





Report: Symposium on Art and Education

21 June 2024 (Brussels, Belgium)













Summary

On 21 June 2024, the <u>International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation</u> (IYMF) and <u>MUS-E Belgium</u> co-organised a Symposium on art and education at the Bruegel cultural centre in Brussels. This symposium explored the dynamic intersections of language, art, and education, featuring a Keynote on multilingualism in the arts by Hari Sacré Prasad, showcases of successful initiatives by IYMF and MUS-E Belgium, and an introduction to the innovative practice of Intercreation. The day ended with a tour of the expo INTERCREATION: En Route/Onderweg by MUS-E artists, followed by drinks.

Around 60 people from the education, cultural, artistic and local policy sectors attended the event which, also thanks to the lunch and the networking drinks, became a platform for participants not only to exchange ideas and gain insights and inspiration but also further connect.

Language in arts

The first part of the day was consecrated to language in arts, kicked off by an introduction by Marianne Poncelet, Executive Vice-President of IYMF, and Tom Goris, coordinator of MUS-E Belgium, followed by the projection of a short film on the **project "Ars musica"** which involved newcomer children and teenagers who were invited to create instruments and who showcased the final result of their project on stage at the Brigittines Theatre of Brussels.

Keynote speaker was **Hari Prasad Sacré** from Ghent University who delivered a very thought-provoking speech, "Travelling fractured Multilingualism in the Arts".







Keynote speech by Hari Prasad Sacré "Travelling fractured Multilingualism in the Arts"

Introduction

Dr Hari Prasad Sacré discusses cultural linguistic contradictions. According to him, language should be a tool for emancipating, but it is not always the case. How can we deal with this completely? Often, there is a struggle with the host country's language policies.

The situation in Brussels

In Belgium, multilingualism is seen as a strength, yet this vision can be counterproductive as some speakers master none of the languages at 100%. English is becoming prominent: on the language barometer, 50% of Brussels inhabitants speak at least two of the following languages: English, French, and Flemish. But those people are not concerned by fractured multilingualism. 40% of Brussels inhabitants speak only one of those languages, and the 10% remaining speak none. How do we give access to society to those 10%? Those who show high proficiency in their native language, but need a translator for the others?



The concept of fractured multilingualism

Fractured multilingualism regards the silent gap between these two linguistic worlds where meaning is lost, injured or untranslatable. What gives the ability to fracture multilingualism? In the past it was colonisation, today is globalisation. Nowadays sometimes people have agency and choose a region where they think they would thrive. This is self-inflicted fractured multilingualism.

The academic discourse

Hari Prasad Sacré notices that the academic discourse is not following up with fractured multilingualism. The conservative branch of academia promotes only one language; however, a more progressive branch sees it as a strength. We must pay attention to language theories mentioned by non-European scholars, for example, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, who speaks about the dissolving fracture between the global south and the global north on both ends, where many do not question preexisting knowledge. Indeed, fractured multilingualism sometimes only stops after the second or third generation. Instead of masking those fractures, we should dwell with them, and engage in the concept of "learning from below", from the everyday people instead of the élite. We must update our knowledge to renew our strategies.

Multilingualism and the arts

Dr Sacré argues that the arts play a vital role in giving the fractures of multilingualism language and meaning. To do so, he turned to himself, a person who moving from Nepal to Belgium had lost his first language, and his own storytelling practice. To illustrate this, he told a story that his biological grandmother had told him, which interestingly resonates with Spivak's research. He had not seen his biological grandmother in twenty years. She told him the following: "Your mother's tongue is not your mother tongue", then told him a story of goddesses Devi and Khali which took place in 1814 during the war between the UK and Nepal, where goddess Devi told the Nepalese soldiers to use their tongue against the UK soldiers. At first, the Nepali soldiers are confused. Then the goddess Khali appears and swallows the words of the enemies, then the Nepalese soldiers do the same: they become fluent in English which allowed them to sign a peace treaty with the UK a few years later. She then told Hari: "You have a Khali tongue". By this, she meant that he speaks a language foreign to Nepal, just like Khali and the soldiers did in the tale. According to her story, the Nepalese soldiers left for the UK and never returned to their homeland. Spivak calls this phenomenon "Enabling validation".

Conclusion

The ideal scenario to minimise fractured multilingualism would be for people to learn how to translate between their first and second language, without having to rely on exterior resources, and chose themselves how much they want to let go of or keep their native language, without it being imposed.

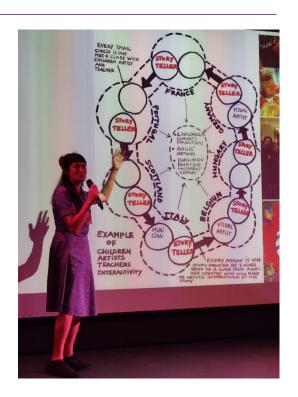
Continue the reflection on fractured multilingualism with the following articles and podcast:

- Article (EN): Sacré, Hari Prasad Adhikari, Atamhi Cawayu, and Chandra Kala Clemente-Martínez. "Adoptees relearning their heritage languages: A postcolonial reading of language and dialogue in transnational adoption." Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy 66.4 (2023): 267-272.
- Article (NL): Sacré Hari, Prasad. "Kan de geadopteerde vertalen? Een pedagogische beschouwing van erfgoedtaal (on) geletterdheid in transnationale adoptie." Voorbij transnationale adoptie. ASP editions-Academic and Scientific Publishers, 2023.
- Article (EN): Sacré, Hari Prasad, and Kris Rutten. "Retracing the racial semiotics of the other-lingual (anderstalige) in Dutch and Afrikaans: Exploring its emergence in South Africa and its (re-) emergence in Flanders." European Journal of Cultural Studies (2023).
- Podcast (NL) Elsewhere within here, in "This is What I read" by Abbie Boutkabout, Zandman, Radio 1.

Multilingualism, intercultural dialogue and social inclusion

Then, Marianne Poncelet and Patries Wichers from MUS-E Belgium shared Yehudi Menuhin's life and vision, still inspiring IYMF and MUS-E programme and network today, then gave examples of several projects where multilingualism was particularly highlighted such as "Enfants d'ici, contes d'ailleurs" which has created a collection of stories illustrated by primary school children from different countries, and "IYOUWE share the world", a project with interactive workshops led by artists, for children in 7 European countries, emphasising storytelling, visual arts, dance, and music related to the Cosmogony of the world.

IYMF project manager Meredith Borodine introduced the documentary on the <u>"Choir for Ukraine"</u> project, which took place from January to June 2023. This choir was constituted of students aged from 11 to 17, from migrant and refugee backgrounds, who were all learning Flemish, and were able to explore many more languages through singing.



Immersion as a learning tool

MUS-E Belgium artists Jeroen Smets, Gilles Hellemans and pedagogical councillor Christine Haelterman spoke about "Kunst-Taal project", where Flemish artists give workshops to French speaking children in immersion, and vice-versa.







The process of intercreation

After the lunch break, the afternoon session was dedicated to MUS-E Belgium projects and best practices, focusing on the principle of "INTERCREATION" in the framework of the launch of their new <u>Intercreation Website</u>. Patries Wichers introduced the topic, insisting on the importance of the CAT model (horizontality between child, artist and teacher) which transpires through the MUS-E programme.

Several artists collaborating with MUS-E Belgium took the stage to explain their process of intercreation with the children. Artist Laurent Quillet went over his visual arts work with children, where he invites them to observe each other in silence for several minutes before the start of each project. Benjamin Vandewalle explained the process of a movement and video project with a class of children, reappropriating the public space after the terrorist attacks of 2016. Rasa Alksnyte showcased how simple creation can be, starting with a suitcase filled with random objects. Jan Gordts talked about a sketching and graffiti project where children were invited to decorate a wall of the Pianofabriek cultural centre, each intertwining their creative visions. Following the presentations and talks, artists and guests gathered for a guided visit to the **exhibition** "Intercreation: en route/onderweg" with artists Katelijne de Corte and Boris Magotteau. The day was concluded by networking drinks, which was an opportunity for artists and stakeholders to discuss their work and interests and ideas.







Communication material

Flyer





Video Reel – social media

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Programme (EN)

Programme in 3 languages (EN, NL,FR)





KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DR. HARI PRASAD SACRÉ

Hari Prasad Sacré is based in Brussels and works as an educator at Odisee University College and is affiliated as a postdoctoral researcher with Chent University. He obtained a doctoral degree in educational sciences from Chent University with his dissertation entitled Reading Illiteracy. His doctoral research observed new forms of illiteracy and fractured multilingualism arising in displaced communities travelling imperial borders.

Overall, his academic work explores cultural translation as a pedagogical project for dialogue, solidarity and emancipation. Hari has published in international journals including 'Critical Arts: South-North cultural and media studies', 'European journal for cultural studies', 'Journal for Adolescent and Adult Literacies' and 'Philosophies'. He curated the Art & Reflection program Travelling Sources featuring prof. dr. Ariella Aisha Azoulay (Brown University, USA) about unlearning imperialism for Kaaitheater and Vrije Universiteit Brussel in 2023. In addition, he performed as one of the storytellers in 'Unacknowledged loss' directed by Barbar Raes in De Singel in 2023.

Opening up the realm of fractured multilingualism, Dr. Sacré invites the audience to travel tales of displacement, language loss and multilingual rebirth. Travelling, derived from the original French word travail', implies a painful and laborious effort to translate between one world enshrined in one's mother tongue and another world governed by a second language. Fractured multilingualism regards the silent gap between these two linguistic worlds where meaning is lost, injured or untranslatable. Departing from his own storytelling practice, Dr. Sacré argues that the arts play a vital role in giving the fractures of multilingualism language and meaning

MUS-E & IYMF



MUS-E BELGIUM

Since 2000, MUS-E Belgium has been at the forefront of participatory arts. As a bilingual organisation, MUS-E harnesses the power of art and imagination for an inclusive society. MUS-E stands for INTERCREATION, an art practice of professional artists from all disciplines. Together with a broad and diverse audience, they make art and give meaning. Participants are invited to step into the world of artists during trajectories of intercreation in which imagination, experimentation and dialogue are central. Within the stratification of our society, MUS-E stimulates transcultural dialogue. MUS-E works cross-sectorally and initiates artistic trajectories in education, leisure, welfare and public space. Keywords are imagination, active art experience, identity and connection.

INTERNATIONAL YEHUDI MENUHIN FOUNDATION (IYMF)

Back in 1991, Yehudi Menuhin founded the International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation in Brussels to bring hope to those without a voice through the power of the arts. As one of the most celebrated violinists and humanitarians of the 20th century, Menuhin always believed that art and imagination should be at the heart of any personal or social transformation. After joining forces with Werner Schmitt (IYMF Vice-President) and Marianne Poncelet (IYMF Executive Vice-President), the trio created the MUS-E® Programme in 1993. The International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation has served as a platform for many cultural and social initiatives, with MUS-E® being the very first. From artistic workshops in refugee centers to artistic residencies, concerts, and advocacy events, the Foundation strives to deliver a ray of light to vulnerable audiences and the wider public, bringing social inclusion through the arts.

Programme (NL)



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



DR. HARI PRASAD SACRÉ

Hari Prasad Sacré is gevestigd in Brussel, werkt als docent aan de Odisee Hogeschool en is als postdoctoraal onderzoeker verbonden aan de Universiteit Gent. Hij behaalde een doctoraat in de pedagogische wetenschappen aan de Universiteit Gent met zijn proefschrift "Reading Analfabetisme". Zijn doctoraatsonderzoek toont nieuwe vormen van analfabetisme en gebroken meertaligheid die ontstonden in ontheemde gemeenschappen die langs de imperiale grenzen reisden.

Over het algemeen onderzoekt zijn academische werk culturele vertaling als een pedagogisch project voor dialoog, solidariteit en emancipate. Hari heeft gepubliceerd in vele internationale tijdschriften, waaronder 'Critical Arts: South-North Cultural and Media Studies', 'European Journal for Cultural Studies', 'Dournal for Adolescent and Adult Literacies' en 'Philosophies'. Hij cureerde Art & Reflection program Travelling Sources met prof. dr. Ariella Aisha Azoulay (Brown University, VS) over het afleren van imperialisme, voor Kaaitheater en Vrije Universiteit Brussel in 2023. Daarnaast trad hij in 2023 op als een van de vertellers in 'Unacknowledged loss' geregisseerd door Barbara Raes in De Singel.

Dr. Sacré opent het rijk van fractured multilingualism en nodigt het publiek uit om verhalen te vertellen over ontheemding, taalverlies en meertalige wedergeboorte. Reizen, afgeleid van het oorspronkelijke Franse woord 'travail'; implicert een pijnlijke en moeizame poging om te vertalen tussen de ene wereld die is vastgelegd in de moedertaal en een andere wereld die wordt geregeerd door een tweede taal. Fractured multilingualism betreft de stille kloof tussen deze twee taalwerelden, waar betekenis verloren gaat, beschadigd raakt of onvertaalbaar is. Vertrekkend vanuit zijn eigen vertelpraktijk betoogt Dr. Sacré dat de kunsten een cruciale rol spelen bij het geven van taal en betekenis aan de breuklijnen van de meertaligheid.

MUS-E & IYMF



MUS-E BELGIUM

Sinds 2000 neemt MUS-E Belgium een voortrekkersrol op binnen de participatieve kunsten. Als tweetalige organisatie zet MUS-E de Kracht van kunst en verbeelding in voor een inclusieve samenleving. MUS-E staat voor INTERCRE-ATIE, een kunstpraktijk van professionele kunstenaars uit alle disciplines. Samen met een breed en divers publiek maken zij kunst en geven betekenis. Deelnemers worden uitgenodigd in de wereld van kunstenaars te stappen tijdens trajecten van intercreatie waarbinnen verbeelding, experiment en dialoog centraal staan. Binnen de gelaagdheid van onze samenleving stimuleert MUS-E de transculturele dialoog. MUS-E werkt cross-sectoraal en initieert artistieke trajecten in het onderwijs, de vrije tijd, de welzijnssector en de publieke ruimte. Kernbegrippen zijn verbeelding, actieve kunstbeleving, identiteit en verbondenheid.

INTERNATIONAL YEHUDI MENUHIN FOUNDATION (IYMF)

In 1991 richtte Yehudi Menuhin in Brussel de Internationale Yehudi Menuhin Foundation op om hoop te brengen aan mensen zonder stem door de kracht van de kunst. Als een van de meest gevierde violisten en humanisten van de 20e eeuw, heeft Menuhin altijd geloofd dat kunst en verbeelding de kern moeten vormen van elke persoonlijke of sociale transformatie. Nadat ze hun krachten hadden gebundeld met Werner Schmitt (IYMF Vice-President) en Marianne Poncelet (IYMF Executive Vice-President), creëerde het trio het MUS-E® Programma in 1993. De International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation heeft als platform gediend voor vele culturele en sociale initiatieven, waarvan MUS-E® de allereerste was. Van aristiseke workshops in vluchtelingencentra tot artistieke residenties, concerten en pleitbezorgingsevenementen, de Foundation streeft ernaar een lichtstraal te brengen naar een kwetsbaar publiek en het bredere publiek, en sociale inclusie te bewerkstelligen door middel van kunst.

Programme (FR)



ORATEUR PRINCIPAL



DR. HARI PRASAD SACRÉ

Hari Prasad Sacré est basé à Bruxelles et travaille comme éducateur à l'Odisee University College et est affilié en tant que chercheur postdoctoral à l'Université de Gand. Il a obtenu un doctorat en sciences de l'éducation à l'Université de Gand avec sa thèse intitulée Reading Illiteracy. Ses recherches doctorales ont observé de nouvelles formes d'analphabétisme et de multilinguisme fracturé dans les communautés déplacées traversant les frontières impériales.

Dans l'ensemble, ses travaux académiques explorent la traduction culturelle comme projet pédagogique de dialogue, de solidarité et d'émancipation. Hari a publié dans des revues internationales, notamment « Critical Arts : South-North Cultural and Media Studies », « European Journal for Cultural Studies », « European Journal for Cultural Studies », « Journal for Adolescent and Adult Literacies » et « Philosophies ». Il a organisé le programme Art & Reflection Travelling Sources mettant en vedette le prof. dr. Ariella Aisha Azoulay (Brown University, USA) sur le désapprentissage de l'impérialisme pour le Kaaitheater et la Vrije Universiteit Brussel en 2023. En outre, il a joué comme l'un des conteurs dans 'Unacknowledged loss' mis en scène par Barbara Raes dans De Singel en 2023.

Ouvrant le domaine du multilinguisme fracturé, le Dr Sacré invite le public à voyager dans des récits de déplacement, de perte de langue et de renaissance multilingue. Voyager, dérivé du mot français original « travail », implique un effort douloureux et laborieux pour traduire entre un monde inscrit dans sa langue matemelle et un autre monde régi par une seconde langue. Le multi-linguisme fracturé concerne le fossé silencieux entre ces deux mondes linguistiques où le sens est perdu, blessé ou intraduisible. S'écartant de sa propre pratique de narration, le Dr Sacré soutient que les arts jouent un rôle essentiel en donnant un langage et un sens aux fractures du multilinguisme.

MUS-E & IYMF



MUS-E BELGIUM

Depuis 2000, MUS-E Belgium est à la pointe des arts participatifs. En tant qu'organisation bilingue, MUS-E exploite le pouvoir de l'art et de l'irnagination pour une société inclusive. MUS-E signifie INTERCREATION, une pratique artistique d'artistes professionnels de toutes disciplines. Ensemble, avec un public large et diversifié, ils font de l'art et donnent du sens. Les participants sont invités à entre dans le monde des artistes au cours de parcours d'intercréation où l'imagination, l'expérimentation et le dialogue sont au centre. Au sein de la stratification de notre société, MUS-E stimule le dialogue transculturel. MUS-E travaille de manière intersectorielle et initie des trajectoires artistiques dans les domaines de l'éducation, des loisirs, du bien-être et de l'espace public. Les mots clés sont imagination, expérience artistique active, identité et connexion.

INTERNATIONAL YEHUDI MENUHIN FOUNDATION (IYMF)

En 1991, Yehudi Menuhin a créé la Fondation internationale Yehudi Menuhin à Bruxelles afin d'apporter de l'espoir à ceux qui n'ont pas de voix à travers le pouvoirs des arts. En tant que l'un des violonistes et humanitaires les plus célèbres du 20è siècle, Menuhin a toujours pensé que l'art et l'imagination devaient être au cœur de toute transformation personnelle ou sociale. Après s'être associé à Werner Schmitt (vice-président de l'IYMF), le trio a créé le programme MUS-E® en 1993. La Fondation internationale Yehudi Menuhin a servi de plateforme à de nombreuses initiatives culturelles et sociales, MUS-E® étant la toute première. Des ateliers artistiques dans les centres de réfugiés aux résidences artistiques, en passant par des concerts et les événements de sensibilisation, la Fondation s'efforce d'apporter un rayon de lumière aux publics vulnérables et au grand public, en favorisant l'inclusion sociale par le biais des arts.