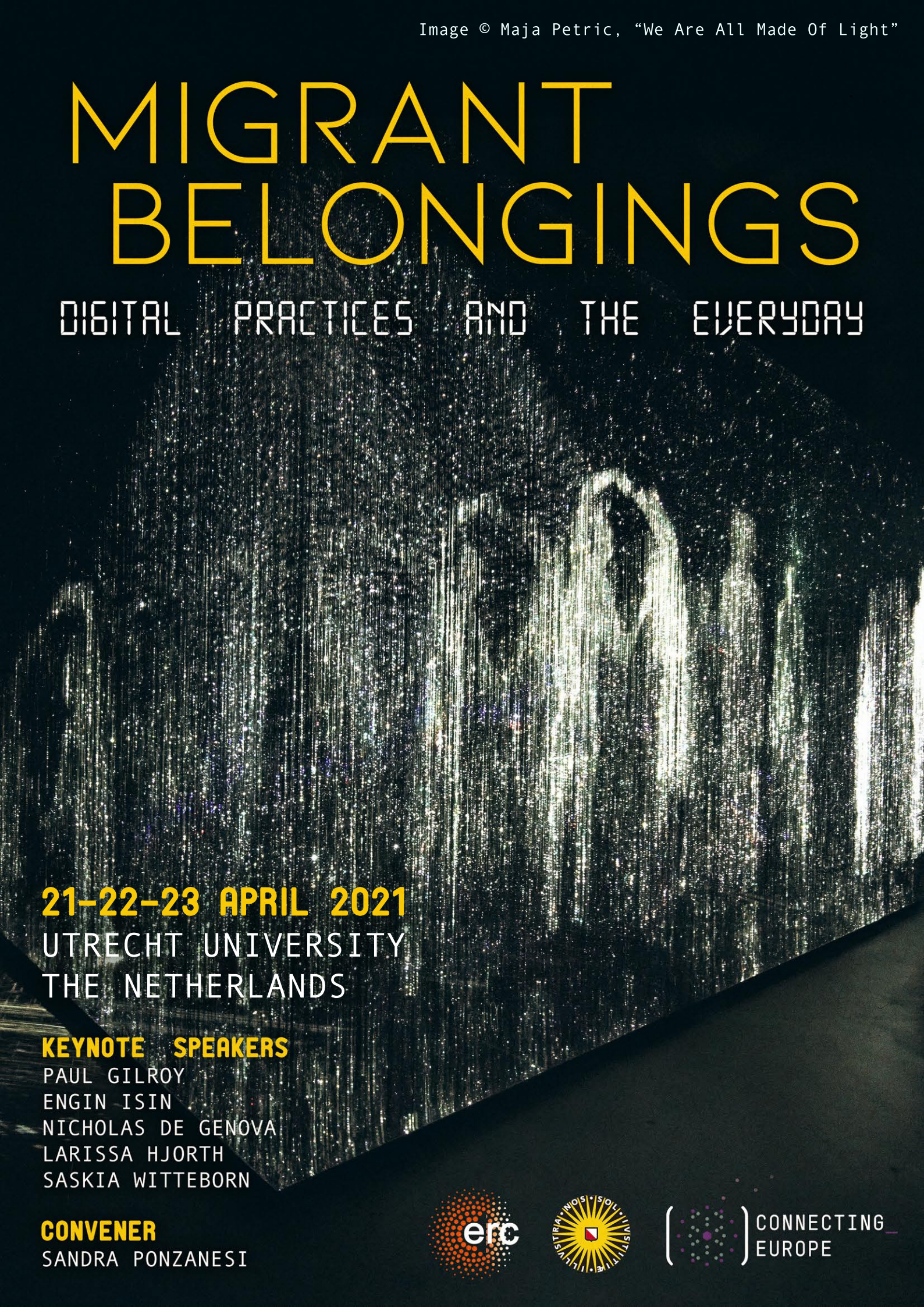

Image © Maja Petric, “We Are All Made Of Light”

MIGRANT BELONGINGS

DIGITAL PRACTICES AND THE EVERYDAY

21-22-23 APRIL 2021
UTRECHT UNIVERSITY
THE NETHERLANDS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
PAUL GILROY
ENGIN ISIN
NICHOLAS DE GENOVA
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CONVENER
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MIGRANT BELONGINGS

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Migrant belonging through digital connectivity refers to a way of being in the world that cuts across national borders, shaping new forms of diasporic affiliations and transnational intimacy. This happens in ways that are different from the ways enabled by the communication technologies of the past. Scholarly attention has intensified around the question of how various new technical affordances of platforms and apps are shaping the transnationally connected, and locally situated, social worlds in which migrants live their everyday lives.

This international conference focuses on the connection between the media and migration from different disciplinary vantage points. Connecting with friends, peers and family, sharing memories and personally identifying information, navigating spaces and reshaping the local and the global in the process is but one side of the coin of migrant-related technology use: this Janus-faced development also subjects individual as well as groups to increased datafied migration management, algorithmic control and biometric classification as well as forms of transnational authoritarianism and networked repression.

This conference pays particular attention to the everyday use of digital media for the support of transnational lives, emotional bonds and cosmopolitan affiliations, focusing also on the the role digital media play in shaping local/urban and national diasporic formations. This is because it becomes increasingly important to give everyday digital media usage a central role in investigations of transnational belonging, digital intimacy, diasporic community (re)production, migrant subject formation, long-distance political participation, urban social integration and local/national self-organization.

Therefore we need to examine individual and collective user practices within the wider historical and cultural contexts of media studies, cultural studies and postcolonial cultural studies scholarship, attuned to issues of politics and power, identity, geographies and the everyday. This also creates new challenges for cross-disciplinary dialogues that require an integration of ethnography with digital methods and critical data studies in order to look at the formation of identity and experience, representation, community building, and creating spaces of belongingness.

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Contributions are welcome from any field of study that engages with questions about how technology and social media usages mediate contemporary migration experiences, not only within media and communication studies, or digital and internet studies but also in neighbouring disciplines such as anthropology, postcolonial studies, gender studies, race studies, psychology, law, visual studies, conflict studies, criminology, sociology, critical theory, political theory and international relations.

Contributions that explore non-media-centric entry points by focusing on users' digital practices and foregrounding ethnographic exploration as a uniting framework are especially welcome.

The conference is part of the ERC project CONNECTINGEUROPE, *Digital Crossings in Europe: Gender, Diaspora and Belonging*: http://connectingeuropeproject.eu/

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:·

- Affective digital practices and the politics of emotion
- Digital diaspora
- Cosmopolitanism
- Cities and urban belonging
- Translocality and translationalism
- Co-presence and togetherness
- Cultural capital
- Migrant visualization
- Appification of migration
- Platformization of migrant lives
- Gender and critical race
- The migration industry of connectivity
- Digital ethnography
- Transnational authoritarianism
- Networked conflicts
- Datafication and surveillance

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submissions for **panels** should be submitted via e-mail to ERC2020@uu.nl by **31 January 2021**.

Submission for panels should include a chairperson, a rationale for the panel (250 words), and the names of three speakers including their abstract (250 words) and biographical note (150 words.

Abstracts should be submitted electronically, using the **on-line submission system** by **15 February 2021**.

Submissions for **papers** should include an abstract (max 300 words) and short biographical note (150 words) about the author including her/his current position and interest in the field of digital media and migration.

For further question please mail: **ERC2020@uu.nl**

Registration Fee:

Regular:	100 euro
Reduced (PhD, early-career researchers, other):	50 euro

Details on how to register and settle payment for the conference will be available on our event website in due course.

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