



University  
of Glasgow

# GRAMNet FILM SERIES 2015/16

SCREENINGS BROCHURE

## HIDDEN STORIES



# PROGRAMME

14 OCT	DAYS OF HOPE (P1)	FILM SERIES LAUNCH
11 NOV	EVERYDAY BORDERS (P2) DETENTION WITHOUT WALLS (P2)	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF TOLERANCE
9 DEC	I AM KUBA (P3) FOR AILSA (P3)	INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY
27 JAN	KARSKI AND THE LORDS OF HUMANITY (P4)	HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY
10 FEB	QUEENS OF SYRIA (P4) CARTOGRAPHERS (P5)	WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE
9 MAR	PADDINGTON (P5)	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
11 MAY	STRIPLIFE (P6) FRAGMENTS OF GAZA (P6)	NAKBA DAY
15 JUN	TRANSIT ZONE (P7) IF I WERE YOU (P8)	WORLD REFUGEE DAY

The 2015/2016 Film Series is organised by GRAMNet (Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network) and BEMIS Scotland. The aim of **Hidden Stories 2015** is to bring the often untold, surprising knowledge of migratory movements into view and to sharpen the focus on the unusual lives and journeys which are part of the epic stories of migration which feature in our programme. The films we have selected, and for which we have received generous support often from the makers and distributors themselves are told in different ways, at times gently, at times with humour, at times with anger, at times with a steady carefulness. They are all human stories and by letting the camera angle and focus be part of the story telling it is possible to reflect too on the role of film in human rights education and education for social justice. Our emphasis is on both the simplicities and human complexities of hidden stories and the revealing of knowledge, the emotional attachments and detachments that often accompany migration. Following each film, invited local organisations and community groups will suggest positive actions that can be undertaken locally to address one or more of the issues raised in each film.

Screenings are accompanied by forums and Q&A for everyone to share their views and thoughts in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The audience is warmly invited to congregate in the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) Cafe following each screening to continue our informal discussions.

## Events are free of charge and open to everyone

Sponsored by GRAMNet, BEMIS Scotland and the Iona Community, with the support of the Equality and Diversity Unit, University of Glasgow.

# FILM SYNOPSES

Note: Doors open at 5.30pm, for 6pm start

WEDNESDAY  
14 OCTOBER 2015

## 2015/16 SERIES LAUNCH

THE AUDIENCE IS WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US IN THE CCA CAFE FOLLOWING THE SCREENING FOR A DRINK AND TO CONTINUE OUR INFORMAL DISCUSSION SESSION.

## Days of Hope

DOCUMENTARY: DENMARK (2013)  
DIRECTOR: DITTE HAARLØV JOHNSEN  
RUNNING TIME: 72 MINS

**'That sea... It's not a small thing. Everything happened on that boat, everything...'**

Every year thousands of people from the African continent try to get to Europe. Leaving everything behind, they promise their loved ones that they'll make it to the other side, that they'll provide for them, that things will get better.

In 'Days of Hope' we meet Harouna, Thelma and Austin. Harouna has left his girlfriend and their newborn baby behind and is stuck halfway to Europe in the desert town of Nouadhibou, hoping for happiness. Thelma was left behind in Ghana as a child. Reunited with her mother in Denmark 12 years later, she finds her mother living a very different life than she'd imagined. Austin has made it across the Mediterranean to the camps of Sicily then all the way to Copenhagen, where he survives by collecting bottles on the streets.

With rawness and dignity, 'Days of Hope' meets the people hidden by migration statistics and headlines about bodies washed up on Europe's shores.





WEDNESDAY  
11 NOVEMBER 2015

## Everyday Borders

DOCUMENTARY: UK (2015)  
DIRECTORS: ORSON NAVA  
RUNNING TIME: 50 MINS

Increasing numbers of people are becoming border-guards as employers, landlords, health workers and educators are legally required to administer the UK border as part of their everyday lives. As the 2014 Immigration Act pulls more people into border-guard roles, those who are their subjects experience being denied jobs, accommodation, healthcare and education because these border administrators may not be able or willing to understand the complexities of immigration law, may act on racist stereotypes or, threatened by fines and raids, exclude racialised minorities in order to minimize risk to themselves. What are the implications of these developments to all of us in our daily lives and for British society as a convivial pluralist society?

## Detention Without Walls

DOCUMENTARY: UK (2015)  
DIRECTORS: LIFE AFTER DETENTION  
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GROUP WITH  
SCOTTISH DETAINEE VISITORS.  
RUNNING TIME: 20 MINS

'Detention Without Walls' is a self-portrait of people caught in the cracks, between borders, without status. Made from interviews, poems, photos and material collected through a participatory research project, the film follows the moving story from immigration detention to life after detention, described as 'Detention Without Walls'. Abandoned at train stations, separated from family and friends, unable to work or travel, fearful of return but determined to stay in the UK, the film explores how ideas of crime, citizenship and community combine in ways that multiply rather than remove the differences between us.



WEDNESDAY  
9 DECEMBER 2015

## I am Kuba

DOCUMENTARY: NORWAY (2015)  
DIRECTOR: ÅSE SVENHEIM DRIVENES  
RUNNING TIME: 55 MINS

When their family business goes bankrupt Kuba (12) and Mikolaj's (8) parents are forced to leave Poland to find work abroad. Kuba and Mikolaj stay behind in Poland until their parents find a solution to their problems.

Kuba is a responsible big brother. He cooks, picks up his brother from school and makes sure they go to bed at a reasonable time, but time goes by and the responsibility at home is becoming more challenging. On the phone from Vienna, his mother promises that they will be re-united soon, but Kuba starts doubting his mum's promises.

Kuba's story is also the story about modern Europe. It is estimated that there are more than a million euro-orphans in Eastern Europe, left by their parents who are forced to move to Western Europe to find work. 'I am Kuba' is an intimate film about the human cost of the free movement of labour, told from a child's perspective.



## For Ailsa

DOCUMENTARY: SCOTLAND (2015)  
PRODUCED BY IMA JACKSON, RACHEL LOWTHER  
AND ANNE-MARIE COPESTAKE  
RUNNING TIME: 20 MINS

Professor Ailsa McKay was a feminist economist, who worked with others to evidence and articulate a radical economic model that recognises all work paid and unpaid. Ailsa died on the 5th March 2014.

This short film set out to record the impression Ailsa made on those who hardly knew nor worked with her, but who were captivated by her vision after hearing her speak. Ima Jackson will be present at the screening and will talk about links between Ailsa's work, especially in terms of the impacts she made on policy and practice, and GRAMNet's focus on migration, asylum and refugee issues.



WEDNESDAY  
27 JANUARY 2016

## Karski and the Lords of Humanity

DOCUMENTARY: POLAND, USA (2015)  
ENGLISH AND POLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
DIRECTORS: SLAWOMIR GRÜNBERG  
RUNNING TIME: 70 MINS

'Karski & The Lords of Humanity' is a partially animated documentary film about Jan Karski, who risked his life to try to prevent the Holocaust.

Jan Karski, alias "Witold", was the very first person to reveal to the Western allied governments the atrocities and mass murders committed by the Nazis in occupied Poland. He was an emissary of the Polish Underground State, sent to the Warsaw ghetto under cover on a mission to investigate the situation of Jews on the eve of the "final solution". He aimed to reveal the shocking news about the tragedy of the Jewish people to the world. "Without the intervention of the Allies, the Jewish community will cease to exist in eighteen months' time", he reported in the so-called Karski Report, which was mostly based on intelligence acquired firsthand, as an eyewitness. Regrettably, the information on the Holocaust, smuggled by Karski to the West, only made it to the 16th page of the New York Times. A few years ago, the American edition of Newsweek named Jan Karski one of the most outstanding personalities of 20th century, calling his wartime mission one of the moral milestones of 20th century civilization.



WEDNESDAY  
10 FEBRUARY 2016

## Queens of Syria

DOCUMENTARY: LEBANON, JORDAN, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (2014)  
ARABIC (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)  
DIRECTOR: YASMIN FEDDA  
RUNNING TIME: 60 MINS  
CERT 12A

'Queens of Syria' tells the story of fifty women from Syria, all forced into exile in Jordan, who came together in Autumn 2013 to create and perform their own version of the Trojan Women, the timeless Ancient Greek tragedy about the plight of women in war.

What followed was an extraordinary moment of cross-cultural contact across millennia, in which women born in 20th century Syria found a blazingly vivid mirror of their own experiences in the stories of a queen, princesses and ordinary women like themselves, uprooted, enslaved, and bereaved by the Trojan War.

*Winner of the Black Pearl Award for Best Director from the Arab World at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, 2014*



## Cartographers

DOCUMENTARY: SCOTLAND/ITALY (2015)  
DIRECTOR: VALENTINA BONIZZI  
RUNNING TIME: 20 MINS

Blending the register of the ethnographic interview with the mechanical vision of the aerial view, the film describes the migrant experience between alienation and the imaginative genius of the quotidian resistance.

Produced between 2012 and 2015 in Molise, Scotland and Paris, 'Cartographers' registers the unprecedented role of cartography employed by a generation of Italians who experienced migration, whether physically or imaginatively, and the direct influence of World War II. Cartographic production is generally associated with power dynamics dictated from above. Cartographers, instead is loaded with a different cartographic experience: the mapping of space and time operated from underneath, traced through the intimate and uncertain relief of memories, calibrated on variable shades of sensible experiences.

The bureaucratic language of Nation State, and the impersonal logic of political decisions that fix arbitrary borders becomes ridiculed and emptied through the stories of the Cartographers, that even though they have to comply with imposed constraints, they manage to carve out gateways of resistance.

WEDNESDAY  
9 MARCH 2016

## Paddington

DRAMA: UK (2014)  
DIRECTOR: PAUL KING  
RUNNING TIME: 95 MINS  
CERT PG

Paddington has grown up deep in the Peruvian jungle with his Aunt Lucy who, inspired by a chance encounter with an English explorer, has raised her nephew to dream of an exciting life in London. When an earthquake destroys their home, Aunt Lucy decides to smuggle her young nephew on board a boat bound for England, in search of a better life. Arriving alone at Paddington Station, Paddington soon finds that city life is not all he had imagined - until he meets the kindly Brown family, who find him with a label tied around his neck which reads 'Please look after this bear. Thank you.' They offer him a temporary home whilst he searches for the explorer who impressed Aunt Lucy all those years before. But when Paddington catches the eye of a sinister, seductive taxidermist, it isn't long before his home - and very existence - is under threat ...

*This screening is sponsored by the Equality and Diversity Unit, University of Glasgow*  
[www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/equalitydiversity](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/equalitydiversity)





WEDNESDAY  
11 MAY 2016



## StripLife

DOCUMENTARY: ITALY/PALESTINE (2013)  
ARABIC (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)  
DIRECTORS: NICOLA GRIGNANI,  
ALBERTO MUSSOLINI, LUCA SCAFFIDI,  
VALERIA TESTAGROSSA, ANDREA ZAMBELLI  
RUNNING TIME: 64 MINS

The Gaza Strip.  
An inexplicable event has occurred during the night: dozens of manta rays stranded on the beach in Gaza City.  
Fishermen hasten from the whole Strip to grab some fresh meat.  
Meanwhile the city is awakening. Antar spurs his brother to get up, today is the great day, in the afternoon he will record his first disk.  
Noor puts her make up on, she must appear in front of the television cameras.  
Jabber is already in the field. The shots of the rifles remind him that he lives in the buffer zone that separates Gaza from Israel.  
A demonstration is going on in the streets.  
Moemen is there, doing his job as photographer.  
At the port a boat returns with the hull riddled by shots.  
The chant of the muezzin invades the space, multiplied by the minarets.  
As in a dream, the boys of the Parkour Team pirouette in a cemetery.  
Life in the strip winds up until night.

## Fragments of Gaza

DOCUMENTARY: PALESTINE/SCOTLAND (2016)  
FILM FOOTAGE FROM VARIOUS ARTISTS IN GAZA  
EDITED & DIRECTED BY BASHARAT KHAN  
AND GRAMNET  
RUNNING TIME: 10 MINS

A new narrative is emerging from Gaza through film making and new technology which transcends the physical boundaries of the siege. This collection of mobile clips, videos, and stories, filmed by the people of Gaza, portrays multiple threads of everyday life and brings together image and sound that otherwise disappear from fleeting social media. Public and private, exceptional and mundane, these glimpses of Gaza are constructed together to discover those narratives coming from Gaza. These fragments tell only a partial story of a place constricted in size but boundless in inspiration.



WEDNESDAY  
16 JUNE 2016

## 2015/16 SERIES CLOSE AND REFUGEE FESTIVAL

THE AUDIENCE IS WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US IN THE CCA CAFE FOLLOWING THE SCREENING FOR A DRINK AND TO CONTINUE OUR INFORMAL DISCUSSION SESSION.

## Transit Zone

DOCUMENTARY: SCOTLAND (2015)  
DIRECTOR: FREDERIK SUBEI  
RUNNING TIME: 32 MINS

'Transit Zone' is a character-driven documentary about refugees in Calais trying to cross the border to Britain. Life is harsh in the middle of the winter in makeshift camps in the small harbour town. The longer we follow the daily routine of life in Calais the more we learn about the past and dreams for the future of our characters. They are determined and full of hope to make it one day onto one of the lorries leading to the UK - and hopefully a better life.

A photographic exhibition by Iman Tajik accompanies Transit Zone, for more details visit [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)



MORE FROM WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2016 OVERLEAF



WEDNESDAY  
16 JUNE 2016

## If I Were You

DOCUMENTARY: SCOTLAND (2015)  
DIRECTOR: COLIN MORRIS  
RUNNING TIME: 12 MINS

Perhaps borders can become invisible... but surely people can't.  
A short documentary about the hidden lives of asylum seekers in Ireland

I grew up as 2nd generation Irish – a 'plastic paddy' one of the millions scattered across the globe. Ireland was always the place I wanted to call home but couldn't. One day I learnt of a system that is holding and restricting the lives of people who have claimed asylum in Ireland. Over 4,300 people live in this confined system known as 'Direct Provision', many for 4-5 years or more, for some as long as 10-11 years, waiting to hear the outcome of their application. I wanted to learn what it could be like to live in Ireland within a system like this.



## Our History

GRAMNet formally launched in early 2010 following a unique workshop aimed to assess the potential for establishing a network on a cross-cutting research theme addressing migration, asylum and refugees. The event engaged knowledge exchange partners in the public and third sector to identify themes and co-design potential future work for a research network in this field.

Based at, and supported by the University of Glasgow, GRAMNet has now established Glasgow as one of the leading centres for integrated research and knowledge exchange in the field of migration, refugee and asylum studies. Nationally and internationally amongst scholars, NGOs, public bodies and civic organizations GRAMNet's approach and work has found resonance. A raft

of new projects have been developed to address public needs and problems identified by partners where working together will enhance understanding and action.

One of the network's major accomplishments is our annual Film Series hosted by the Glasgow CCA, organised in partnership with BEMIS and this year, with The Iona Community. Our audience is from diverse academic, organisational and societal backgrounds, and continually shifts in response to the context explored in each screening. The Film Series provides a safe space for people to present their views and perspectives and successfully integrates local and global narratives through the use of film produced both internationally and locally.

## About Us

### GRAMNET

A NEW APPROACH TO MIGRATION  
GRAMNet brings together researchers and practitioners, NGOs (non governmental organisations) and policy makers concerned with migration issues in Scotland and beyond. The research initiative, currently involving Universities from all over the world, focuses on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. The network provides a forum through which policy makers and academics can work together to connect communities through knowledge exchange, research and development. The city of Glasgow is host to the largest population of refugees and asylum seekers under the UK Government's dispersal policy and also has a history of attracting large communities of migrants. GRAMNet aims to build a context for the study of migrant communities based on the city's unique position.

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### BEMIS SCOTLAND EMPOWERING ETHNIC AND CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

BEMIS Scotland is the Ethnic Minorities led national umbrella organisation for the Ethnic Minorities Voluntary Sector and the communities that this sector represents. As a strategic national infrastructure organisation, BEMIS Scotland aims to empower the diverse Ethnic Minority third sector. We are committed to promoting inclusion, democratic active citizenship, and recognition of diversity, human rights education, and wider representation. Our vision is of a Scotland that is Equal, Inclusive, and Responsive: A society where people from the diverse communities are valued, treated with dignity and respect, have equal citizenship, opportunities and quality of life, and who actively participate in civic society.

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### CCA

#### CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS

The Centre for Contemporary Arts is Glasgow's hub for creative activity. The building is steeped in history and the organisation has played a key role in the cultural life of the city for decades. The year-round programme includes cutting-edge exhibitions, film, music, literature, spoken word, festivals, Gaelic events and much more. For the full programme visit [www.cca-glasgow.com](http://www.cca-glasgow.com)

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#### ACCESS

There is level access to CCA from Sauchiehall Street. All upper levels are fully accessible by lift. There is an induction loop at the Sales and Information desk and CCA4. For more information, please see [cca-glasgow.com/about-cca/access-statement](http://cca-glasgow.com/about-cca/access-statement)

### THE IONA COMMUNITY

The Iona Community is a dispersed Christian ecumenical community of men and women from different walks of life and different traditions in the Church working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. We are engaged together, and with people of goodwill across the world, in acting, reflecting and praying for justice, peace and the integrity of creation; convinced that the inclusive community we seek must be embodied in the community we practise.

We are a Scottish Charity (SC003794), and have bases in Glasgow and on Mull and Iona in Argyll.  
[www.iona.org.uk](http://www.iona.org.uk)

Sponsored by GRAMNet, BEMIS and the Iona Community with the support of the Equality and Diversity Unit, University of Glasgow.



[www.glasgow.ac.uk/gramnet](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/gramnet)  
[www.bemis.org.uk](http://www.bemis.org.uk)  
[www.iona.org.uk](http://www.iona.org.uk)

Film stills kindly provided courtesy of distribution companies/directors:

FILM NAME	DIRECTOR / DISTRIBUTOR
DAYS OF HOPE	DITTE HAARLØV JOHNSEN
EVERYDAY BORDERS	ORSON NAVA
DETENTION WITHOUT WALLS	LIFE AFTER DETENTION COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GROUP
I AM KUBA	CAT&DOCS
FOR AILSA	RACHEL LOWTHER
KARSKI AND THE LORDS OF HUMANITY	SLAWOMIR GRÜNBERG
QUEENS OF SYRIA	YASMIN FEDDA
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STRIPLIFE	
FRAGMENTS OF GAZA	
TRANSIT ZONE	
I I WERE YOU	
FRONT COVER IMAGE	

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