

Going Places: A MemoryScape of Montreal

We invite you on a tour of Montreal not found on an ordinary city map. Discover stories that connect the past to the present, personal memories to public spaces, and stories that provide insights into the refugee experience in Montreal. Discover additional stories - <http://storytelling.concordia.ca/refugeeyouth/projects>



Left to right -Ayanda, Leontine, Stephanie, Marie-Francoise, (2nd row) Rebecca, Rania (Front) Aisha, Liz, Gracia (Photo Credit by David Ward)

TIMES: The tour will be held two times

Sunday May 30th: 1 - 3:30 - reception to follow at Life Stories Exhibit at Concordia, 3rd Floor John Molson Building.

Tuesday June 1st : 2 - 4:30 - reception to follow (same location)

LOCATION - The bus tour will begin at the Concordia Shuttle Bus Stop - in front of the Hall Building, 1455 De Maisonneuve W.

CONTACTS / COLLABORATORS:

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The Life Stories Project (www.lifestoriesmontreal.ca),

The YWCA (www.ydesfemmesmtl.org/)

Mapping Memories (<http://storytelling.concordia.ca/refugeeyouth/>)

This tour is part of **Concordia Congress 2010**, the largest annual multidisciplinary academic gathering in Canada. Organized by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and hosted at Concordia University, this gathering will bring together more than 9 000 delegates from over 70 universities from across Canada. <http://www.concordia.ca/congress2010/>

FULL TOUR DESCRIPTION:



Join us on a bus tour led by young adults impacted by a refugee experience (family member, community or individual) who will share personal stories and offer a unique perspective into “their” Montreal. As we move through the city you will hear their original soundscapes. This immersive storybooth on wheels will take you to a Vietnamese store in the diverse Cotes-des-Neiges neighborhood where a Congolese/Montrealer has found ingredients to create a meal that tastes like “home”. Visit the YMCA – the first stop for refugees and newcomers to Montreal - via the poetic narration of a Zimbabwe immigrant who arrived alone with “one piece of luggage and a ton of hope” Share the challenge of *placing* displacement through the inter-generational narratives of two Palestinian women. Enjoy a unique recipe a Syrian Jewish immigrant shares with her granddaughter. Experience the route of the Rwandan commemorative walk and hear the stories of three young women negotiating loss, family secrets, and the revitalization of community within the Rwandan community. In between stops the guides will provide “behind the scenes” insight into our process and how we have used oral history, digital mapping, documentary, sound-scapes, and the power of story to “Go Places” together.

PARTICIPANT BIOS:

Marie-Francoise Ilunga Sitnam was born in Lubumbashi, in the D. of Congo. She is passionate about food, politics and African history. She works at the YWCA as a project coordinator for Girls Leading Change, which seeks to promote the involvement of young women of diverse origins in decision-making bodies.

Ayanda Dube describes himself as a young/old Zimbabwean man. He enjoys learning about the world and contemplating how he can make a difference. He sings in a gospel choir and is currently studying political sciences and economics at Concordia.

Lisa Ndejuru is originally from Rwanda. She did her masters studies in theology and counselling at Sherbrooke University and is currently practicing psychotherapy and conflict resolution. Her activities in the art community help her to comprehend and heal both individual and community wounds.

Leontine Uwababyeyi underwent the refugee experience having left her homeland of Rwanda. She is always smiling and finds her home with many families of different origins. She will study business administration at Concordia and has great hopes for the future.

Stephanie Gasana is familiar with the refugee experience through her family's flight from Rwanda. She is passionate about learning languages and is part of the international studies program at the University of Montreal. She is inspired by the Life Stories project and will continue to work with them.

Rasha Sammour is an young, optimistic Palestinian-Canadian woman. She is studying at Concordia and considering changing her focus to Linguistics. She enjoys music and is very proud of her Palestinian heritage.

FACILITATORS:



(Rania, Liz, David, Rebecca, Gracia, Aisha) Photo by David Ward

Rania Arabi's family became refugees from Palestine after the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. She is an anthropologist and writer who works at the YWCA in Montreal where she is in charge of researching and coordinating programs for immigrant women and their children. She is passionate about true dialogue and non-violent communication.

Aisha Boyce is currently a student of Concordia's Post Grad Diploma in Communications Studies. Her background is in Psychology, Linguistics and Teaching English as a Second Language. She is interested in issues of technology, women and race.

Gracia Dyer Jalea has recently completed her MA in Media Studies at Concordia University. She has been working for *Montreal Life Stories* for the past two years, helping to coordinate the initiatives of the *Mapping Memories: Stories of Refugee Youth* project.

Rebecca Lessard recently graduated from the Concordia Communications program with a specialization in video. She drew on her Syrian and Hungarian heritage to make

her project - an intergenerational cooking show with her grandmothers.

Stephane Martelly is a writer, teacher, and active member of Life Stories Haitian Working Group.

Liz Miller is a professor in the Communication Studies Department at Concordia. She is a documentary maker interested in new approaches to community collaborations as a way to connect personal stories to larger social concerns. Miller is the principle investigator of “Mapping Memories” a SSHRC funded research-creation project that trains youth with refugee experience to use new media tools to share their stories. She is also the Coordinator of the Refugee Youth Group of Life Stories.

David Paquette is a PhD student in Communications at Concordia University. His research interests include acoustic ecology, research methodology, place theory, music, as well as culture and the senses. His current work investigates the relation between listening and the sense of place. David can be reached at www.sharawadji.org