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Authors: Nisha Sajnani, Eva Marxen, Rebecca Zarate

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Critical perspectives in the arts therapies: Response/ability across a continuum of practice

Nisha Sajnani, PhD, RDT-BCT
Associate Professor
Director, Global Interdisciplinary Studies
Coordinator, Drama Therapy MA Program
Expressive Therapies PhD Program
5 Phillips Place
Cambridge, MA 02138
Ph:

617-349-8689

Fax: 617.349.8431

Eva Marxen, School of the Art Institute of Chicago Rebecca Zarate, Lesley University

Introduction

The world is faced with a momentous period of instability. An unprecedented number of people displaced by political violence, human rights violations, climate change, and poverty continue to seek refuge yet they have found themselves trapped out in the open (Egeland, 2014; Sajnani, 2016a). We are in a time when there are numerous examples of welcome around the world to absorb these families and share the burden of offering shelter and providing opportunity (Bose, 2016; Harding, Oltermann, & Watt, 2015). However, the dominant narrative has been a familiar one of psychological, cultural, and economic survival against a feared and unwanted *Other* (Beauchamp, 2016; Kingsley, 2016; Yee, 2016). This *Other*, a term popularized though the writing of Levinas (1969), has taken many forms at different points in history in different contexts: as those who suffer from mental illness, women, Black men, people of color, lesbian, gay, and transgendered people, Armenians, Tutsi, Jews, Palestinians, Muslims, Greece, differently abled people, the global poor, and older adults to name a few (Johnson & Sajnani, 2015). Like those displaced today, they have been, at different points in history, seen as a threat

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