

# WORKSHOP

## Border-work as method: exploring creative practices and lexicons

Based on the international collaborative project "Migrant grammars – new vocabularies, emerging futures" 『移住する文法—新たに生成される語彙と複数形の未来』 between the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (London, UK) and Kobe University, this workshop will explore the concept of border-work as a means of challenging national and other boundaries (including inside/outside, human/non-human, centre/margins). Focusing on aesthetic and cultural practices, the workshop will gather students, researchers, artists, and cultural practitioners to think together about methodologies and points of convergence when approaching border-work. We will share and exchange strategies and look for their resonance, working towards a collaborative and open-ended lexicon of (migrant) grammars.

Some questions we hope to ask: How can we exchange experiences from different contexts and ways of working? What languages, movements, and "grammars" can we arrive at together? And what conditions shape our understanding of these terms and their resonance?

Open to anyone whose research or creative practice is interested in borders, boundaries, migration, and culture!



### Special Guest Dr. Diana Damian Martin

Senior Lecturer  
Royal School of Speech  
and Drama, University  
of London

Diana Damian Martin is a mixed heritage Romanian-born academic, educator, and artist who works with performance as both a practice and a critical lens. Diana's research sits at the intersection of performance, cultural, and political philosophies. She is interested in border-work as a methodology for examining new political formations and anti-colonial imaginaries, whether through critical, political, or artistic acts, feminist and queer modes of exchange, or experimental cultures of critique, publishing, and reflection. Diana also explores constructions of "Eastern Europe" in relation to movement, labor, aesthetic circulations, and emergent cross-border political grammars. Additionally, she is invested in collaborative and cooperative practices across various ecologies of knowledge and art.



### Organizer Dr. Špela Drnovšek Zorko

Project Associate Professor  
Faculty of Intercultural Studies, Kobe  
University

**Time & Date: 14:30 - 16:30**  
**NOVEMBER 10th (Sunday)**

**Venue: Kobe Regatta and Athletic Club**  
**(Hachimandori 2-1-20)**

### LANGUAGE

The main workshop language is English, but there may be a little bit of Japanese, Romanian, Slovenian, and more...

\* This is a **FREE** in-person workshop.  
**EVERYONE** is welcome!

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The international collaborative project "Migrant grammars—new vocabularies, emerging futures" is a collaboration between Špela Drnovšek Zorko and Diana Damian Martin. It aims to uncover how migrant artists and related initiatives are reshaping aesthetic and cultural practices, to create new vocabularies towards a more speculative, expanded, and transnational future. This project is generously supported by the Kobe University Gender Equality Office International Collaboration Fund.

