

Trigger Warning 13:00-18:00
Assemblage: An Ideas Lab 15:00-16:00

18th May, 2018 @ Bar Bar Black Sheep, 16 The Square, Wolverton, MK12 5DG

FREE

There There performance company, Counterpoints Arts, and Open University lecturer Agnes Czajka are joining forces and coming to Bar Bar Black Sheep to deliver a day of art and discussions on migration.

The day will fuse the participatory installation, *Trigger Warning* with an experimental Ideas Lab exploring identity, belonging, 'integration' and xenophobia in Milton Keynes and Wolverton.

Trigger Warning contests immigrant stereotypes; hacked village fête-style games, such as 'Hook-a-Job', 'Passport in a Bucket', 'Wheel of Benefits', and 'NHS photo banner' depict and denounce deceitful Eastern European clichés. Audiences of all passports are encouraged to exchange their experiences of immigration, against a backdrop of deceptively light entertainment. By playing the games, the audience experiences the life of a typical immigrant as imagined by the British media over the last decade: the job-stealing, benefits-scrounging, non-integrated Eastern European.

Devised by There There, a 50% Serbian, 50% Romanian performance duo, *Trigger Warning*

will be invigilated by a group of local Eastern Europeans of different professional, economic and generational experiences, making room for a wider, nuanced conversation on integration and exclusion.

The Black Sheep Collective will also contribute with a response piece. The stand-alone installation, *Bad Nagtówek*, explores the negative portrayal of people immigrating from European countries in the national and local media. It will be in the form of a traditional British Dress, beautiful in appearance from afar but up close portraying negativity.



Assemblage is an open-forum ideas lab intended to inspire, challenge and provoke.

Assemblage: *n.* a collection or gathering of things or people; a machine or object made of pieces fitted together; a work of art made by grouping together found or unrelated objects; the action of gathering or fitting things together

Facilitated by Agnes Czajka (Open University), and set in the context of *Trigger Warning*, it will explore some of the themes and questions raised by the installation through personal narrative. Participants in the lab are invited to share their stories of migration, integration, identity and belonging (whether positive, negative, poignant or funny) through a 5-minute contribution. Your contribution can come in many forms – a personal story, a piece of music, a set of family photos, an artefact – that speaks to your personal experiences of migration, identity or belonging. As the title of the lab implies, we hope that the contributions will form part of an assemblage that will make manifest the stories that underpin our community. Everyone is welcome, whether you contribute or not — your contribution can be as simple as listening!