

## CURICULLUM VITAE: ERKAN AFFAN

### EDUCATION

- 2018 M.Sc. Global Migration; UCL (University College London), University of London. London, United Kingdom.  
Thesis: 'Performance, Advocacy and Transnational Solidarity Among Turkish-speaking Migrants in Europe'. Advisors: Dr Richard Mole (SSEES, UCL) & Dr Ben Page (Geography, UCL).  
*[Awarded: Distinction].*
- 2016 B.A. Middle Eastern Studies (with honours); SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London. London, United Kingdom.  
*[Awarded: First Class Honours].*

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 02.23 – pres. Humanitarian Fund Distributor (Doria Fund – Hatay, Türkiye)**  
Distributing vital emergency relief aid to Turkey and Syria since the February 6<sup>th</sup> earthquakes that hit the two countries and displaced millions. Organising and granting over 40,000USD to organisations and collectives working on the ground in disaster zones; conducting fieldwork in earthquake zones in Turkey; engaging in due-diligence processes; and translating and interpreting between English and Turkish.
- 02.23 – pres. Crowdfunding and Aid Distribution (Independent Volunteering – Hatay, Türkiye)**  
Working with a team in London and Ankara to distribute crowdfunded material aid to camps located across Hatay province in southern Turkey, on the Türkiye-Syria border. Until now, have distributed approximately 10,000GBP of aid in the form of hygiene kits for women; toys and school materials for children; food and water in makeshift camps located across the province. Have similarly liaised with press contacts; created video campaigns to share on social media; kept track of all donations; visiting camps on the ground to collect testimonies in the disaster zone; and written reports for patrons to keep track of where their support has been donated to.
- 08.19 – pres. Producer (Freelance – London, United Kingdom)**
- Associate producer (and co-curator) of the talks programme at FOLD, an award-winning multidisciplinary art space and nightclub in east London;
  - Associate producer (and co-curator) of Transpose 2023 at the Barbican Centre, inviting trans- and non-binary artists from the UK and Turkey to engage in a week of performances and a one month residency at the centre in June;
  - Associate producer (and co-founder) of MOU7I6, a contemporary arts & culture collective centring practitioners from the eastern Mediterranean and north African regions in the UK – having partnered so far with the Arab British Centre and the British Council;
  - Former producer (and co-founder) of the Queer Arab Barty collective in Berlin between 2019-20, programming and producing seven sold-out events with partners HkW Berlin, Arte, CTM x transmediale Festival, ACUD MACHT NEU, and Schinkel Pavillion.
- 08.19– pres. Curator (Freelance - London, UK)**
- Curator of LUBUNYA Dispatches, a film festival at the ICA (London) in June 2023 in association with Istanbul Queer Art Collective and Pink Life Kuir Fest, hosting talks by queer and trans\* artists from Turkey
  - Co-curator of Circular University, a one-day film and performance workshop programme for young people of SWANA heritage in December 2021 at the Arab

British Centre, facilitated by Youcef Hadjazi and BAFTA-nominated Elhum Shakerifar and commissioned by MOU7I6 and LADA.

- Curator of the ORIENTATION Plan podcast throughout 200-21, hosted by Cashmere Radio and ACUD MACHT NEU and funded by the Berlin Senate for Culture & Europe, inviting academics, artists and activists to discuss alternative productions of knowledge from the SWANA region.
- Co-curator of 'Which Way Forward?', a four-day festival in May 2019 in London inviting archivist and author Sarah Schulman to engage in talks and panels at SOAS, ICA and Houseman's Bookshop.

**08/19 – pres. Writer (Freelance – English, Turkish, German)**

Ongoing contributor to journalistic pieces and independent research on issues pertaining to human rights, migration and postcolonial identity for various academic and non-academic platforms, including: the Funambulist, Routledge, the QED Journal for Worldmaking, UCL Migration Research Unit, Jadaliyya and ROAR. Further commissions by contemporary art, culture and music platforms conducting interviews and features with the likes of My Kali, Der Tagesspiegel, Die Zeit, King Kong Magazine, gal-dem, Where the Leaves Fall, and Awham.

**09/21 – 07/22 Researcher (GIZ GmbH & the Goethe Institute – Berlin, Germany)**

Identified stakeholders from the cultural and creative industries of Lebanon through desk-based research and focus-group discussions conducted over multiple months in Lebanon and digitally. Analysed and visualised data collected through forty interviews on the ecosystems of Lebanon's cultural and creative infrastructures, presenting a detailed written report to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to develop large-scale funds and in-kind support for MSMEs operative in the country and internationally. Project collaborators include UNESCO, the British Council, the French Institute, and the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

**02.20 – 03/21 Lead Commissioner (Bärenzwinger, City District Office of Mitte – Berlin, Germany)**

Engaged in a ten-month research period culminating in the conception and delivery of three exhibitions in both digital and physical format, commissioning twenty-five artists over a further three months to showcase works at the city-administered heritage site and museum in central Berlin. The programme included a VR/360 tour of the space with interactive access to artworks in multiple languages, an e-journal on the production of knowledge in relationship to urban planning in Berlin, and a public art intervention programme using sound archives and spoken word alongside graphic design on flags to address the socio-spatial significance of museums as sites of public display in Europe.

## LANGUAGES

**English, Turkish, Arabic:** Native

**German, Spanish:** B2

## REFERENCES (AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)

- Dr. Ben Page, Lecturer in Migration, Geography Department, University College London.
- Mr. Stefan Engels, Director of Endeava u.G, on behalf of GIZ GmbH and Goethe Institute's Global CCI Project.
- Mr. Hauke Zießler, Former Project Co-ordinator of the Artistic Department at the City District Office of Mitte in Berlin.
- Ms. Nadia Elboubkri, Co-ordinator of the Doria Feminist Fund