

**Lisa Blackman**

**Hauntology, Affect and the "Migrant Experience": Home Rules and Affective Histories**

11:15am - April 27, 2018, Nádor 15, Auditorium B

This lecture will explore how cities might be restructured and reimagined as a result of migration. It will re-move (that is put back into circulation) a novel example of housing activism led by a diverse group of working class and migrant communities in London during the 1990's who led a struggle and campaign that I will call "Home Rules". I will use the concept of "affective histories" developed from the work of Valerie Walkerdine in order to explore and analyse why this form of political resistance and struggle did effect change, and what was mobilized in terms of the affective histories of the participants involved. Where the communities Walkerdine focuses on are often intolerant of difference and otherness (or at least this is the myth or perception of them), the communities I am interested in are those whose heterogeneous histories of migration, displacement, persecution, racism, sexism, homophobia collide in ways that provide the potential to reimagine and restructure what it means to live together through difference, and the cultivation of practices of mutual support, solidarity and interdependence. The case study provides a strong argument against urban gentrification and the replacement of difference and diversity with sameness. I approach this story through the unique vantage point of being the granddaughter of Irene Blackman, who was a key protagonist within the campaign. I lived through the context of this struggle knowing little about my grandmother's life before she came to London in the 1930's as a single mother. The relationship between the personal and the political will become of interest for the story I will tell.

**Migrant Narratives and the City Discussion**

4:45pm - April 27, 2018, Nádor 15, Auditorium B

The plenary session of the invited respondents of the Migrant Narratives and the City Conference. The 10-minute reflections of the participants on the theme of the conference will be followed by a Q & A session

*Participants:*

**Gábor Gyáni**, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary

**John McLeod**, University of Leeds, UK

**Andrea Pető**, Central European University, Hungary

**Prem Kumar Rajaram**, Central European University, Hungary

**Rosemary Wakeman**, Fordham University, US

Chair: Éva Fodor, CEU, Hungary

Participation is free, but registration is required, please RVSP to Gabi Göbl at [GoblG@ceu.edu](mailto:GoblG@ceu.edu).

**Dace Dzenovska**

**Emptiness: Shifting Patterns of Global (Dis)connectivity**

11:00am - April 28, 2018, Nádor 15, Auditorium B

Western philosophers have long written about emptiness as a malady of alienated and disenchanting moderns. However, in the once vibrant, but now deindustrialized Latvian-Russian borderlands, residents talk about emptiness as something that remains when the promises of modernity have been betrayed. When discussing it, they talk about the number of houses or apartments that stand empty and the number of people who have left. They describe how empty streets, stores, and homes produce discomfort, even nausea. For the locals, emptiness is not a temporary state of falling behind the global march to prosperity, but a transitional state between a world that has ended and a world whose contours are not yet visible.

This talk will reflect on "emptiness" as an object of study and a lens for analyzing how people and places become disconnected from and attempt to reconnect with what they understand to be meaningful life. It will mobilize the concept of emptiness developed on basis of ethnographic research in the Latvian-Russian borderlands as a "portable analytic" that can be useful for understanding contemporary reterritorialization of power that produces emptiness as an enduring form of life.

**Carolyn Pedwell**

**Migrating Images: Digital Affect and the Habits of Social Change**

3:00pm - April 28, 2018, Nádor 15, Auditorium B

Focusing on the heartbreaking photograph of Alan Kurdi - the three-year-old Syrian refugee whose small body washed up on the shores of Bodrum, Turkey in 2015 - this talk begins by exploring our persistent hope that images of injustice will have the power to catalyze progressive transformation. At the same time, however, there remains widespread belief in the inevitability of 'compassion fatigue'. Bringing philosophers of habit into conversation with contemporary scholars of affect, visual culture and digital media, I argue for a more nuanced understanding of the links between images and change - one in which political feeling and political action are complexly intertwined and repeated sensation does not necessarily lead to disaffection. When affect acts as a 'binding technique' compelling us to inhabit our sensorial responses to images, I suggest, we may become better attuned to everyday patterns of seeing, feeling, thinking and interacting - and hence to the possibility of change at the level of habit. This talk thus contends that thinking affect and habit together as imbricated may enable us to better understand the dynamics of both individual and socio-political change today.