



Symposium
*Arts and cultural
practices towards
inclusive societies*

27 April 2018

Theatro Polis OPAP, Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre [NiMAC]

Arts and cultural practices towards inclusive societies

Symposium and Journal Launch

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Theatro Polis OPAP, Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre [NiMAC]
10-12 Tempon Street, 1016 Nicosia

Symposium | 13.00-20.00 (Language English)

Waves Arts and Culture Journal Launch | 20.00-22.00

Symposium Speakers | Sarah Halqvist, Melissa Hekkers, Doros Polykarpou, Efi Savvides & Akid Hassan, Niki Sioki, Stefanos Spaneas, Nikos Trimikliniotis, Marina Tsekou, Evi Tselika, *Waves* editorial team (Fadi A. Hamad, Ester Beatty, Mazen Beshtawe, Adi Atassi)

Initiated and organized by **Shaping Common Paths Project** (Niki Sioki & Evi Tselika)

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Facebook event | <https://www.facebook.com/events/584413298593910/>

Europe has historically experienced large waves of human migrations. In 2015, there were an estimated 2.7 million immigrants to the EU-28 from non-member countries, while at least 2.8 million emigrants were reported to have left an EU Member State. European societies are receiving large influxes of people seeking refuge and are faced with challenges in terms of co-existence and inclusion. On 1 January 2016, the number of people living in the EU-28 who were citizens of non-member countries was 20.7 million, while the number of people living in the EU-28 who had been born outside of the EU was 35.1 million.

Recent statistics also confirm the multicultural character of the Cypriot society, as a high proportion of non-nationals (10% or more of the resident population) was recorded in the country population. With minimal

civic rights and facing high levels of exploitation and discrimination, migrant communities have limited interaction with their host society.

This symposium will focus on the potential of art and cultural practices as a tool for social change, particularly in relation to the possibilities of creating opportunities through the arts for bringing together migrants, refugees and host populations. It is realized as part of the project *Shaping Common Paths*, which participated in the 2017 European Cultural Foundation *idea camp* focusing on 'moving communities' and which was subsequently awarded an 'idea' grant to further research and develop it, shaping potential enduring solutions. Drawing on models of participatory and socially inclusive methods of involving communities in processes of cultural and artistic production a context of reflection is shaped which addresses how we use the arts -- understood within a wide framework including both fine and applied arts-- to empower, raise awareness and critically reflect on contemporary population and cultural shifts.

The symposium will take in parallel with the launch of the prototype issue of *Waves** and provide an opportunity for a multi- and interdisciplinary discussion between the editorial team, the project initiators and researchers, activists and academics from various fields such as arts, cultural and media studies, anthropology, history, sociology, philosophy, political science and activism. Its key focus is to expand the discussions related to how cultural and artistic practices are used to address, perplex and questions issues related to migration, displacement, borders and moving communities.

* *Waves* arts and culture journal, is a participatory publishing project which is currently being developed by communities of migrants in Cyprus with the support of an ECF grant. The project advocates and explores the potential of arts and culture practices to empower, re-imagine and realize new structures of working together and create formats for collaboration between different migrant communities and host societies within contemporary cities.