

# The Materialit-y/ies of Be-Longing

## Objects in Exile

September 24, 2020  
University of Graz

ONLINE EVENT



### | Workshop THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU BELIEVE

🕒 13h30–16h30

*Inquiring the narrative potential and the value of personal objects*

The objects belonging to our daily lives are silent witnesses of what they absorb from these lives; they are mute carriers of stories, memories, cultural and gender contexts, historical times. Each participant is invited to bring an object with, which carries an emotional, affective value, which he/she deems able to tell something about her/himself, of her/his personal story. These objects are the focus of an individual as well as shared interrogation and narration. The personal and collective experience blend together, creating a deep moment of sharing and exchange: telling about oneself through the others, and vice versa, creating a short circuit between what it is and what is believed to be. (M. Melilli)

**Guest Artist and Workshop Facilitator:** Martina Melilli

### | Round Table OBJECTS IN EXILE

🕒 16h30–17h30

Whether we work with personal memories, museum collections, archives or research-creation actions, objects represent a unique source to explore the many attachments and displacements that migrants experience in their life-trajectories. As “precipitates of re-memory” (Tolia-Kelly 2004), they offer an original perspective on how people make sense of their multiple belongings and longings. In the form of an open forum and in view of the conference *Across Borders and Boundaries. Jewish Be-longings in the Mediterranean Space and Beyond* (Venice–Spring 2021), the contributors discuss the role of objects in the context of (forced) migration.

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**Moderation:** Piera Rossetto

Event organised in the frame of *Be-longing. Roots, Routes and Memories*, itinerant seminars on (forced) migrations, identity (re)construction and performances of memory across Europe, the Mediterranean and beyond  
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