

Press Release

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## Calais Jungle Exhibition Opens in Oxford

A major temporary exhibition – *Lande: the Calais 'Jungle' and Beyond* – opens at the Pitt Rivers Museum on 27 April 2019. The site of the 'Jungle', as it existed in Calais in 2015–16, was officially known by French authorities as the 'Camp de la Lande'. The exhibition reassembles material and visual culture that was created, salvaged or kept after the 'Jungle' demolitions of October 2016.

The exhibition is co-curated by refugees and activists who lived at the 'Jungle'. Everything on display is loaned from displaced people, activists and artists from their private collections. Objects on display include the blue wooden cross salvaged when the camp's temporary Orthodox Church was destroyed, a port sign and a fragment of border fencing, chairs from the 'Jungle' school, and tear gas canisters. Artwork made by refugees at the 'Jungle' is displayed alongside drawings, paintings, photographs and texts. Among these is one of the 'Paper People', a series of cut-out figures made at and installed across the 'Jungle' to mark the destruction of the shelters of hundreds of unaccompanied children when the southern section of the camp was cleared in March 2016—during which an estimated 129 unaccompanied children went missing. The exhibition also includes a new commission, *The Wind Will Take Us Away*, by Iranian artist Majid Adin.

The exhibition reveals Calais as a place where cycles of building and destroying 'jungles' have recurred across two decades; a place of experimental borderwork involving dispossession and 'tactics of exhaustion'; and a postcolonial space where people from former 'informal' territories of the British Empire in Sudan, Afghanistan and Eritrea, who are trying to make an irregular crossing to claim asylum in the UK, find themselves today.

Dan Hicks, Professor of Contemporary Archaeology, said "*Lande* re-imagines the anthropological museum as a public space in which we can remember the undocumented present. By reassembling images, objects and words that survive from the near-past at Calais, this collaborative exhibition opens up a new perspective on the humanity, creativity and hospitality that emerged in this hostile environment."

*Lande: the Calais 'Jungle' and Beyond* runs until 29 November 2019, and a further photographic exhibition opens in June. The exhibition is conceived and developed in parallel with a book, also called *Lande: the Calais 'Jungle' and Beyond* (Bristol University Press), published to coincide with the opening.



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
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*Lande: the Calais 'Jungle' and Beyond* is co-curated by Majid Adin, Shaista Aziz, Caroline Gregory, Dan Hicks, Sarah Mallet, Nour Munawar, Sue Partridge, Noah Salibo, and Wshear Wali. Press enquiries should be directed to [dan.hicks@prm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dan.hicks@prm.ox.ac.uk) or [louise.hancock@prm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:louise.hancock@prm.ox.ac.uk).

### Notes to Editors

- The University of Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum (PRM) is one of the finest archaeological and ethnographic teaching museums in the world. Founded in 1884, when General Pitt Rivers, an influential figure in the development of archaeology and evolutionary anthropology, donated his collection of more than 27,000 objects to the University of Oxford, it now stewards over 550,000 objects. These collections of historical, social and ritual significance are of an extraordinary range and depth, including great works of art, invention and design from around the world.
- The Museum carries out world-leading conservation and research and welcomes half a million visitors each year. It is currently focused on developing more socially engaged practice with the emphasis on inclusivity. The Pitt Rivers Museum is much loved for its characteristic multi-layered and dense displays. Today, the Museum is a dynamic, forward-looking institution with many connections to stakeholders throughout the world.
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### Images



*New artwork commission by Majid Adin, 'The Wind Will Take Us Away'. Majid is one of the exhibition co-curators, and lived at the 'Jungle' for five months before claiming asylum in the UK.*



*The Calais Cross, salvaged from the Orthodox Church of St Michael at the 'Jungle', on loan from the Right Reverend Andy John, Bishop of Bangor.*



*'Jungle Life' by Belgian photographer Marika Dee – one of more than 15 artists represented in the exhibition.*



*One of the 'Paper People', a series of cut-out figures made at and installed across the 'Jungle' to mark the destruction of the shelters of hundreds of unaccompanied children when the southern section of the camp was cleared in March 2016—during which an estimated 129 unaccompanied children went missing (on loan from artist/co-curator Sue Partridge)*



*One of more than 200 photographs to be displayed in the exhibition, from the archive taken by activist and co-curator Caroline Gregory, during the two years that she spent living and volunteering at the 'Jungle'.*



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**"Shocking, stunning, sobering. Lande forces us to ask who we are, what we'd do in the shoes of others, and whether we can continue to look away from what Calais has become."**  
*Danny Dorling, University of Oxford*

**"This deeply informed, richly illustrated and politically engaged book describes border camps as hostile environments in which humans resist impermanence by their relations to objects."**  
*Frédéric Keck, CNRS and Laboratoire d'anthropologie sociale*

**"An unsettling work of border archaeology that documents how a war of things (tents, shoes, and flowerpots) is really about who gets to be human."**  
*Shannon Lee Dawdy, University of Chicago*

Available Open Access under CC-BY-NC licence.  
 How can archaeology help us understand our contemporary world? This ground-breaking book reflects on material, visual and digital culture from the Calais 'Jungle' – the informal camp where, before its destruction in October 2016, more than 10,000 displaced people lived.

Lande reassesses how we understand 'crisis', activism, and the infrastructure of national borders in refugee and forced migration studies, foregrounding the politics of environments, time, and the ongoing legacies of empire.

Introducing a major collaborative exhibit at Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum, the book argues that an anthropological focus on duration, impermanence and traces of the most recent past can re-centre the ongoing human experiences of displacement in Europe today.

BRISTOL **SHORTS** RESEARCH

# LANDE: THE CALAIS 'JUNGLE' AND BEYOND

DAN HICKS AND SARAH MALLET

**Dan Hicks** is Professor of Contemporary Archaeology at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of St Cross College, Oxford.

**Sarah Mallet** is Postdoctoral Researcher and TORCH Research Fellow in the School of Archaeology at the University of Oxford, and Co-Curator for the Pitt Rivers Museum exhibition 'Lande: the Calais 'Jungle' and Beyond'.

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Lande book, published (online for free and in hard copy to purchase) to coincide with the exhibition opening. All royalties go to L'Auberge des Migrants