



MIGRATION

What do you think of when you hear the term “migration?” Birds and butterflies? Animals on the savannah? Plants reseeding on the wind? People moving from rural to urban areas following jobs? Or the journey your family took to get to America? What about the movement of goods and ideas across the globe?

Last summer, a number of regional non-profit organizations, in partnership with the Princeton University Art Museum and other University departments, agreed to embark on a multifaceted exploration of this theme in the Spring of 2018. Participating organizations will explore the theme as it best fits their mission and programmatic focus.

Likely discussions will likely explore immigration and the seasonal migrations of workers in the increasingly global economy of labor; the historical movements of peoples in response to famine, war, or economic crisis; and the seasonal migrations of various species. What all these meditations share is attention to the implications of such movements and how they change over time. How do cultural and intellectual exchanges shape human activities? What are the consequences for humans, animals, and plant species of displacement, environmental change, or natural disasters? How do visual and literary artists grapple with these themes? How do the arts more unconsciously reflect such exchanges/changes? How do migrations impact the human need for community in the face of constant, and sometimes radical, change?

These timely and important questions have gained new weight against the backdrop of current debates surrounding immigration and climate change, and afford a compelling opportunity for the Princeton community to engage in conversation about these issues.

PSIRC is excited to be a participating community organization. We started off in January with a book discussion group in conjunction with the Princeton Public Library’s book selection: *Enrique’s Journey*. The Spring Art Show will illustrate our student’s expressions of this theme, while movies and TED Talks will feature some related presentations. There are many openings to weave this theme into the Spring Evergreen Forum class offerings. Memoir and Let’s Talk groups may share family immigration stories, and we have an idea for illustrating migration through the lifespan.

We hope you will join us and other participating organizations in deepening our understanding of migration and how it connects to all of our lives. Watch for more details in our news; there should be a common calendar/website soon.

Susan W. Hoskins LCSW