



SYMPOSIUM ON

# WOMEN'S RESISTANCE, ART AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

2-3 OCTOBER 2025

CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY  
VIENNA



# ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 2-3 2025

*QS-D-001 & D-002 (Ground floor)  
& external concerts  
Central European University,  
Quellenstraße 51 - 1100-Vienna, Austria*

The Symposium brings together diverse perspectives on women's resistance as expressed through art and cultural diplomacy by convening academics, activists, and artists from conflict-affected contexts. It responds to a critical gap in research on the challenges faced by migrant and displaced women artists, who often experience compounded layers of exclusion. Positioned at the intersection of gendered and geopolitical inequalities, they confront stark global disparities in the right to freely create and practice art. In situations of war and forced displacement, such marginalisation intensifies, as conflict often revives stereotypes and entrenches gendered roles. United Nations reports underscore this reality, showing how armed conflict deepens gender inequalities and fuels violence against women. Against this backdrop, the Symposium explores how women artists – particularly those in exile and in conflict-affected societies – resist both the material violence of war and the symbolic violence of exclusion through their creative practices. Their art becomes not only a means of survival and resilience, but also a powerful assertion of agency and political presence.

Organized by:

- Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations, CEU (DSPS)
- French Research Center in Humanities and Social Sciences (CEFRES), Prague

With the support of:

- The French Institute in Austria
- The Delegation of the European Union to International Organisations in Vienna
- UkFeMM – Ukrainian Female Musicians and Migrations CNRS research program
- Mission égalité, Faculté des Lettres, Sorbonne Université
- The Angewandte Interdisciplinary Lab
- Dschungel Wien, Theaterhaus für junges Publikum



# PROGRAM - DAY 1

## Thursday, 2 October 2025 / QS D-001 (Ground floor)

9.00–9.30 REGISTRATION

9.30–10.30 WELCOME TO CEU & OPENING REMARKS

**Prof. Michael Merlingen**, Central European University,  
Moderator of the Opening Session

**Prof. Mathias Möschel**, Central European University,  
Pro-Rector for External Relations

**H.E. Yurii Vitrenko**, Ambassador of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

**H.E. Manizha Bhaktari**, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Austria

**H.E. Matthieu Peyraud**, Ambassador of France to Austria

**H.E. Rasa Ostrauskaite**, Ambassador of the European Union to the  
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

**Prof. Mateusz Chmurski**, Director, CEFRES, Prague

10.30–11.30 ARTISTS IN SPOTLIGHT

*Moderated by Seema Sridhar, CEU DSPS*



### MARYAM GHOLAMALI

Afghan Visual Artist, based in Lille, France. Her work explores identity, migration, war, collective memory, and genocide, while reflecting on the human condition.



### CYMIN SAMAWATIE

a singer, composer, pianist and conductor, of Iranian origin, based in Germany

11.30–12.00

*Coffee Break*

12.00–13.30

## PANEL 1 – MUSIC AT THE INTERSTICES OF CONFLICT, IDENTITY AND RESISTANCE

Moderator: **Ceren Çetinkaya**, CEU DSPS

- **Valeriya Korablyova**, Charles University, CEFRES
- **Louisa Martin-Chevalier**, Sorbonne University & CEFRES
- **Razia Sultanova**, Cambridge Muslim College, UK
- **Ursula Hemetek**, University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna

# PROGRAM - DAY 1

Thursday, 2 October 2025 / QS D-001 (Ground floor)

13.30–14.45      *Lunch (for invited guests, speakers, artists and panelists)*

14.45–16.15      **PANEL 2: MUSIC, MARGINALISED VOICES AND FEMINIST SOLIDARITY**

Moderator: **Ana Pandal De La Peza**, CEU DSPS

- **Anja Brunner**, University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna
- **Hyacinthe Ravet**, Sorbonne University, Paris
- **Irene Suchy**, Musicologist, Author, Curator
- **Ishraga Hamid**, Writer and Human Rights Activist, Vienna

## OFF-CAMPUS

**DSCHUNGEL**  
WIEN

17.30–19.00      **DINNER\* AT DSCHUNGEL THEATRE**  
Address: Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna  
\*(for invited guests, speakers, artists and panelists)

*Venue to be confirmed*

19.00–21.00      **CONCERT AT DSCHUNGEL THEATRE:**  
**'HALF THE SKY: VOICES FROM THE VOID'**  
Address: Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna



- **Alisa Kobzar**, a Ukrainian composer, multimedia artist, and educator. She is accompanied by **Jessica Natalia C. Tognetti**, a recorder player and instrument maker



- **Anna Arkushyna**, a Ukrainian composer based in Graz, Austria. She is accompanied by **Ostap Semenyshyn**, electric guitarist



- **Cymin Samawatie**, a singer, composer, pianist and conductor, of Iranian origin, based in Germany



# PROGRAM - DAY 2

**Friday, 3 October 2025 / QS D-002 (Ground floor)**

10.00–11.30 **PANEL 3: PUSHING BOUNDARIES: CREATIVE RESISTANT PRACTICES**

Moderator: **Seema Sridhar**, CEU DSPS–CEFRES

- **Sophie Raehme**, CEU–CEFRES
- **Marina Mohammadi**, Untold Narratives Project
- **Elke Krasny**, University of Fine Arts, Vienna
- **Sara Whyatt**, Director of NGO, Freemuse, UK

11.30–12.00 *Coffee break*

12.00–13.30 **PANEL 4: CREATIVE METHODS: CASE STUDIES AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES**

Moderator: **Idil Brand**, CEU DSPS

- **Nilanjana Premaratna**, Newcastle University (online)
- **Diana Valencia-Duarte**, Aberystwyth University
- **Erzsebet Strausz**, CEU

13.30–14.45 *Lunch (for invited guests, speakers, artists and panelists)*

15.30–17.00 **WALKING LAB: FEMINIST HISTORY OF VIENNA**

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*The program continues off-CEU campus, at the AIL of the University of Applied Arts Vienna: dieAngewandte Interdisciplinary Lab (AIL)*

18.30–19.15 **CLOSING RECEPTION AT DIE ANGEWANDTE INTERDISCIPLINARY LAB**

Address: Kassenhalle, Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna



# PROGRAM - DAY 2

**Friday, 3 October 2025 /**

**die Angewandte Interdisciplinary Lab**

address: Kassenhalle, Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna

19.30 –  
onwards

## CONCERT 'SONORIC REFLECTION' AT DIE ANGEWANDTE INTERDISCIPLINARY LAB



- **Elaha Soroor**, a London-based vocalist and composer originally from Afghanistan. She is accompanied by **Giuliano Modarelli**, London-based guitarist



- **Rojin Sharafi**, a Vienna-based, Tehran-born sound artist, performer and composer of acoustic and electronic music

Photo credit:  
Hessam Samavatian

<https://ail.angewandte.at/program/sonoric-reflection-w-elaha-soroor-and-rojin-sharafi/>

**AIL** angewandte  
**interdisciplinary**  
**lab** platform for art,  
ail.angewandte.at science and  
artistic research



---End of Symposium---