



Remembering Refuge

Between Sanctuary and Solidarity

What are Provocations?

Provocations are the questions that lie at the heart of conversations about migration and borders, but that often are not made explicit. The provocations emerged from the overarching themes that developed out of the team's engagement with the oral histories. They are points of entry that both inform and are informed by the oral histories and are meant to provoke critical thinking and engagement.

Provocation: How do people navigate their migration journeys?

Many migration stories include accounts of overcoming obstacles and of arduous journeys. This provocation prompts you to consider the strategies, networks, and forms of knowledge that migrants utilize during their travels.

- What keeps people going, despite these struggles?
- How do people navigate policies, borders, and communities as they move from one place to another?
- What does it take to survive and persist?
- What language is used to describe what it takes and what do you make of concepts like resourcefulness, resilience, agency, and self-advocacy?
- In what ways might it be harmful to focus on the resiliency of refugees?

From the Remembering Refuge Archive

At rememberingrefuge.com/oral-histories, you can explore a collection of oral histories where individuals share their experiences of crossing the Canada-US border to seek refuge, along with accounts from advocates in border communities. The following excerpts have been chosen for their relevance to the provocation “How do people navigate their migration journeys?” and can be used to reflect on the questions it raises.

Key moments from the oral histories:

Javier 00:16:54 - 00:19:14

Maria 00:09:44 - 00:18:48

Janet 00:03:01 - 00:04:32

June 00:09:28 - 00:12:41

To access the key moments, follow the steps listed below:

1. Go to rememberingrefuge.com
2. Go to “Oral histories”.
3. Scroll to find the oral history you’re looking for, and click on it.
 - a. Note: Some oral histories may include a trigger warning. Click the play button to continue.
4. Inside the story, click “Explore X’s story” located at the top of the page to view a list of Key Moments from the oral history.
5. Scroll through the Key Moments to find the timestamp you’re looking for and click on it. This will take you to that moment in the audio.
6. To play the story, click on the play button in the bottom-left corner of the page.

Education Resources

At rememberingrefuge.com/education, you can find education resources designed to activate the counter-archive by encouraging learners to engage with the stories meaningfully and consider how the knowledge can be applied beyond the classroom. The following materials were selected for their relevance to the provocation “How do people navigate their migration journeys?” and can be used to reflect on the questions it raises.

Education Resources:

Human Smuggling and Trafficking
Criminalization of Aid

To access the education resources, follow the steps listed below:

1. Go to rememberingrefuge.com
2. Go to “Education”.
3. Scroll to find the education resource you’re looking for, and click on it.
4. Once inside you can view the online version or download the PDF.

What have other people said about this question?

Jouni Häkli, Kirski Pauliina Kallio, *Between Vulnerability and Resilience – ‘Refugeeness’ as Political Subjectivity*, 2019

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2019/07/15/between-vulnerability-and-resilience-refugeeness-as-political-subjectivity/>

Cetta Mainwaring, *Migrant agency: Negotiating borders & migration controls*, 2016

<https://ccis.ucsd.edu/files/journals/13mnw013.pdf>

Shahram Kosravi, *Border Smuggling as Decolonial Practice*, 2020

<https://soundcloud.com/the-funambulist/a-moment-of-true-decolonization-25-shahram-khosravi-border-smuggling-as-decolonial-practice>

Witnessing Exile: Interactive map (a journey following the route taken by migrants through the Balkans)

<https://dynamiques-migratoires.chaire.ulaval.ca/witnessingexile/en/interactive-map/>

Want to learn more about the project? Visit rememberingrefuge.com