

UNESCO RILA SPRING SCHOOL

THE ARTS OF INTEGRATING: MAYDAY

virtual edition

from Monday 17 May 9am GMT
until Friday 28 May 5pm GMT

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS / PAPERS /
PERFORMANCES / INTERVENTIONS /
CREATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration
through Languages and the Arts,
University of Glasgow,
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

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 have widened the scope this year to include proposals linked to COP26 (cry for help from the planet) and covid (how to help each other during the pandemic).

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.
- can provide relief through creativity to all of us during this trying time of covid-19.
- link in with the themes of COP26, in particular climate justice and how to help communities adapt to, and prepare for, the worst impacts of climate change.

Submission guidelines

As this is a virtual event, we are asking contributors to be creative in their use of the virtual space, their time and in their way of engaging with the participants.

Where possible, we prefer asynchronous activities, preparatory exercises, readings, videos combined with shorter live sessions to long zoom workshops. We also encourage contributors to spread their sessions out over a few days, to give participants the time to reflect and prepare. We will be sending out daily emails with links to all participants, so there will be plenty of reminders going around.

You can be as creative as you like, we are open to new ideas, experimental audience engagement and collaborative sessions across the two weeks. Please do not let your imagination be limited by the Zoom room.

If you have an idea for a session, but you're not sure how best to present it in this context, we are more than happy to discuss how your idea can be shaped to fit the virtual format of the Spring School. Just send us an email and we will get back to you to schedule a call. See below for contact details.

Please be aware that the size of the audience can vary and that sessions will be scheduled in the morning, afternoon and evening, to accommodate a range of timezones. If you have a preference for a particular time, please write that in your proposal and we will do our best to honour your request.

Format of submission

Please send your submission to UNESCO-RILA@glasgow.ac.uk as a written description/abstract of maximum one side A4 (11pt Arial) or as a 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. Clearly state how much time you need, preference for time of day and if your sessions is suitable for children or not.

Deadline for submission is midnight on 1 March 2021. Proposals will be reviewed the following weeks and you will be notified of the outcome by 19 March 2021.

Fees: The organisers cannot pay fees to those who will present at the Spring School.

Childcare: If you will require childcare in order to contribute, please get in touch with us 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 RILA Secretariat at Bella.Hoogeveen@glasgow.ac.uk.

Information on previous UNESCO RILA Spring Schools can be found at:
<https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/unesco/events/springschool/>