

PERFORMANCE AND THE MATERNAL



ENGAGE.... conversations conceived
across performance studies and the
maternal

Abstracts

Migration and (Maternal) Citizenship in
Performance 27.10.20, 7.30 – 9pm



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Provocation: How can the maternal migrate, cross borders and enable us to think globally with responsibility and care towards one another? Is it possible to envision a maternal citizenship?

Jennifer Verson, MAMA

Jennifer Verson will be talking about *Migrant Artists Mutual Aid* and how they have used performance to affectively craft a de-essentialised maternity. This new aesthetics of citizenship, which is at the core of her vision as the Artistic Director, has over nine years served as a location for post-nationalist political agency. She will talk about the impact of this political agency through a framework of micro political interventions supported by an ontology of interconnection and the work of political theorist, W. E. Connolly.

Umut Erel

Umut Erel's research employs an intersectional approach and explores how gender, migration and ethnicity inform practices of citizenship. In this presentation she will talk about 'Participatory Theatre to Challenge the No Recourse to Public Funds Policy'.

Jina Valentine

Jina Valentine's practice deals with alternative readings of text: what logic exists within the illogic of aphasics or amongst an aporetic oversaturation of meaning? Valente détournes literary devices and analytical techniques (as in *Explication de texte*), or illustrates the incompatibility of content and substrate (transcribing writing in caustic paper-eating ink as in *Testimony*). The socio-critical element is in part inspired by her son and his perennially posed why? It is inspired by what in *Art Brut* is described as *un claque*, or among millennials as becoming woke. *Un claque* is an event that shakes one awake, opening up new possibilities for perceiving the world. As events unfolding in local politics compel her to (re)act, Valente finds herself having to distil things like white supremacy into 7-year-old terms. Such distillation or translation requires re-examination of the factors determining her own socio-political positionality. Whilst not have definitive answers for his oft-posed why's or what is', though experiencing *un claque*: it is a pulsion demanding her recalibration of meanings a priori, and her position in the world as a single, black mother.

Elena Marchevska

There Are Other Worlds*

In this short talk Elena Marchevska will reflect on her most recent practice as research collaborative projects *Finding home* and *Third nature*. She will look into how ways of studying and representing migrants can have world-making effects and ask 'How do I talk about the meaning of care from my own migrant marginalized experience of everyday caring?'. In this project, she collaboratively thinks of different worlds. Worlds where it is not enough to detect what is there, what is given in the things we study and experience about migration, but also worlds where we think about what is not included and about what migrant could become. Worlds that are constantly rethought, contested and enriched.

*Inspiration drawn from Sun Ra's There Are Other Worlds (They Have Not Told You Of)

Sara C Motta

In this contribution Sara C Motta begins from impurity as a mestiza salvaje single mother of Colombian Chibcha, Eastern European Jewish and Celtic lineages living on the unceded lands of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples at an estuary point where salt and fresh waters meet in the so-called lands of 'Australia'. She will explore her Impurity as both a phenomenological experience of multiple (mis)namings etched into the skin, and a political-

epistemological choice of becoming (m)other otherwise. She moves from here to travel into the painful codifications of borders and mapping practices which are based on the denial and active negation of Indigenous and Bla©k maternal political and epistemological difference. From here a re-reading of such absence is made to bring to thought the ongoing existence of the raced maternal body and the practices from which she might be nurtured and enfleshed through decolonising internal territories of non-being into the possibilities of a maternal political citizenship against and beyond the Modern boundaries of citizenship and state. Sara will end on an invitation to join the praxis of becoming bla(c)k (m)others as a pluridiverse project of reclaiming territories denied, unthought and out-of-time and learning to listen to all our grandmothers' stories.

Chair: Lena Šimić