

Paper Abstract IMISCOE Conference 2024

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Going public: Arts-based methods and their impact on narratives in a process of change

Since 2022, Face Migration is realizing different arts projects with refugees in the context of HORTUS, a planned centre of competence in the city of Zurich. This paper will document and analyse three recently finished and/or ongoing projects: a music project, an audiovisual project and a photographic theatre project. All these projects are highly performative in character due to the participation of refugees and collaboration with highly professional artists and/or artistic institutions based in Zurich. By applying arts-based methods, these projects aim to create an artistic space of encounter and exchange for its participants as well as for an interested public. Furthermore, it seeks to open discussions about and raise awareness for the situation of refugees in Switzerland.

Based on our previous work (see the recent IMISCOE article «Refugees in a multimedia dialogue»), this paper shall illustrate how narratives of refugees with their (traumatic) experiences can change through performative acts, such as concerts, literature performances, acting on scene or photography. With their arts-based methods, the projects should not only have an impact on the individual biographic level, but also in the perception of and encounter with the audience.

First, we will describe the three above mentioned projects and their general aim. Second, we will explore the impact and outcome of these projects through analysing our observations and conducting personal interviews with participants. By gaining an insight in the personal experiences of the participants and/or the audience, we aim to demonstrate the impact that arts-based methods can have on narratives in a process of change.