

Why Don't you marry (an Icelander)

?

F.h. Útlendingastofnunar
On behalf of the Directorate of Immigration



“WHY DON'T YOU JUST MARRY AN ICELANDER?”

A tiresome sentence that has become a pervasive response when non-EU citizens recount their troubles navigating the immigration system. This ironic question sheds light on the difficulty of attaining a work permit, a feat especially difficult for independent cultural workers.

SEMINAR

20th May 2022 • Friday • 15:00 - 17:00
Auditorium Elissa - Nordic House, Reykjavík.

IN COLLABORATION WITH AIVAG

PROGRAM

15:00-15:02

Welcome by **Elham Fakouri**,
curator and project manager of
this event

15:02 - 15:07

Moderator **Dr. Magnús Skjöld**

15:07 - 15:43

Panel introduction

15:43 - 16:38

Panel discussions

16:38 - 16:58

Questions from the audience

16:58 - 17:00

End of discussions

**Refreshments by SÓNÓ & networking
17:00 -17:30**

PARTICIPANTS

DR MAGNÚS SKJÖLD

MODERATOR



Dr Magnús Skjöld is an associate professor of politics at Bifröst University, Iceland. In 2018 he spent six months in Kabul, Afghanistan, as a Political Advisor for NATO's Senior Civilian Representative, mainly working on women's rights and gender equality. He briefly served in the Icelandic Parliament, Alþingi, and co-founded the NGO "Women Power Africa", empowering women in rural Tanzania. He has served as an administrator at universities in Iceland and The Netherlands. He holds degrees in development economics, politics, philosophy and European Studies from the University of Cambridge, the University of Iceland and the University of San Francisco.

CLARE AIMÉE



Clare Aimée is a Canadian artist that has been working in Iceland for the last 6 years. She graduated with a BA in Fine Arts from the Icelandic University of the Arts in 2020 and in 2019 went on academic exchange at The Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, Czech Republic. In her practice she often works with performative gesture and interactive experience – inviting people into familiar frameworks with poetic fellowship as a goal. Her work has been shown in Chile, Czech Republic, Portugal, Iceland, Denmark, Slovakia, and Canada.

PARTICIPANTS

FRÍÐA BJÖRK
INGVARSDÓTTIR



**Rektor Listaháskóla Íslands/
Iceland Academy of the Arts.**

Fríða Björk, rector of the Iceland University of Arts, since 2013, studied literature at the University of Iceland, Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg and the University of East Anglia, where she earned her MA degree.

Most of her work has been dedicated to Iceland's cultural life; as a teacher of contemporary literature at the University of Iceland, literary translator, culture editor and lead writer at Morgunblaðið newspaper from 2000 - 2009, in her work for radio and television at RUV, as well as by initiating various art projects in collaborations with others both home and abroad.

JOSÉ LUIS ANDERSON



José Luis is a graduated singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Born and raised in Mexico, Anderson currently lives in Iceland. Anderson acts under the name of Andervel, an homage to his family roots, his classical singing background, and his maturation in the Icelandic art scene. Currently enrolled in New Media Composition at Iceland Academy of the Arts.

PARTICIPANTS

CLAUDIA ASHANIE WILSON



Claudia has been practicing law since 2013. She worked as legal counsel at Réttur- Aðalsteinsson & Partners and was a partner for two years, until 2021.

She is an experienced legal counsel and one of Iceland's leading experts in the fields of human/civil rights, immigration, and refugee law. She also has extensive knowledge and work experience in family law, bankruptcy and criminal justice law. Beyond her client-centered legal work, Claudia is a part-time lecturer at the University of Iceland and Reykjavik University. Claudia has served or is currently serving on the boards of various committees and non-profit organizations.

PARTICIPANTS

HUGO LLANES



Hugo Llanes graduated from the MA Fine Arts Program at the Iceland University of the Arts and from the BA in Visual Arts by Universidad Veracruzana. Llanes' practice involves the study of political and social cracks and the aesthetics that erupts from them. His works include extended painting, edible work, installations, site-specific and local performances. He looks at social circumstances in his work, such as the movement of people between countries, the abuse of power and the influence of post-colonialism on the development of identities in Latin America. His works encourage the viewer to reflect-contemplate as well as participate. Hugo is currently a member of AIVAG (Artist in Iceland Action Visa Group)

AIVAG

Artists in Iceland Visa Action Group

Aivag was founded in 2021, as an open interdisciplinary collective that advocates for immigrant cultural worker's in Iceland, and their rights. It aims to function as a collaborative platform to address pertinent public issues in Iceland related to artist visa, labor rights for immigrant cultural worker's in Iceland, systemic racism, the patchwork economy, alternative economies, freelancing, and migration processes that cultural agents are experiencing.

PARTICIPANTS

PATRICIA CAROLINA

Patricia Carolina is an artist pursuing an MFA at Kunsthøgskolen i Oslo (2022), and graduated from BFA at Listaháskóli Íslands (2019). Her practice deals with water dynamics, migration and growth through moving-image and installation. Currently, she collaborates with other artists to facilitate curatorial and discursive projects in the Nordic and Baltic region. Patricia is part of Verdensrommet, and joined the working group this year.

VERDENSROMMET
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Verdensrommet is an artist-powered mutual support network by and for non-EU/EEA creative professionals based in Norway. The network is a grassroots and volunteer-led group of 170+ creative professionals across the country. The network was initiated in March 2020 to address the precarious conditions of visual artists whose citizenship led them to slip through the state's support net. The low-income levels, highly bureaucratic regimes, unrealistic immigration policies, limited accessibility to social assistance, and the cultural deficit in public life accentuated by the Covid-19 pandemic have worsened the already precarious cultural workers' economy.

<https://www.verdensrommet.network>