



Activism in  
Sociology  
Forum

Refugee  
Week



## **Education Beyond Borders: Resisting Immobilities and Intellectual Impossibility in Universities in Post-Brexit-Vote Britain and Beyond**

### **A Fringe Event in Refugee Week 2017**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

1400 – 1800

Refugee Council Archive and Room EB.G. 10

University of East London, Docklands Campus. London

Booking: Via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/educating-without-borders-a-fringe-event-in-refugee-week-2017-tickets-34974671183>

We are delighted to invite you and your organisation to a fringe event to celebrate Refugee Week 2017 and to discuss ways to resist educational immobilities in and beyond British universities. The event is co-organised by the [Activism in Sociology Forum](#) (ASF) of British Sociological Association, the [Refugee Council Archive](#) at University of East London (UEL) and the Oral History Society [Migration Special Interest](#) Group. It will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June alongside a Tour of the Archive showcasing photographs taken from the exhibition by Bill Knight entitled "*The Refugee's Gift*", as part of supporting Refugee Week activities.

Co-hosted by the Refugee Research Archive and [OLive students and staff at UEL](#), the meeting will build on a previous [fringe event of ASF](#) held in Birmingham in 2016. It will be combined with short provocations by activists,

migrant rights advocates, refugee scholars and students leading on to a workshop on access to education and resisting educational immobilities in higher education. Our starting point is where we have ended in 2016, before Brexit, at the second ASF fringe meeting which was held at British Sociological Association's annual conference in Birmingham. What we see to be the difficulty of accessing education and producing intellectual – especially critical and political – work in British universities and elsewhere. It was previously highlighted how the fact that universities have dominated the post-16 education landscape for some time means that a cooperative university would have a long way to go to become comprehensive. At the end of the dialogical and interactive discussion, participants had left the meeting room with an urge to continue that dialogue. The aim of the to be held event is to think about and share ideas and practices on what is to be done about access to education, especially regarding asylum seekers and refugees, in post-Brexit Britain and elsewhere.

Questions for provocation include but not limited to:

How do we access education and ensure intellectual practice in neoliberal universities in post-Brexit Britain and elsewhere? How do we ensure the widest possible participation in our universities in a time rising nationalism?

Is radical praxis enough for accessing education and resisting intellectual immobilities within and outside universities?

What is the role of third sector organisations at a time of welfare re-structuring and austerity politics? What actions and praxis are necessary to resist educational immobilities within universities?

We also search for answers to questions such as how do students engage with social transformation and be active in promoting social change that is attentive to inequalities of class, ethnicity, gender, race and sexuality and aligned with struggles to confront and eliminate them? How do we achieve an inclusive and diversified and empowering education given the fact that contemporary political frictions and the rise of right wing politics in the UK, in Europe and elsewhere point to an increasingly divisive society? How long way to go for a 'cooperative' university to become comprehensive?

The event will start with three brief provocations leading to small group discussion and roundtable with activists and OLIVE students. Provocators include: Activist and Founder of Community Centred Knowledge – Mama D Ujuaje, activist-academic at UEL- Timothy Hall, and young migrants and refugee rights activist and Let Us Learn project worker (tbc).



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Our aim is to attract an equal share of activists, academics, community advocates, refugee and migrants' rights experts, students and scholars of forced-migration and refugee research, and friends and people in struggle for borderless education or immobilities in universities in and outside post-Brexit Britain.

The discussion will be followed by a tour of the Refugee Council Archive at UEL showcasing both the work of the Archive and a mini exhibition of selected photographs by Bill Knight from his exhibition entitled "*The Refugee's Gift.*" Originally created as a free exhibition for the Refugee Council, the Refugee's Gift "*shows refugees and the contribution they make to life in the United Kingdom. Here are people who have escaped from persecution and who have benefited from our long tradition of offering asylum. They may have arrived recently from conflicts in Syria, Eritrea, or Somalia, or sought safety decades ago from Hitler's Germany. Men and women, young and old, rich and poor, most arrived with few material possessions – but they all came with an unstoppable determination to make a new life.*" (Refugee Council, [The Refugee's Gift](#)).

Light refreshments will be served during the event.

This is an open event for *ALL* and free to attend. BUT RSVP is needed for refreshments. Booking can be made via Eventbrite page. Please RSVP at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/educating-without-borders-a-fringe-event-in-refugee-week-2017-tickets-34974671183>

For further information, feel free to contact the conference organisers: Paul Dudman at Refugee Research Archive ([p.v.dudman@uel.ac.uk](mailto:p.v.dudman@uel.ac.uk)) or Rumana Hashem at BSA Activism in Sociology Forum ([r.hashem@uel.ac.uk](mailto:r.hashem@uel.ac.uk)).