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Title and abstract of the Presentation/Workshop:

**Theatre as Occupation for Asylum Seekers: Collaboration, Relationship and Liberation**

Keywords: Asylum Seekers, Occupational science, Participation

This presentation is based on a published article that focuses on theatre as an occupation for asylum seekers living in immigration centres. The aim is to describe the engagement of asylum seekers in a theatre production that presents their narratives and experiences. The participants came from a Norwegian reception centre for people seeking asylum and originated from Asia and Africa.

The study had an ethnographic design and used participatory observations. Data was analysed using an interpretative method. The findings identified themes of waiting for a future, making narrative turning points, becoming visible through participation and creating meeting places with possibilities through theatre, will be deepened in the presentation.

The discussion and conclusion addresses how engagement in theatre activities might serve to liberate people in locked situations, how participants in such occupations creates relational aesthetics that can construct collaboration and social relations, and how stories of life experts can create art expressions in the context of applied theatre without being a professional artist.

**Key words:** digital technology, clinical skills, mechanical lifts