DE-HEIMATIZE IT! Notes on a radical articulation and staging of ‘postmigration’ (Anne Ring Petersen)

The point of departure for this talk is the proposition that the sense of urgency that fuels the calls for ‘radical diversity’, ‘radical democracy’ etc. is linked to a growing awareness of the inability of the traditional notions of multiculturalism and peaceful coexistence to take into account the complexities and frictions of culturally diverse societies. Theoretically, I will turn to post migrant thinking, which holds that Europe has been irreversibly shaped by immigration since the mid-twentieth century, and which engages with the ‘after’ (post-) effects of migration on societies that hesitate to acknowledge that these transformations must lead to political, cultural and institutional change. The discourse on postmigration emerged in the 2000s from the German ‘post migrant theatre’ which later found an institutional home at the Maxim Gorki Theatre.

The talk focuses on Gorki’s fourth Berkeley Herbstsalon, DE-HEIMATISE IT! (2019), and reads it as a radical artistic, curatorial, discursive, and feminist articulation of two basic tenets of the discourse on postmigration: equality and multiple, intersectional belonging.