



'Toes' by PhD student Jade Montserrat



# Making Home, Doing Belonging: Mobilities and Immobilities in Experience, Theory and Policy

**A Symposium – 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – UCLan (Online)**

**Keynote speakers: Paolo Boccagni (Trento, Italy), Les Back (Goldsmiths College, London) & Rebecca Joy Novell (Refugee Community Development Officer, Lancashire County Council)**

The observation that '[b]elonging like home entails personally significant and emotional connections between people and places' (Kusenbach and Paulsen 2013:6) continues to take on novel forms and high political and existential stakes. Irreducible to having a roof over one's head or identity/ citizenship, 'home' and 'belonging' have, in theory, been de-coupled from notions of naturalised origin or essentialised being. Yet, in the current political context, they tend to be mobilised in all too static, idealised and fixed forms producing fearful (b)ordering relations, immobilised lives and surveillance anxiety rather than positive critical values of security, familiarity, connectedness and control (Back, Sinha with Bryan 2012; Brun 2015, 2017; Yuval-Davis, Wemyss and Cassidy 2018; Wemyss and Yuval-Davis 2020). The same might be said of belonging. Where Boccagni (2017: 16) argued that '... the resources available for individuals to appoint a place as home and the mobility infrastructures accessible to them, are distributed in deeply unequal ways along several axes; they are a major factor of social stratification at a global level', the consequences of this inequality have been illuminated in the wake of 'COVID-19'. 'Stay home' has been experienced and interpreted alternatively as: little different from the usual for marginalised groups (Boccagni 2020); as an act of and opportunity for solidarity (Brickell 2020); an exclusive experience sparking a redistribution and potential reframing of (im)mobility (Xiang 2020); or an indiscriminate illegitimate restriction on civil liberty (Lord Sumption 2020). Whatever the interpretation, however, it can be argued that issues of 'home' and 'belonging' are on personal, scholarly, policy and political radars to an extent without recent precedent. This event seeks to explore how mobilities and immobilities in home and belonging *have, do, and could*, relate and intersect in experience, theory, policy, and how our research can more effectively apprehend, represent and intervene in, their possibilities.

MIDEX, in collaboration with HOMInG, therefore invite researchers, policy makers, public sector workers and interested individuals to hear the keynotes, join in this discussion, and contribute their knowledge and experience to foster further theoretical development of these terms with concern to recognise their importance and consequence to individuals and the future of shared lives.

**Call for Papers: Themes to be addressed may include, but not be limited to:**

- Adaptations, negotiations, relations in the making of home
- Being, Becoming, Belonging
- Birth, Life, Death: Bodies
- (Im)Mobilisations of 'home' in relation to policy - integration, cohesion
- Linguistic (Im)Mobilities
- (Im)Mobilities and wellbeing
- Different and intersecting types of movement (physical, existential, social)
- (Im)mobilities and livelihoods

Discussions are currently underway for production of a special issue of an International journal. Should accepted contributors wish to contribute a completed paper, further details will follow.

**Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words, including full title and full contact details to:**

[Home-Belonging@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:Home-Belonging@uclan.ac.uk)

**by**

**29<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Confirmation of accepted papers: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021**

**To register and book a place at the symposium, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/131774369687>**

For all enquiries, please contact us at: [Home-Belonging@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:Home-Belonging@uclan.ac.uk)