technische universität dortmund

academy in exile

CULTURES OF REFUGE:
Climate, Flight, Refuge

Thurs., 15 Oct., 2026

14:00-15:00
Registration

15:00-15:15
Welcome
- Prof. Vanessa Agnew (Cultural Studies, TU Dortmund University)
- Prof. Kader Konuk (German Studies, TU Dortmund University)

15:15-16:15
Rights for Nature / Rights for People
Moderator: Prof. Kader Konuk (TU Dortmund University)
- Bella Mosselmans / Nikhita Mani (Global Strategic Litigation Council for Refugee Rights, Climate Mobility Case Database, The New School): Protecting the Rights of People Displaced by Climate Change
- Hendrik von Schlieben (Rechte der Natur e.V.): Ecosystems as Subjects: The Rights of Nature as a Legal and Democratic Tool for Socio-Ecological Transition

16:15-16:30
Coffee

16:30-17:15
Keynote
Moderator: Prof. Julia Faisst (American Studies, TU Dortmund University)
- Emeritus Professor Ranabir Samaddar (Migration and Forced Migration, Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, CIFAR Global Fellow for "Humanity's Urban Future"): City, Migrant, Security (ZOOM)

17:15-18:15
Exhibitions
Moderators: Prof. Nikola Ukic (Seminar für Kunst und Kunstwissenschaft, TU Dortmund University) /
Renate Poccia (Academy in Exile)
- *What Throws Us Away* (Dana van Rijssen, sculptor)
- *What Grew at Home* (Vanessa Agnew / Jobst von Kunowski, photographer)
- *Creating Refuge* (Students of Applied Literary and Cultural Studies, TU Dortmund University)
- *Garden(s) of Refuge in Minecraft* (Academy in Exile Team)

18:15-19:30
Buffet

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Fri., 16 Oct., 2026

8:30-9:00
Breakfast

9:00-10:00
Keynote
Moderator: Prof. Karen Shire (Vice-Rector for University Culture, Diversity, and International Affairs, University of Duisburg-Essen)

- Prof. Sonja Dümpelmann (Environmental Humanities, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München): Urban Green Spaces between Refuge and Rejection

10:00-12:00
Opening of Garden(s) of Refuge and Reception
Moderators: Prof. Vanessa Agnew / Prof. Kader Konuk
Ribbon Cutting and University of Cincinnati Ceremonial Tree Planting

- Prof. Maximiliane Wilkesmann, Vice-Rector for International Affairs, TU Dortmund University
- Prof. Gerhard Schembecker, Vice-Rector for Finance and Transfer, TU Dortmund University
- Prof. Karen Shire, Vice-Rector for University Culture, Diversity, and International Affairs, University of Duisburg-Essen
- Dr. Barbara Schneider, International Office, TU Dortmund University
- University of Cincinnati
  Prof. Raj Mehta, Vice-Provost for International Affairs
  Jenni Kim, Strategic Partnerships
  Juliet Ellinger, University of Cincinnati Garden of Refuge Fellow (2026)
- University of Michigan, Institute for the Humanities
  Sheri Sytsema-Geiger, Chief Administrator
- Boston University, Center for the Humanities
  Prof. Juliet Floyd, Director
  Dr. Kurt Cavender, Managing Director
- Dr. Gert Fischer, Rudolf Chaudoire-Stiftung
- Dr. Heinz-Rudi Spiegel und Vera Schürmann, Marga and Kurt Möllgaard Foundation, Gastreich Foundation, and JK-Foundation
- Karl-Philip Güntert, Deutsches Stiftungszentrum
- Dr. Sage Anderson, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen
- Priya Nayar, UA Ruhr North America
- Dr. Bryce Lawrence, Landscape Ecology, TU Dortmund University
- André Spindeldreher, Christian Rehkopp, and Frank Thorlümke, Construction and Facility Management, TU Dortmund University
- Thomas Oeldemann, Rectorate Officer for International Affairs, TU Dortmund University
- Dr. Henning Moldenhauer, Sustainability Office, TU Dortmund University
- HoKiDo Kindergarten representatives

12:00-13:15
Rights for People
Moderator: Dr. Tatiana Levina (Ruhr University Bochum)

- Prof. Julia Mourão Permoser (Migration and Globalization, University for Continuing Education Krems): Spheres of Sanctuary

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- Prof. Itamar Mann (International Law and Political Theory, University of Münster/University of Haifa): Disappearing Island States and the Terminal Position (ZOOM)
- Qiyamud Din Ikram (Refugees International Fellow Alumnus): Beyond Protection: Refugees as Actors in Climate Governance

13:15-14:15
Lunch

14:15-15:30
Connecting with the Environment
Moderator: Dr. Sezai Ozan Zeybek (Metropolitan Studies, TU Berlin)
- Dr. Niall Peach (Latin American Studies, University of Cincinnati): *Refugia:* The Possibility of (Narrating) Emergent Relations in and after the Garden in Latin America (ZOOM)
- Prof. Thomas Beery (Environmental Education, Kristianstad University): The Role of Nature Experience in Contemporary Refuge
- Prof. Peter Christensen (Humanities, Art and Art History, University of Rochester): First Wave Climate Refuges on North America's "Third Coast" (ZOOM)

15:30-16:45
Poster Presentations
Moderator: Kira Heetpaß (Academy in Exile)
- Dr. Bryce Lawrence, Dr. Ivo Fuentes-Rheinen, Uwe Grützner, Prof. Dietwald Gruehn, Prof. Vanessa Agnew (Landscape Ecology and Landscape Planning/ Spatial Planning / Cultural Studies, TU Dortmund University): Brownfield Soundscape Restoration associated with the Miyawaki Succession Method
- Dr. Masouma Qanbari (Academy in Exile): Climate Change, Fragile State, and Transboundary Water Interactions: Rethinking Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and the Example of Afghanistan
- Dr. Khadijeh Mohammadi (Academy in Exile): Earthquakes, Climate Change, and Refuge in Northeastern Afghanistan
- Philippe Mesly (PhD Candidate, Laboratoire interdisciplinaire d'étude du politique Hannah Arendt): Gardening and Exile
- Sefa İnci Suvak (Co-Founder, *ClimateNarratives* and *migration-audio-archiv*): *ClimateNarratives*
- Juliet Ellinger (PhD Candidate, University of Cincinnati): Embodied Inherited Rhetorics: Reimagining Familial Archives through Place, Memory, and Writing
- Jemal Nasir Ahmed (Academy in Exile): When the Herd Is Not Enough: Agroecology, Markets, and Food Security across Ethiopia's Drought Hotspots

16:45-17:00
Coffee

17:00-18:00
Narrating Refuge
Moderator: Dr. Kate Bowan (Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies, Australian National University)
- Dr. Friedemann Yi-Neumann (Anthropology, University of Helsinki): *Refugia*: A Material Culture and More-Than-Human Perspective (ZOOM)
- Prof. Joela Jacobs (German Studies, University of Arizona), Recycling Culture, Refuge(es), and Arrival: Social Justice and Environmental Discourses Ten Years after the "Crisis"
- Concluding Remarks and Discussion