

Final Report of activities - Javier Toscano

Multi-Disciplinary Fellow 2021-2022

This report aims at sharing with the APRA Foundation the objectives that I reached while engaging as a fellow at the Foundation.

The year in which I was selected was a difficult year because it was the last stretch of the pandemic, nevertheless I could attend online conferences and get articles published. By the end of the period, I could finally make a trip to the borders of the European Union, where a significant part of my activities was to be sustained. These was very important to the development of my project.

As a fellow, I also had some other activities going on beyond my focus theme, and I could use the spare time of my main research to finalize them. This was important to me; moreover, the papers that I submitted in this way were always associated with the Foundation.

I am very grateful to the Foundation and especially to its director, Adrian Piper, for providing a space where a whole range of activities to be developed could happen. I really believe this provides a transformative opportunity for unconventional approaches to academia and creative work. This was an outstanding experience, and I will keep in contact with the Foundation to communicate the final outcome of other projects that I started developing at the time I was a fellow (a book and a feature film are on the way).

The output during the time of my fellowship was the following:

Articles published in journals, as part of the fellowship:

Toscano, J. (2023). "The Symbolic Work of Political Discourse. Populist Reason and its Foundational Myth." *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 1-16.

DOI: 10.1177/01914537231157375

Toscano, J. (2021). "Violence as Expression: Leibniz and the Baroque as key sources for Walter Benjamin's Political Thought". *LoSguardo* 32 (1), 197-216.

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.5838292

Ali, M. and Toscano, J., "Return to Lesbos. New hotspot Kara Tepe: a visual memory from the periphery of Europe." Original work, submitted to the *Visual Anthropology Review* journal.

Short films produced:

The Lesbos Limbo (2023)

<https://vimeo.com/778394256?share=copy>

PW: lesbos4332

Return to Moria (2023)

<https://vimeo.com/781089954?share=copy>

PW: Moria20233

This last film has been selected and screened at the following film festivals:

**Mediterraneo Festival Corto*, Calabria, Italy (November 2023)

**Transcending Borders Film Festival*, Paris, France (January 2023)

*Political Film Festival, USA (January 2023).

Conferences attended (papers selected on a peer-reviewed basis):

“Awakening: a politico-existential understanding of messianism. On Walter Benjamin’s project for a new mankind” at the conference *Hoffnung / Hope: Tagung der Internationalen Walter Benjamin Society*, 4-6 November 2021 (+ info at

<http://walterbenjamin.info/event/1025/>). Media such as *Der Tagesspiegel* covered the conference with detail (<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/kultur/walter-benjamin-im-spiegel-internationaler-forschung-passagen-der-hoffnung/27775734.html>)

“Migrant Nation, Deconstructing Nostalgia, reorganising hope” with S. Azimipour, at the *Acting as if. Prefigurative Politics in Theory and Practice* Conference – Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic, 22-25 October 2021 (+ info at <https://sites.google.com/view/acting-as-if>).

“The Migrant Livelihood. Wanderings, hyperbolic threats and symbolic erasures in the name of democracy”, at the *IAPSS World Congress, Democracy, Identity and Power*. Online, 11-14 May 2021.

Other activities / selected presentations:

Migration und Integration. Polnische und deutsche Perspektive(n) in europäischen Kontext
3. Göttinger-Thorner Seminar, Göttingen, Germany, June 03-05, 2022.

Collaboration and / as Negotiation: Documentary Ethics

UnionDocs, Center for Documentary Art, NY, USA. March 6, 2022.

+information: <https://uniondocs.org/event/collaboration-and-as-negotiation-documentary-ethics/>

The right to vote for the noncitizens: an experimental journey against nationalism

Talk with Sanaz Azimipour and Azadeh Ataei, for the *Work it out platform*, Berlin, Germany, 5 Nov. 2021. + info at: <https://www.workitout-platform.com/formats/one-hour-one-question>

Public Space and Creative Potential

Within the project *Design Campus*, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Germany, 22nd July 2021.