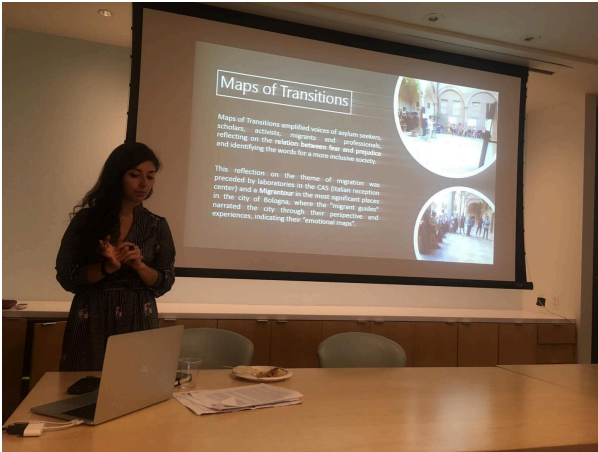


Atlas of Transitions presented at Institute for Public Knowledge in New York!



On May 1st, our researcher, Melissa Moralli (University of Bologna), presented the project Atlas of Transitions in a public discussion at the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University. Here the short presentation of the event: “The sensationalist and stereotyped images depicted by media and political rhetoric convey social imaginaries in which migrants and asylum seekers are represented as subjects and objects of fear, "victims of conjunctural crisis", "potential criminals", "invaders", without an own individuality. A dominant rhetoric that crystallizes the imbalances of power between those who have the possibility to narrate and those who are forced to be narrated. In this context of complex transitions, performing arts are not only physical and symbolic spaces of expression and artistic creation, but also spaces of resistance, disruption, and negotiation. The experiential and relational nature of performing arts is a social and political transformation agent capable of shaping new social imageries, new forms of citizenship and new spaces of coexistence in relation to migration. Performing arts can provide innovative ways to represent migration, challenging conventional narratives and xenophobic rhetoric which depicts migrants as criminals or as mere victims, without any power to speak up. In some cases, artistic projects can also promote forms of empowerment, new capabilities, new hybrid identities. Within this context, the project ‘Atlas of Transitions, New Geographies for a Cross-Cultural Europe’ (<http://www.atlasoftransitions.eu/>) aims at promoting cross-cultural dialogue in local communities through culture and performing arts, thanks to collaborative action research between academics and artists. Looking at the potentialities arising from contemporary migration and examining the link between narratives, representations and artistic activism, the project sheds light on how alternative representations of human mobility and cultural diversity can be co-constructed by social actors. Through the involvement of citizens, artists, migrants, researchers, asylum seekers, students, etc., the project intends to valorize diverse cultural backgrounds and challenge traditional narrative repertoires, as well as conventional social integration processes. Can artistic practices work as tools to valorize the cultural complexity of our times? Can performing arts weave communities together to inhabit public spaces and create collective narratives? Which artistic practices can promote new forms of citizenship, participation and active engagement?”. Among the audience, Eric Klinenberg (director of IPK, NYU), Jessica Coffey (co-director of IPK, NYU) and Nicholas Mirzoeff (MCC Department, NYU), who participated to the Atlas of Transitions Biennale | Home in March 2019 (<http://bologna.emiliaromagnateatro.com/spettacolo/nicholas-mirzoeff-lecture/>).