in conversation with Prof. David Cotterrell

CANCELLED : Identity

Thursday 27th | 2.30pm - 4.00pm (@ Meet room)

Identities that exist at the exclusion of others. With an artwork as a stimulus for conversation, artists and activists discuss the politics of identities that are defined by cancelation.

Panelists – Manish Harijan (Artist), Cynthia Orchard (Lawyer) Rana Bishara (Artist) and Jawad Fairouz (Diplomat).

CURATED TOURS

Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th | 1pm -2pm

Curated Conversations around Artworks

Part of the **CANCELLED Platform**

Rabiaa Benlabhib (Creative Court) will lead a walking tour of the artwork within the CANCELLED Arts Programme and facilitate conversations with the artists.

ARTIST AUDIENCE DISCUSSION

Friday 28th | 11:15pm – 1.00pm (@ the Club)

Unpacking the **CANCELLED Experiment**

A round table discussion between artists and audience on what was intended, what was experienced through the CANCELLED Experiment. Led by Stephen Stenning.

CANCELLED Platform

Six Artists were commissioned to create new works of art, in any medium, for performance or exhibition at the conference as part of the CANCELLED Platform..

The artists were paired with a conference delegate who they had access to in the weeks preceding the conference. The artist-delegate partners have been encouraged to present their experiences of working together within the CANCELLED Arts Programme.

CANCELLED Platform Artists:

Rana Bishara, Ralph Eya, Manish Harijan, Rabiaâ Benlahbib, Steve Stenning and David Cotterrell



DAVID COTTERRELL
OVERALL CURATOR
CANCELLED ARTS PROGRAMME

The arts are frequently seen as instruments for project delivery. The arts are rarely deployed as an investigatory tool. Culture is often deployed to assist with increasing the impact of solutions, but not commonly seen as a method by which the questions can be articulated. The searching, questioning investigative methodology of independent artists is rarely effectively harnessed within the analysis of context.

Partners

As part of the process towards creating new work, the Platform Artists were partnered with conference delegates. Here are the artists-delegate partnerships that were set up.

Deepti Gurung & Neha Gurung | Nepal

Neha was stateless in Nepal because her mother Deepti couldn't pass her citizenship onto her. The ISI book on Statelessness for Children was inspired by Neha.

And **Ralph Eya** - An independent art practitioner concentrating on socially engaged art projects.

Jawad Fairooz | Bahrain

A former Bahraini MP, made stateless after opposing the government. He is now the Chairman of Salam for Democracy and Human Rights.

And **Rana Bishara** - An installation and performing artist. Her motives and symbols are connected to the memory, identity and heritage of Palestine.

Liesl Muller | South Africa

Liesl was admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa in 2011 and has been working on statelessness since 2013. Liesl specialises in nationality law.

And **Rabaâ Benlahbib** - The founder and director of the arts initiative Creative Court in The Hague.

Cynthia Orchard | UK

A human rights lawyer specialising in asylum and statelessness policy. She is on the Advisory Committee of the European Network on Statelessness.

And **Stephen Stenning** – Head of British Council's Arts and Society work, a cross-disciplinary role that uses cultural approaches to global challenges.

Ravi Hemadri

A social activist with over 25 years of experience in research and advocacy on the rights of Adivasis, Dalits, women, migrants and refugees.

And **Manish Harijan** - An artist-in-exile from Nepal. Manish has not been accepted for exhibition in Nepal since his 2012 solo show in Katmandu.

John Packer

Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution in the Faculty of Law, and Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, Ottawa University.

And **David Cotterrell** – Installation artist working across media and technologies. Co-founder of Empathy & Risk.

CANCELLED Dialogues

The CANCELLED Dialogues are curated conversations that will take place as key events within the conference. They are interdisciplinary, non-hierarchical conversations convened by artists in response to an artwork or a social intervention of relevance.

The CANCELLED Dialogues, part of the CANCELLED Arts Programme, will be the third set of dialogues under the Empathy & Risk Dialogues series. The first Empathy & Risk Dialogues were the WAR Dialogues, held in Edinburgh during the Edinburgh International Festival in 2017; the second Empathy & Risk Dialogues were titled the MEMORY Dialogues and were held in Rwanda in 2018 as part of the Ubumuntu Festival of Humanity.



RUWANTHIE DE CHICKERA
OVERALL CURATOR
CANCELLED ARTS PROGRAMME

Is it possible for us to look at a common concern from a very different perspective? The Empathy & Risk Dialogues are convened purposefully to bring together people across hierarchies and sectors – persons who would have shared concerns but possibly exclusive circles and contexts – to share knowledge with each other.

DIALOGUE

CANCELLED Archive

The CANCELLED Archive marks the beginnings of a global collection of artwork reflecting on issues of Statelessness. The CANCELLED Archive will exist primarily as a virtual platform providing access to artists and artworks that focus on Statelessness. Selected artwork from the CANCELLED Archive are featured at the conference.

CANCELLED Archive Artists:

Hrair Sarkissian, Andre Dao and Michael Green, Saiful Huq Omi, Tania El Khoury, Greg Constantine, Jonas Staal, Oana Tenter, Azza el Hassan, Yousif Qasmiyeh, Maayu Ali and Iman Aoun



NICOLETTA ENRIA

CO-CURATOR,
CANCELLED ARCHIVE

I've always been a staunch believer that by complementing advocacy and policy work on statelessness with the arts, you add a powerful empathetic factor to the work on the issue. Working on the Archive, connecting with inspiring artists from a broad range of stateless contexts, hearing their stories and interacting with their work has only convinced me of this further. This collection will be a testament to the complexity and nuances of statelessness - and how we can all learn to listen and learn from each other

ARCHIVE

CANCELLED Experiment

The 'Experiment' segment of the CANCELLED Arts Programme is the one that will take place the most discretely, within the inner most circle of the conference. The playing field for the CANCELLED Experiment is the structure of the conference itself. The purpose will be to address the issue of Statelessness through disruption, interruption and questioning of the structures and processes of the conference.



STEPHEN STENNING
CO-CURATOR
CANCELLED EXPERIMENT

The Experiment is well named as a programme element. I attend many conferences, as part of my day job, I observe that they often encourage, in those who attend, a passivity and a distance from the subject. It is an exciting challenge to look at how artistic approaches could energise and bridge to encourage an emotional as well as intellectual connection.

EXPERIMENT

CANCELLED Bridge

The CANCELLED Bridge is a curated programme of off-site but connected art-related interventions - encounters, installations and events. A mix of new and existing artwork curated with the Statelessness Conference as the nucleus, reaching beyond the context of the conference - into the Hague and returning to introduce new findings and responses.

CANCELLED Bridge Artists:
**Cris van Eijk, Andrea Acosta,
 Abdessamad El Montassir and Esther
 Polak**



RABIA BENLAHBIB
 CURATOR
 CANCELLED BRIDGE

I believe that artistic perspectives have the ability to create new avenues for conversation and understanding, verbalising the unspeakable, visualising the invisible. In this way, the interdisciplinary approach of the Bridge and the overarching CANCELLED Arts programme wants to invite different audiences to engage with these unique and crucial qualities of the arts.

BRIDGE

Thank You

Laura and Amal, - co-founders of the **Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion** - for your continued commitment to keep exploring new, creative and courageous ways of challenging Statelessness, and for your faith in working with us. / The rest of the **ISI team (Ileen, Michael, Mark, Alena, Gloria)** for the cooperation and patience extended to us. /

Rabiah – and team (**Mizanur, Ankita, Nata, Angelica, James, Pietertje, Erik-Jan**) at the **Creative Court**, for your easy style of hospitality, care, and support. / **Nicoletta** who took on the curating of the Archive with a deep sense of dedication. / **Stephen** for your wonderful input on the Experiment programme and Jennie King for all her help with pulling it together. / **Michelle**, Majella and their team at the **Museum of Communication** for all the open support provided to us. / To **IOHR** and **Ash** for all the coverage given to our efforts. / To **David** from **Q Films**. for his understated manner and energy in following the story. / **Ian** and **Dave** for their crucial help and support.

To Sheffield Hallam University and the Global Challenge Research Fund for supporting this project, with special mentions to **Anita** from **RIO** for her faith in the enquiry. **Ian, Paul & Jim** from the pioneering **Art and Design Research Centre** and **Julie, Nick & Heath** from **Design Futures** /

To the platform partners (**Deepti & Neha, Jawad, Liesl, Cynthia, Ravi & John**) who offered to partner with our artists in the development of their art work. We hope these conversations are just the beginning of a much longer relationship. /

To all our artists who responded so easily and generously with your time, your ideas and your art. We hope that you found this experience to be a fulfilling one. /

To the conference delegates who interacted with the **CANCELLED Arts Programme** with curiosity and open-mindedness. /

Thank you, **Empathy & Risk**

CANCELLED Arts Team

Overall Curators

David Cotterrell (CANCELLED)

Ruwanthi de Chickera (CANCELLED)

Co Curators

Stephen Stenning (CANCELLED Experiment)

Nicoletta Enria (CANCELLED Archive)

Rabiaa Benlahbib (CANCELLED Bridge)

Programme Manager

Ashling O'Shea

Production Manager

Jennie King

Film Maker


David Kew

Designer

Thilini Perera

Artist Assistant

Shyalina Muthumudalige



CANCELLED
can be claimed as an
identity of opposition
and power from which
to confront, on our own
terms, the violence of
being cancelled.

C = N

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