

# WHAT WE BROUGHT WITH US

“Objects of Resilience: Exploring the Symbolic Weight of Refugee Things”



## ABOUT THE EVENT

University Alliance Ruhr together with our partner, Goethe-Institut New York is organizing a panel discussion and exhibition in New York City.

“What We Brought with Us” is an exhibition developed by Academy in Exile at TU Dortmund University, one of the three universities that comprise the University Alliance Ruhr.

The exhibition presents images of objects carried by some of Academy in Exile’s fellows when they fled from their countries of origin to Germany to where they were hosted by University of Duisburg-Essen, Free University of Berlin, Forum Transregionale Studien and Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

The opening panel of the exhibition with Prof. Dr. Vanessa Agnew, Prof. Kate A. Bonansinga, Prof. Dr. Kader Konuk and Prof. Dr. Ulrich Baer serves as an engaging exploration of the significance and emotional resonance carried by the objects refugees bring with them when fleeing their homelands

“What We Brought with Us” invites us to question our relationship with possessions and each other. It prompts us to reflect on what truly matters to us and what we consider most precious. Does a single object have the power to represent a lost world?

Together, we will unravel the intricate stories woven into each item, questioning the role of material possessions in shaping our collective understanding of home, belonging, and the human experience.



**Wednesday, October 18th, 2023**



**6 - 8pm**



**Goethe-Institut New York  
30 Irving Place New York, NY 10003**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## MEET THE PANELISTS



### PROF. DR. VANESSA AGNEW

Vanessa Agnew is a professor in the Faculty of Cultural Studies at TU Dortmund University; is Honorary Professor in the Research School of Humanities and the Arts at Australian National University, and Associate Director of Academy in Exile.



### PROF. DR. ULRICH BAER

Ulrich Baer is Professor and Director of NYU’s Center for the Humanities at New York University and a writer, translator, speaker and scholar on free speech among other topics.



### PROF. KATE BONANSINGA

Kate Bonansinga is Director of the School of Art in the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning at the University of Cincinnati, where she is also a professor teaching courses in contemporary art curatorial practice and art in public space.



### PROF. DR. KADER KONUK

Kader Konuk is a comparatist with expertise in the literary and cultural history of migration and exile. She is professor of German literature at the TU Dortmund University and the Director of Academy in Exile.

## Contact Details

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