Migration and Settlement
Extending the Welcome
**INTRODUCTION**

Migration and Settlement: Extending the Welcome was a co-produced multi-method research and practice initiative involving diverse communities of refugees, visual artists, performers, a musician, working with researchers in applied linguistics and applied theatre. It aimed to consider how arts-based practice and language education can combine within the multicultural and multilingual environments where the research took place.

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), through the Leeds Social Sciences Institute (LSSI) Impact Acceleration Account (IAA), the project built upon research carried out for the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)-funded Translation and Translanguaging project, follow-on research Migration and Home: Welcome in Utopia produced for the 2016 Connected Communities Utopias Festival, and LangScape Curators, an arts and language pedagogical project. Migration and Settlement aimed to build on the collaborative partnerships developed through this research programme and contribute to understandings of ‘co-production’ in applied linguistics research with creative practitioners and in educational contexts.

Through Migration and Settlement we worked through themes of settlement, the remaking of home, and belonging, incorporating diverse artistic practices, and culminating in a shadow performance and music workshop.

**WHO WAS INVOLVED?**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Simpson</td>
<td>University of Leeds</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
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<td>Jessica Bradley</td>
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<td>Samuel McKay</td>
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<td>Bev Adams</td>
<td>Faceless Arts</td>
<td>Lead Artist</td>
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<td>Fran Woodcock</td>
<td>Faceless Arts</td>
<td>Musician</td>
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<td>Stephanie James</td>
<td>Faceless Arts</td>
<td>Visual Artist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louise Atkinson</td>
<td>Freelance</td>
<td>Designer</td>
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Toast Love Coffee pop-up cafe, Harehills, Leeds
Refugee Education Training Advice Service (RETAS Leeds)
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds
Asmarina Voices choir, Leeds
The Ark, Harehills, Leeds
The Art House, Wakefield
THE WORKSHOPS

Over a period of six weeks, artists worked with project participants to explore themes of settlement, belonging, home, culture and language. The group used vinyl and acetate to create a colourful representation of Roundhay Road in Harehills, an area familiar to recent migrants to the city, as well as being the geographical focus for the Leeds-based TLANG case study.

Working with a musician, participants also composed original songs comprising greetings in a variety of languages. Stories were shared on a large map connecting feelings and narratives of settlement to places nearby. These stories, songs, and pieces of art were woven together to develop a shadow theatre production.

The project enabled recent migrants to work together with researchers in applied linguistics and applied theatre, artists, and fellow-participants to consider migration, settlement, belonging, and what it means to dislocate and relocate.

THE PERFORMANCE

The shadow performance told the stories of three participants as they arrived in Leeds and made their homes in the city. Their recorded stories played with sounds of the city and music, whilst the performers used shadow puppets to create a visual representation of the participants’ migration narratives.

The performance was shared at RETAS Leeds, and at the West Yorkshire Playhouse for the Asmarina Voices choir alongside a celebration lunch and a shared music workshop. It then moved to the Art House, Wakefield, as part of their Refugee Week programme.

The performance focused upon some of the times and places participants have felt settled, unsettled, welcome, and at home in Leeds. Audience members reported that hearing and seeing their own experiences reflected in the piece was an affirming and welcoming part of their own settlement.
Legacy

The stories, the performance, and the processes involved in the Migration and Settlement project have toured to other towns and cities, including Sheffield and Bristol.

The methodologies are being developed as part of a larger programme of applied linguistics research into the concept of ‘belonging’, and how it can be explored through language and participatory arts-based practice.

The Migration and Settlement project, is one of a number of linked interdisciplinary research initiatives, which have developed into a research and practitioner network for creative inquiry and applied linguistics for the Association Internationale de de Linguistique Appliquée, convened by Jessica Bradley (Leeds and Leeds Trinity University), Lou Harvey (Leeds) and Emilee Moore (UAB).

For more information please contact:

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Weblinks

The TLANG project
www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/tlang/index.aspx

The TLANG blog
www.tlangblog.wordpress.com

Migration and Home blog
www.welcomeutopia2016.wordpress.com

LangScape Curators
www.langscapecurators.tumblr.com

Edgelands Arts
www.edgelandsarts.co.uk

AILA Research Network
www.creativeinquiryaila.wordpress.com

Bricolage Arts
www.bricolagearts.org.uk