

The background features a vibrant, abstract composition of colorful splatters and dust particles in shades of blue, purple, pink, and yellow against a white background. A large, dark, semi-circular shape overlaps the bottom right corner, containing the text.

Living Refugee Archive: Ethics of Digital Archiving

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Background

- UEL the home to the Refugee Council Archive and a growing collection of archival materials on refugee and forced migration issues.
- UEL Archives and Civic Engagement: Oral History project entitled "Democratic Access or Privileged Exclusion: Civic Engagement through the Preservation and Access to Refugee Archives," recording oral histories of displaced persons in East London. Link: <http://www.livingrefugeearchive.org/>

living
refugee
archive

Archives, Ethics and Lived Experiences

- Archives can play a very important role in relation to identity formation and collective memory.
- Archives can have a positive role to play in challenging the negative discourses on this issues within media and society.
- “Refugees are the experts of their own experience” (Hynes, 2003, p.1) and should be enabled to control how their narratives are archived and represented.
- Social history and powerful political narratives are situated, memories are situated, and ideas about memories and identities can be challenged through oral history recording of contested lived experience of refugees. Complete new social history can be constructed with every single oral history.
- Archives can also be a nexus of power relations where voices and narratives can be either heard or silenced.

Ethics of Digital Archiving

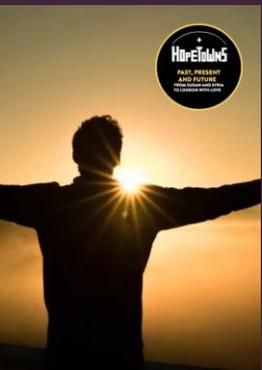
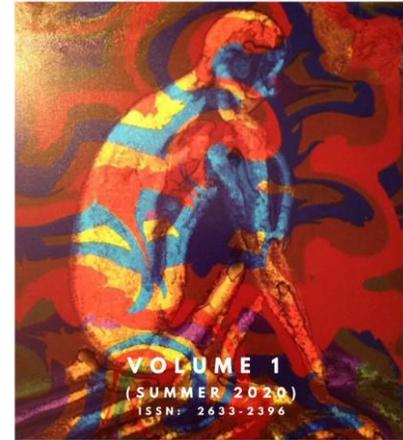
- Memories of refugees are 'moving', and digitalised oral history archives can be seen as 'a project of human rights'
- Ethical considerations must be paramount in the work that we do. Importance of engendering and maintaining trust in the work that we do.
- Ensuring ethical approaches to how we collect and document our collections and how we approach representation and access, especially in the digital sphere, of those materials entrusted to us.
- I have a question, what does "ethical archiving" mean to you?

Resources Online To Date

- Inaugural edition of our new journal, Displaced Voices: published June 2020 for Refugee Week. Open Access and Accessible at:
<http://www.livingrefugeearchive.org/displaced-voices-volume-1-2/>
- Online Exhibitions:
 - Modern Day Slavery: A Journey Ahead to End the Cycle -
<http://www.livingrefugeearchive.org/exhibitions/a-journey-ahead-to-end-the-cycle/>
 - Voices from the Jungle Digital Testimony Archive =
<http://www.livingrefugeearchive.org/voices-jungle-testimonies/>
 - Hopetowns Poetry Archive -
<http://www.livingrefugeearchive.org/archives/hopetowns-poetry-archive/>
 - Drowning By Numbers. Online Exhibition by Nergis Canefe -
<http://www.livingrefugeearchive.org/exhibitions/drowning-by-numbers-online-exhibition-by-nergis-canefe/>

DISPLACED VOICES

A JOURNAL OF MIGRATION, ARCHIVES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE



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- Hynes, T. (2003). The issue of "trust" or "mistrust" in research with refugees: choices, caveats and considerations for researchers. Working Paper No. 98. Geneva: UNHCR, Evaluation and Policy Unit.