



Report on a collaboration between the Migration Museum Project and GlobalNet21  
Community Conversation ‘Understanding Migration Through Education’  
Somerset House, Wednesday 25 June 6:30–8:30

Introductory activity – diagram above:

“When I say ‘Migration Museum Project’, what is the first word that comes into your head?”

Each person answered this question on a Post it note. All these were put into a Wordle program that creates a diagram giving greater prominence to words that appeared more than once. It is an interesting summary of what people think MMP is, and provided a good springboard for the community conversation.

### Meeting objectives and structure

The objectives of the evening were to introduce the work of MMP and its education programme to an engaged audience, to get their feedback and input and to discuss priorities for the programme as it enters its second year.

Action	Who
Official introduction to the evening	Francis Sealey, GlobalNet21
Presentation about MMP context, structure, funding, exhibitions and events	Sophie Henderson, MMP director

Action	Who
Outline of year 1 of the MMP education programme: –meetings with many aligned organisations and groups –an audit of migration-related resources to signpost teachers to through our site – to be launched July 2015 –Direct work with primary and secondary schools, FE colleges and universities in London and other regions –research into migration themes in revised curriculum –planning for developing our own resources  Instructions for the small group discussions	Emily Miller, MMP education officer
Facilitated small group discussions x 5	MMP team and volunteers
Facilitated feedback from each table to whole audience	Spokesperson from each table and Emily Miller

### Main findings from the community conversation discussions

The success of this meeting was largely dependent on the willingness of the audience members to engage with the topics of discussion and each other. We were fortunate to welcome a diverse audience of 65 people from different backgrounds: teachers, artists, sixth form and post-graduate students, academics, museum professionals, youth workers and others (see Appendix 1 for details). There was a significant range of discussions and recommendations that we sum up here under various headings:

Discussion area	Feedback
Museum plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Many discussed the importance of inter-generational work on migration stories between second and third generation young people and their relatives. Someone has since recommended the reminiscence work done by Reading Museum.</li> <li>–Many liked the mobile idea of the museum and think maintaining this plan, at least in part, should be a priority</li> <li>–Some touched on the issues around co-curation and how important it is to have those communities/people MMP is hoping to represent at the heart of the process and result</li> <li>–Some mentioned the telling of the long history of immigration. One table discussed how understanding older waves of, say, Polish immigration can help contextualise more recent immigration</li> <li>–Some raised the issue of working outside London to represent the whole of the UK and not be London-centric</li> <li>–Some raised challenge of representing both positive and more-challenging aspects of migration and peoples' stories, including addressing racism</li> <li>–Someone said researching and programming around migratory roots of food and music is a good way to explore stories in an accessible way</li> </ul>

Discussion area	Feedback
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Some shared reservations about our logo not communicating the aims of our project clearly enough</li> <li>-Many advised us to make education area as accessible for time-poor teachers as possible, using suitable language etc.</li> <li>-Careful with how we use search terms, as these frame the debate for visitors from the outset</li> <li>-Keep the sentences as short and clear as possible to avoid elitism</li> <li>-One table discussed arranging recommended (history) resources along a timeline with the resources pegged on so teachers and pupils can easily select the right ones</li> <li>-Suggestion of simple videos with simple questions for teachers to use readily</li> <li>-Links to museums already doing good work needed, preferably with an option for teachers to leave a review of their visit</li> </ul>
Education programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Many suggested promoting the use of oral histories and digital stories in all MMP work. Someone has since recommended checking out the digital stories Medecins sans Frontieres have recorded</li> <li>-An explicit focus is needed on internal migration and emigration so as not to exclude and alienate pupils who don't feel they have/want to identify with an 'immigration story'</li> <li>-Many recommended working through the arts as a good way to engage young people who might otherwise be hard to reach with 'message'</li> <li>-Three tables discussed how migration related themes can be seen as controversial issues for teachers who might lack confidence and that MMP needs to build up the 'advice for teachers' area of the site to help address this</li> <li>-Desire for MMP education programme to be accessible to pre-school up to further education</li> <li>-Be aware of migration and diversity-related themes fitting into other subject beyond those Emily flagged up: Health and Social Care, PSHE, sociology and two other people explored music, and 1 other Maths in their feedback</li> <li>-Learn from successes and challenges of 'Multiverse'</li> <li>-Have a resource related to the '100 images' exhibition as these images can work really well in a school environment</li> <li>-Young people and their voice should be more central to what we do and deliver</li> <li>-Someone suggested learning from Hackney Museum's interactive workshops with pupils and suitcases to learn about migration. Also suggested working with the metaphor of the ship/boat to communicate migration themes</li> <li>-Advised to check out an Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) resource featuring emotional learning cards-could be useful model for a '100 images of migration' school resource</li> <li>-Connect with the work going on about the history of the NHS in terms of migration</li> </ul>

Discussion area	Feedback
Partnership recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Historic Royal Palaces on their Georgians work – to coincide with our ‘Germans in Britain’ exhibition and events</li> <li>-local museums</li> <li>-Northern Industrial Museums – many migrant workers’ stories in this sector</li> <li>-Promote links with local libraries who work to support schools locally (a glowing report given of Wandsworth Library)</li> <li>-Tara Arts, Khali Theatre Company, CND structure and resources, Sunderland migrants project, Oral histories project ‘from Mirpur to Birmingham’, learn from the model that sex education charity ‘Christopher Winter Project’ uses</li> <li>-Historypin for inter-generational locally focussed work</li> <li>-Get a feature in the TES</li> </ul>
Year 2 priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Prioritise working with Initial Teacher Training and Continuous Professional Development providers in order to reach more pupils overall</li> <li>-Make sure the resources we create explicitly link to the revised curriculum to encourage teachers.</li> <li>-Ensure some engagement with pupil voice – getting pupils involved in our planning and development</li> </ul>
Any other feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-MMP needs a go-to spokesperson if it aims to be a trusted voice in migration heritage issues (Shami Chakrabarti the go-to for human rights advocacy for example).</li> <li>-It could help MMP to be involved with a documentary TV series about the long history of immigration to UK</li> <li>-History of Irish immigration often missing – can we help to address this? Ditto forced child emigration to Australia</li> </ul>

### Audience’s evaluation of the evening

Thank you to those who took the time to fill out the brief evaluation of the evening.

Question 1 answers showed that all respondents had a clear idea of what MMP is ultimately trying to achieve: 89% felt that the objectives of the session were clear, and the same figure felt that they had had the opportunity to share their opinions/ experiences during the session – 100% stated that they had enjoyed the session. Suggestions of how to make the session better were mainly around logistical issues which have all been noted and will dictate planning for our next event. When asked for any further comments there was overall positive messages:

“Very good website”

“Great evening, looking forward to seeing where MMP goes in future”

“Most surprising was the range of people who are interested in the project. Looks like MMP have really hit a nerve – bravo”

## Next steps

The varied input from this meeting has been really helpful in both identifying what education programme currently doing right and highlighting areas to explore and develop for year 2. I am grateful for the practical advice about how to action these ideas based on recommendations of best practice in the field. I will share the findings with the education committee that advise me for us to plan next steps.

## Future collaborations

**Webinar. July 9th. 7:30pm.** This webinar will covers similar ground to the meeting of June 25th. It is for those who were on the waiting list and those who are based outside London. If you know anyone who might be interested please encourage them to sign up through the GlobalNet21 meetup site.

**Digital Stories recording session. July 15th. 6:30pm. York House, Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ.** In this session we plan to record some brief migration stories for use on the MMP website which aligns with recommendations above. If you or someone you know would like to share, please join us! Register through the GlobalNet21 meet-up site.

## Many thanks:

To all who took the time to join us at the event.

To the staff at Somerset House who hosted us

To GlobalNet21 for co-hosting

To helpers and table facilitators.

## Be in touch

If you want to keep updated with MMP news and events, sign up to our newsletter at the base of our homepage: <http://www.migrationmuseum.org/> and follow us on twitter [@MigrationUK](https://twitter.com/MigrationUK)

If you have further comments about the meeting or about this report, please drop me a line: [emily@migrationmuseum.org](mailto:emily@migrationmuseum.org)

## Appendix 1: attendees

65 attendees from MMP and GlobalNet21 networks, the latter through the Meetup site.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role / Organisation</b>
1	Jane Hanson	Tutor and community organiser
2	Hale Man	Artist
3	Paulette amadi	Unbound Philanthropy
4	Kajal Nisha Patel	Photographer

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role / Organisation</b>
5	Aniqah Moawalla	Iniva
6	Sue Snell	Photographer
7	Ffion Evans	VInspired
8	Ruth Jampel	The Jewish Museum
9	George Macpherson	The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative
10	Kay Chernush	Artist and community activist
11	Alison Wiggins	Teacher
12	Adrian Samuels	Teacher
13	Diana Pao	Artist
14	Halima Khanom	Museum of London
15	Elham Salih	Sixth form student
16	Maya Makker	Masters student and MMP volunteer
17	Katie Nairne	Masters student
18	Ashley Meyer	
19	Jess Linton	Refugee Week coordinator
20	Avantika Taneja	Citizenship Foundation
21	Claire Frankel	Artist and community activist
22	Tanisa Gunsekera	MMP team and British Museum
23	Emily Miller	MMP team
24	Francis Sealey	GlobalNet21
25	Sophie Henderson	MMP team
26	Andrew Steeds	MMP team
27	Harriet Ward	Masters student and MMP volunteer
28	Rachel Crossley	Historic Royal Palaces
29	Judith Ahikire	Southwark asylum seekers work
30	Marieke Sherwood	Black and Asian studies specialist
31	Mike Tsang	Artist
32	Ian Hunter	Kurt Schwitters Foundation
33	Roberta Murrioni	Masters student and MMP volunteer
34	Harriet Ballance	GlobalNet21
35	Patricia Diaz	GlobalNet21

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role / Organisation</b>
36	Jazz Rasool	GlobalNet21
37	Suzanne Long	GlobalNet21
38	Danielle	GlobalNet21
39	Zoya +1	GlobalNet21
40	Francesca	GlobalNet21
41	Sharon Burd	GlobalNet21
42	Steve Ridley	GlobalNet21
43	Fiona Weir	GlobalNet21
44	Stephen Ross	GlobalNet21
45	Luke Craven	Masters student
46	Veena Meetoo	GlobalNet21
47	Richard Race	GlobalNet21
48	Miriam	GlobalNet21
49	Heidi Mirza	Goldsmiths University
50	Krishna	GlobalNet21
51	Prodeпта Das +1	Photographer
52	Anna Ferris	Institute of Education – ITT
53	Caroline	GlobalNet21
54	Teresa Murjas	GlobalNet21
55	Natalie Sirett	Artist
56	Heather Storey	London Curriculum
57	Yasmin Khatib	Psychologist
58	Harprit	GlobalNet21
59	Adriana Peixoto	Artist
60	Christina Vona	Hackney Museum
61	Christel Rogers	Masters student
62	Jessica May	Refugee work, Sunderland
63	Ray Cornwell	GlobalNet21
64	Luciana	GlobalNet21
65	Susan	GlobalNet21