

## 16:45-18:00 Film “Where is your home, Winston?”

Introduction by **Olga Filippova**, University of Eastern Finland and HROMADA working group leader and **Maria Pikkarainen**, Service manager, Language and culture groups’ education, Department of Education and Youth, Joensuu municipality.



*“Home isn’t just one place, right? Home isn’t always found by searching or heading in a specific direction.”*  
(Lyrics from “Where is your home, Winston?” - song)

“Where is your home, Winston?” is a community-based research & creative project realized by multicultural theatre association RanKids and Joensuu KIEKU team, i.e. education of language and culture groups department of Joensuu city, Finland. The project, through a research-artistic collaboration between forced migrants and the host community, addresses the issue of confronting xenophobia and negative attitudes toward refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers, specifically targeting a young audience.

“Where is your home, Winston?” is based on a true story about seeking refuge and friendship, and about how war forces people and animals to leave their homes and escape from danger. The project features the real-life dog, a corgi Winston that traveled with Olga Filippova and her son, Ivan, from Kharkiv to Eastern Finland.

The movie tells the story of Ukrainian war migrants in a way suitable for the whole family. Scenes that take place in Ukraine are presented as animation based on the artist’s illustrations. Scenes in Finland depict real dogs and people – both from host communities and Ukrainian refugees who escaped the war with their dogs.

In addition to film, the working group has prepared drama workshop models and other materials on the subject for different age groups. The workshops use drama pedagogy to handle the impact of prejudices and negative attitudes fostering a deeper understanding of the subject. Together, the film and workshops provide a more profound insight into the emotions and situations being addressed.

Meanwhile, the question “Where is your home, Winston?” remains unanswered. It opens a scholarly agenda on studies of home-leaving / home-constructing/ home-returning, as well as “more-than-human relations.” It also paves the way for rich research-artistic collaborations that delve into these complex concepts.

*“Home. Home is a feeling in the heart. Home is a shared scent.”*