

Trans Cosmologies 2: Art, Ritual & Memory

Two-day multimedia event

30 April–1 May

Pathfoot Lecture Theatre, Pathfoot Building, University of Stirling, FK9 4LA
& The Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Dumbarton Road, Stirling, FK8 2RQ

Please note that **separate registration is required** for the [University of Stirling portion of the programme](#) (30 April-1 May) and the [Culture Night Stirling portion of the programme](#) (1 May, 17:00-22:00) at The Smith Art Gallery and Museum in Stirling.

Overview

Trans Cosmologies 2 is a two-day multimedia art, research and community event beginning with lectures, roundtables and an evening book launch at Pathfoot Building, University of Stirling, and ending with an art evening and a reception at The Stirling Smith Art Gallery & Museum as part of Stirling Culture Night.

It explores the intersections of trans, gender-nonconforming and queer cosmologies with memory, ethics, and artistic practice. It brings together artists, scholars and activists to reflect on how trans communities navigate and resist the legacies of colonialism, racial capitalism and systemic erasure, while generating resilient, insurgent forms of knowledge grounded in ritual, oral tradition, place and everyday practice.

The programme includes large panel discussions, interdisciplinary lectures, a book launch, as well as poetry, painting and theatre performances, with contributions from Raphaël Khouri, Nat Raha, Mijke van der Drift, Vanja Hamzić, Celestine Salomé, Lucian Summerisle, Bex Wade, Lou Carberry, Izzy Osborn, and many others.

Programme

Day 1 – 30th April

Pathfoot Lecture Theatre, Pathfoot Building

9:30–10:00 Coffee & welcome

10:00–10:15 Safet HadžiMuhamedović - Introduction

Session 1 – Offerings & Introductions

10:15–12:00 This large open panel invites all of us to raise brief points for conversation as a community. Over two days, we'll engage a plethora of topics, from everyday rituals of care to nationalist erasures, featuring Myla Corvidae, Bex Wade, Dale Leorke, Hana Morgenstern, Lucian Summerisle, Celestine Salomé, and many other voices.

12:00–13:30 – Lunchtime

Session 2 – Duration & Change

13:30 Mijke van der Drift – Embracing the Void: Lucretius and the Magic of Social Change (talk)

14:00 Vanja Hamzić – Worlds Within Lineage: Trans Cosmologies in Arabo-Amazigh Greater Senegambia (talk)

14:00–14:30 Conversation

14:30–14:45 – Break (& a peek at Lucian's and Celestine's art)

In the Crush Hall, adjacent to our main lecture theatre, Lucian Summerisle and Celestine Salomé present *A Golden Pit in the Sky*, a durational ritual painting and performative exploration.

Session 3 – Body & Self

14:50 Bex Wade – A Lecture in Five Acts (talk)

15:20 Myla Corvidae – A Facade of the Self: Revealing the Masc (workshop)

15:50 Izzy Osborn – Embodied Epiphanies (talk)

16:10–16:30 Conversation

16:30-17:00 Break

17:00–18:30 Book Launch

Nat Raha's and Mijke van der Drift's *Trans Femme Futures: Abolitionist Ethics for Transfeminist Worlds* (Book launch with the authors and reflections from Phil Crockett Thomas, Jacky Collins and Safet HadžiMuhamedović)

18:30–19:00 Lucian Summerisle and Celestine Salomé - *A Golden Pit in the Sky*

We return to Lucian Summerisle and Celestine Salomé for a conversation about their work *A Golden Pit in the Sky*.

Day 2 – 1st May

Pathfoot Building, Pathfoot Lecture Theatre
& The Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum

10:00–10:30 Coffee

Session 4 – Localities & Connections

10:30–11:00 Lou Carberry – LGBT Youth Scotland

11:00–12:00 Offerings and Connections

As a continuation of the first day, this large open panel invites all of us to raise brief points for conversation as a community, with a focus on Scotland, trans solidarities and antifascism, and play as a queer/cosmological method.

12:30–13:30 Lunchtime

13:20 – 14:30 – May Day Blessing with Lucian Summerisle

This activity will take place on campus, outside the main venue. Further details are available in the full programme. Please arrive promptly at 13:20 at the main entrance of the Pathfoot Building.

Culture Night Stirling Programme

1 May 2026, 17:00–22:00

The Smith Museum and Art Gallery, Dumbarton Road, Stirling FK8 2RQ

Please note that the required registration for the Culture Night Stirling portion of our programme at The Smith Art Gallery & Museum (1 May, 5-10 pm) is separate and required. Please register [here](#).

Overview

As part of Culture Night Stirling 2026, themed ‘Carnival of the Wolf’, this event invites audiences to experience Stirling after dark through powerful storytelling, performance, and creativity – inspired by the local legend in which wolves warned residents of approaching invaders.

This evening of performance, poetry, and visual art creates a vital space for trans, gender-nonconforming, and queer voices. Blending intimate storytelling with experimental and immersive practices, the programme explores themes of identity, memory, and collective futurity. Audiences are invited not only to witness but to reflect,

gather, and engage in a shared atmosphere of creativity and care, culminating in a relaxed garden reception.

This multi-part evening programme unfolds across The Smith, beginning with a series of readings and performances in Gallery 2. Photographer and writer **Bex Wade** presents *Tenderly Dancing Towards Joy*, a text rooted in queer futurity and collective recognition. Poet and performer **Myla Corvidae** follows with *Being the Self in Spite*, an exploration of medical trauma, identity, and resilience from the perspective of a trans person of colour.

The programme continues with a specially condensed presentation of *It Was Paradise, Unfortunately, a documentary play* by **Raphaël Khouri**. Drawing on a three-year journey through Greece, the work interweaves personal narrative with an investigation into Dionysos and the origins of theatre, offering a profound and genre-defying reflection on trans identity, mythology, and performance.

In the garden, artists **Lucian Summerisle and Celestine Salomé** present *A Golden Pit in the Sky*, a durational ritual artwork combining painting, photocollage, trance, and embodied practice. Inspired by the contested figure of the Roman emperor Elagabalus, this immersive intervention invites audiences to witness and participate in an evolving act of ritual and transformation.

The evening concludes with a garden reception, offering space for conversation, reflection, and community.

The Culture Night Stirling event is led by Safet HadžiMuhamedović (Centre for the Science of Place and Memory, University of Stirling), as part of the wider Trans Cosmologies 2 programme.

Programme

17:00 Welcome, thanks and introductions (Gallery 2, 20 minutes)

17:20 Bex Wade – *Tenderly Dancing Towards Joy* (Gallery 2, reading, 20 minutes)

17:40 Myla Corvidae – *Being the Self in Spite* (Gallery 2, poetry performance, 20 minutes)

18:00 Raphaël Khouri – *It Was Paradise, Unfortunately* (Lecture Theatre, documentary play, 1 hour)

19:00 Lucian Summerisle & Celestine Salomé – *A Golden Pit in the Sky* (Ailie's Garden at The Smith, ritual painting & discussion)

19:30-22:00 Reception, Ailie's Garden at The Smith

Summaries of contributions (in order of appearance)

Mijke van der Drift – Embracing the Void: Lucretius and the Magic of Social Change

In this talk I will sit with you and think through what it means to give up form, move into the void, and let go of what you know. These processes require magic, which is impossible and yet an everyday occurrence. Magic is love. When I say giving up form, as social change, I have 3 different processes in mind. First, giving up form is the interpersonal change of relations that is transness. Secondly, giving up form indicates the liberatory work we need to do to unlearn structures of oppression. Thirdly, when I talk about giving up form, I talk about giving up forms that give sense to the world surrounding us. These three processes are interlaced and operate on different levels, as I will set out in this talk.

Vanja Hamzić – Worlds Within Lineage: Trans Cosmologies in Arabo-Amazigh Greater Senegambia

Eighteenth-century Greater Senegambia formed a crucial zone of encounter between Amazigh and Arab lineages, regional Islamicate polities, and wider Sahelian cosmologies. Within this composite Arabo-Amazigh lifeworld—associated in European sources with the racialised shorthand “Moor”—distinct hierarchies of lineage, caste, religious authority and bondage coexisted with complex socio-cosmological understandings of gender, sexuality and personhood. Amongst the Trarza and Brakna confederations in the northwest and the Tuareg communities extending towards the Air Mountains, social order was regulated through elaborate codes of restraint, modesty and honour, yet these same structures enabled carefully bounded transgressions.

This lecture foregrounds trans cosmologies embedded within these societies, focusing particularly on Tuareg *inaden* (artisanal castes) and related Arabo-Amazigh formations. Through ritual practices such as *zakkatan* protest performances, spirit possession associated with Kel Essuf, age-graded gender fluidities, and the performative force of speech (*awal*) alongside the distinct hopping movement known as *təbatəq*, gender and sexuality emerge not as fixed binaries but as relational and temporally contingent. Artisanal groups, protected yet socially separate, occupied privileged positions at the threshold of the human and the more-than-human, wielding forces such as *təzma* that unsettled noble authority and its claims to lineage purity and moral restraint. Their nonconformity—ritualised, cosmological and political—functioned not as marginal aberration but as an internally legible and socially embedded form of transness within Arabo-Amazigh society.

Attending to these insurrectionary trans cosmologies unsettles both European travel accounts and later reformist Muslim narratives that cast “Moorish” societies as sexually or morally “excessive”. Instead, eighteenth-century Greater Senegambia emerges as a complex terrain in which Arabo-Amazigh and wider West African formations of selfhood sustained plural and hierarchically ordered, yet resilient configurations of transness and/as cosmological relationality.

Lucian Summerisle & Celestine Salome – ‘A Golden Pit in the Sky’ (ritual painting & discussion)

The deified Roman Emperor Elagabalus (Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, r. AUC 971-75), high priest of the Syrian sun god Elagabal, posed a cataclysmic threat to the ancient

Roman tyrannical hierarchies of prescribed gender and sexuality. Most writing, contemporary or otherwise, cannot be trusted as an authority on the character and life of Elagabalus. Their body and reign - a symbol in flux - elicits disgust, hatred, worship, and awe from those who have written about them. This has left them, as Warwick Ball puts it, 'a tragic enigma lost behind centuries of prejudice'.

In the previous installation of *Trans Cosmologies*, Lucian inducted the deity Elagabalus into its own personal pantheon by way of the creation of a ritualised artwork on canvas with materials from the artist's own sacrificial collections and body. In this installation, Lucian and his partner Celestine will map the psychogeographic and metaphysical traces of the moment Elagabalus entered the Roman Forum as the new emperor, bearing with them the sacred black stone of Elagabal from Emesa. This intervention is a durational act of ritual magic. It will incorporate photocollage, painting, embodiment, and trance-based work. Attendees can sit in on the rite as desired throughout the conference, for any duration. There will be a Q&A with the artists at the end of the piece.

Please note: this intervention will use a soundtrack, and atmospheric modifications.

Myla Corvidae – A Facade of the Self: Revealing the Masc (workshop)

Where do we find ourselves in times of struggle and displacement? How do we regain power in our bodies, our identities and the self when it intersects with movement, performance and the art of storytelling. In this space I will discuss the disillusionment of the self in the capacity for liberation, oral traditions and solidarity when performing on stage or for an audience, how we craft our own truths and why it feels safer to act than be.

This workshop is an exploration and discussion space oriented towards arts and action.

Bex Wade – ‘A Lecture in Five Acts’

In “A Lecture in Five Acts,” Bex Wade approaches trans and queer life through the spaces in which it is produced: the dance floor, the protest, and the Pride march. Structured in five acts, the lecture moves through silence, ritual, institutional contradiction, and the unstable temporalities of the archive.

Beginning within the legislative and cultural conditions shaped by Section 28, the lecture traces how absence is constructed and maintained within institutional life, and how other forms of recognition emerge elsewhere.

Wade examines how images shift in meaning as political contexts change, and how institutions both regulate representation and can be disrupted. Moving from visibility to witnessing as an ongoing practice of responsibility, Wade asks how the images of trans and queer lives can be held, encountered, and carried forward across time under increasingly hostile conditions.

Izzy Osborn – ‘Embodied Epiphanies’

In this autoethnographic project, Izzy explores an experience as a life model following gender transition. Using the life drawing space as a site of self-discovery, the project examines how trans bodies are perceived and how identity is negotiated through being observed. Informed by interpretive autoethnography, it focuses on personal 'epiphanies' that connect lived experience to wider trans histories and narratives of erasure. Through creative methods like photovoice, the work foregrounds subjective interpretation rather than external viewpoints. The session offers a reflective and potentially interactive exploration of embodiment, visibility, and the politics of representation.

Nat Raha and Mijke van der Drift – *Trans Femme Futures: Abolitionist Ethics for Transfeminist Worlds* (Pluto Press, 2024)

The book explores *femme* as a constellation of queer, gendered expressions that challenge expectations of femininity. Building on experiences of transformation, belonging and harm, the book is a transfeminist call for collective liberation. Raha and van der Drift envision futures through everyday actions that transform our lives, discussing struggles around trans healthcare, the need for collectives over institutions, the importance of mutual care, and transfeminism as abolition. As H.L.T. Quan observes, the book is 'astute and hopeful', offering an abolitionist 'transfeminist love-politics' as a practical antidote to the suffocating neoliberal world order. Jordy Rosenberg calls it 'a brilliant, useful, and immensely moving book' that defends theory as 'a tool to work upon the imagination'. The authors show how social change can emerge from transformative practices that allow queer life to flourish in times of climate, health, political, and economic crises. Trish Salah highlights its radical and sensuous ethics, its power to 'undo the grip of empire on the soul through the senses', while Marquis Bey notes it is 'a powerful, steadfast commitment to liberation'.

Lou Carberry – LGBT Youth Scotland

This talk introduces the work of LGBT Youth Scotland (LGBTYS), highlighting key services and support available both nationally and within local communities. It will offer a closer look at the Forth Valley Lavender Room as a vital space for LGBTQ+ adults, alongside insights into community engagement through initiatives such as Stirling Pride. The session provides an overview of current provision, impact, and the importance of accessible, inclusive youth services.

Lucian Summerisle – May Day Blessing

In England, it is traditional to dance 'the May' in at dawn, to reflect on the rotation of the year thus passed, and to wash oneself clean in the dew there present for the year ahead. This rite usually requires Morris Dancers, and an errant wizard to apply the dew to those present in appropriate ways. Lucian is the customary Duty Wizard on May Day at its home of Cambridge, where the rite is observed annually in Wandlebury, but finds itself this year displaced for the purpose of this conference. Given that we cannot summon Morris Dancers at will (do they summon themselves?) Lucian will instead offer

a prayer to the Sun/Elagabalus and perform the May Day dew blessing for all participants.

Bex Wade – ‘Tenderly Dancing Towards Joy’

In ‘Tenderly Dancing Towards Joy’, Bex Wade writes from within queer futurity, staying close to the body and to the act of gathering as sites where something can begin to take shape. The text moves between intimacy and collectivity without separating them, holding on to how recognition and belonging are lived rather than assumed.

Written for and published in *The Bittersweet Review*, Volume 3: *This Used to Be the Future*, the text sits alongside their wider practice shaped by care, attention, and the desire for others to be seen and to recognise themselves in relation to one another. What is at stake is not simply how a future is imagined, but how it is lived in the present, and what it demands of us to hold onto it.

Myla Corvidae – Being the Self in Spite

Myla Corvidae presents 'Being the Self in Spite', a poetry performance exploring medical trauma, identity, and resilience through the lens of a trans person of colour.

Raphaël Khouri – *It Was Paradise, Unfortunately*

* ‘one of the most profound pieces of theatre I’ve ever seen’ (*Binge Fringe*); ‘a stunningly clever investigation of theatre as a trans art form’ (*The Irish Times*)

In his documentary play, *It was Paradise, Unfortunately*, Jordanian playwright Raphaël Khouri travels to Greece in a three-year search for the ancient roots of theatre and the mystery of Dionysos. In this specially condensed presentation of the original production, Raphaël Khouri tells intertwining stories: his own as a trans Arab playwright, and his investigation into the cultural significance and multiple interpretations of Dionysos, the Greek god of wine and theatre.

Raphaël’s play was developed in cooperation with Myrto Stampoulou, a visual artist from Greece. Original commission by Outburst Arts, Belfast, with support from The Collective for the research and development of this performance.

Rich, intimate, and genre-defying, *It Was Paradise, Unfortunately* invites audiences to reconsider where theatre begins, its transformative potential, and the radical possibilities of the past for imagining new futures.

Contributors’ Biographies (in order of appearance)

Safet HadžiMuhamedović is a Research Fellow at the Centre for the Sciences of Place and Memory at the University of Stirling and an anthropologist of politics and religion whose work explores the entanglements of memory, place and belonging in landscapes marked by nationalist violence, displacement and environmental change. They have

previously lectured at the universities of Cambridge, SOAS and Goldsmiths (University of London), Bristol and Goethe Frankfurt. Their ethnographic research in the Bosnian Dinaric highlands examines sacred geographies, disrupted temporalities and more-than-human ecologies in the aftermath of genocide. Safet is the author of *Waiting for Elijah: Time and Encounter in a Bosnian Landscape* (Berghahn, 2018/2021) and is currently completing a major study of Bosnia's sacred sinking rivers, extending their work on ritual, restoration and the fractured times of post-conflict return.

Mijke van der Drift works on transfeminist and anti-imperial ethics through philosophies of movement, collective action, and counter-cultural production. This work takes the form of writings, performances, and sound pieces, often by way of interdisciplinary collaborations. Mijke co-authored with Nat Raha *Trans Femme Futures* (Pluto 2024). Mijke published in *Alternatives*, *Social Text*, *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, with Cambridge University Press, and many other outlets. Mijke is Tutor (Research) at the Royal College of Art, London and is co-chair of its Union branch. Mijke is founding member of the arts collective *Red Forest*.

Vanja Hamzić is Professor of Law, History and Anthropology at SOAS University of London. Their research examines the formation of human selfhood at the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, class, language and religion. Drawing on extensive fieldwork in Pakistan, Indonesia, Senegal and Louisiana, Vanja explores Islamic legal traditions, racial capitalism and colonial archives, with particular attention to gender-nonconforming communities and their insurgent vernacular knowledges. Vanja is the author of *Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Muslim World: History, Law and Vernacular Knowledge* (2016/2019) and is currently completing a major book on gender variance, cosmological pluralism and legal worldmaking in eighteenth-century Senegambia and colonial Louisiana.

Lucian Summerisle is a wizard, artist, and devotee of multifaceted sacred chaos. Lucian's work as an artist records an ongoing multi-voiced conversation between himself, spirit guides, deities, and primordial chaos. Each piece, sometimes through intent and focus, other times through ritual and trance state, depicts a snippet of this intensely personal, frequently confusing personal religious experience. His body of work explores themes of alternative spirituality, psychogeography, and sacred gender non-compliance through a wide variety of methods selected in accordance with divine guidance. These range from fine art and traditional crafts to chaos magic, performance, and daily embodiment. Lucian's work, including publications and forthcoming events, can be found at www.mrlucian.com.

Celestine Salomé is an historian, graphic designer, and devotee of Elagabal. Their collage-based artistic work is inspired by classical pagan art and iconography, fin de siècle culture, and harsh noise aesthetics. Their academic work explores political constructions of sexual and gendered deviance, gender and the far right, and transphobic politics. They have published extensively on fascism in Europe.

Myla Corvidae (He/They) is a Welsh multi-disciplinary artist, writer and performer working and living in Scotland. He has had work published through the Scottish BIPOC Network, Gutter Magazine, 1010 Press and has been shortlisted for the New Writers Award in 2023. They have been a public speaker for Museums, Disability access, BIPOC in the arts and Queer issues. He has recently performed with Queer Folk Tales and Birds of Paradise (We Indulge in a Little Roleplay). They are currently working on their first poetry collection and Urban Gulls Press, a publishing group for and with minorities.

Bex Wade is a trans non-binary photographer, artist and writer. For over two decades, their work has documented expressions of otherness and outrage, communion and community, seeking to capture queer lives in all their power and complexity. Bex began their career documenting LGBTQ+ nightlife in the UK and New York, recording these spaces as a means of archiving queer forms of gathering and expression. They soon moved from the club into the street, documenting protest and Pride worldwide. Bex's photographs make explicit the ways LGBTQ+ people are rewriting narratives of presumed cis-heteronormativity and resisting threats to queer communion. Documenting from inside their community, they create space for queer futures that are radical, galvanising and multifaceted. Their work has featured in publications such as ArtReview, British Vogue, VICE, Dazed, and The NY Times, and has been exhibited in galleries and museums including UNIT Gallery, SLQS, and the Herbert Museum. Their work is held in public and private collections. Most recently, multiple works by Bex were acquired by the Victoria & Albert Museum. One of these is now on permanent display in the Young V&A, making them the first trans artist to be permanently displayed across the V&A museums.

Izzy Osborn is a Scotland based visual artist and facilitator. Izzy graduated in 2024 from Edinburgh College of Art with a first-class degree in Intermedia Art. Her studio practice responds to the Anthropocene, the notion of a man-made geological epoch. Through sculpture and performance, Izzy interrogates the cultural, historical and political implications of the Anthropocene. How we interact with a world irrevocably marked by climate change. Izzy is committed to widening access to the arts and has delivered workshops for groups who have traditionally faced significant barriers in accessing arts education. Her social practice is conscientious and playful, informed by ludic methods such as the Oblique strategies and RSVP cycles. Izzy engages communities in a dialogue, developing workshops in partnership with them. Research is a cornerstone of Izzy's practice. In desk-based research projects she has explored the history of art-education institutions, Scottish DIY cultures and non-human agency. As part of her Master's degree in Participatory Arts at Queen Margaret's University, Izzy is undertaking a practice-based research project which explores her understanding of her own body through participating in life modelling sessions.

Nat Raha is a poet and activist-scholar whose work spans poetry, critical theory, and political research. Nat Raha's work engages transfeminism, practices of care and social reproduction, and questions of racial capitalism and decolonisation, exploring these across art, politics, and hi(r)story. Nat Raha's research focuses on the politics, print cultures, and poetics of LGBTQ+, anti-colonial, feminist, and Mad liberation movements in North America and Europe since the 1970s. Working across creative and critical methods, Nat Raha also writes on sexuality and gender, Marxism, and contemporary poetics and aesthetics. Nat Raha is co-author of *Trans Femme Futures: Abolitionist Ethics for Transfeminist Worlds* (with Mijke van der Drift, 2024), co-editor of the *Third Text* special issue 'Imagining Queer Europe then and now' (2021), and author of four poetry collections, including *apparitions (nines)* (2024) and *of sirens, body & faultlines* (2018). Critical writing has appeared in journals including *Social Text*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *The Funambulist*, and *TSQ*.

Phil Crockett Thomas is a sociologist and creative writer whose work brings together fiction, poetry, and critical research to explore social harm, justice, and imagined futures. Influenced by feminist, abolitionist, and post-structuralist thought, Phil's work is particularly concerned with how storytelling can help envision more just ways of living. Phil's research focuses on cultural representations of crime and justice and on collaborative, non-extractive methods, especially "collaborative fictioning", which uses shared creative writing as a tool for reflection and social change. Phil's writing has been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and published in journals including *Granta* and *Ambit*. Based at the University of Stirling, Phil will become Media Editor of *Crime, Media, Culture* in 2026.

Jacqueline Collins is a Lecturer in Spanish and Latin American Studies at the University of Stirling, where they also serve as Programme Director for SPLAS and the BA (Hons) in European Languages and Society with International Management. Jacky's teaching spans undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including modules on queer Latin American cinema and popular culture in the Spanish-speaking world. Jacky's research explores Spanish and Latin American cultures, queer popular culture, and international crime fiction. Jacky is co-founder and co-lead of the Queer Studies Reading Group in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and has published widely on gender, sexuality, and representation in contemporary media.

Lou Carberry is the youth and community development officer for LGBT Youth Scotland and they will be presenting the Snapshot of LGBTYS alongside highlighting wider Forth Valley indicatives such as the Forth valley Lavender Room & Stirling Pride.

Hana Morgenstern is Associate Professor in Postcolonial and Middle Eastern Literature at Cambridge University. She is a scholar of Middle Eastern literature and cultural histories of the Left, with a specialisation in Palestine/Israel. Hana's forthcoming book, *Cultural Co-Resistance in Palestine/Israel: Anticolonial Literature and Radical Print* (EUP 2026), reconstructs a history of anticolonial literary and cultural

collaborations between Palestinians and Arab Jews, from the heyday of decolonization in the 1950s to the present era.

Dale Leorke (they/he) is a Research Fellow at the Centre for the Sciences of Place and Memory at the University of Stirling. Their work explores the intersections between games, technologies, and environments, with a particular focus on how play shapes and is shaped by urban and public spaces. Dale is the author of *Location-based Gaming: Play in Public Space* and co-author of *Public Libraries in the Smart City* and *The Library as Playground: How Games and Play are Reshaping Public Culture*. Their research draws on ethnographic methods to examine mobile, augmented reality, and location-based games, as well as broader questions around platformisation, digital culture, and speculative design. They have held research and teaching positions at the University of Melbourne, Tampere University, and the University of Sydney, and completed their PhD at the University of Melbourne. In 2019, they curated a temporary exhibition at the Finnish Museum of Games on the history of location-based play.

Raphaël Khouri is a Jordanian transgender documentary playwright and theatre-maker whose work spans performance, writing, and activism. Based between Berlin and Athens, Raphaël Khouri's practice centres on queer and trans lives, drawing on documentary methods to explore questions of identity, displacement, and resistance. Raphaël Khouri is the author of several plays, including *She He Me* (2019), widely recognised as the first transgender Arab play, and *It Was Paradise, Unfortunately* (2024), which reimagines ancient Greek theatre through trans, queer, and ecological perspectives. Recent work also includes *Suspect Device*, exploring the life of Irish trans activist Wilma Creith. Raphaël Khouri's work has been presented internationally at venues and festivals including Dublin Fringe and Outburst Queer Arts Festival, and published in major queer theatre anthologies. Alongside theatre-making, Raphaël Khouri has been involved in initiatives such as Climate Change Theatre Action and continues to develop performance work that brings together politics, storytelling, and experimental form.