

Emergent Encounters Action Project



A pilot project by Matt Borland &
Craig Fortier – University of Waterloo

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EMERGENT ENCOUNTERS?

EMERGENT

“...[S]trategy for building complex patterns and systems of change through relatively small interactions, is to me – the potential scale of transformation that could come from movements intentionally practicing this adaptive, relational way of being, on our own and with others”

- adrienne maree brown



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EMERGENT ENCOUNTERS?

ENCOUNTER

“The international of hope...Not the power with a new sign or new clothing. A breath like this, the breath of dignity. A flower yes, the flower of hope. A song yes, the song of life... [We invite to this *encuentro*] all who, with no matter to colors, race or borders, make of hope a weapon and a shield.”

- Zapatista National Liberation Army



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EMERGENT ENCOUNTERS?

small actions/infinite proliferations

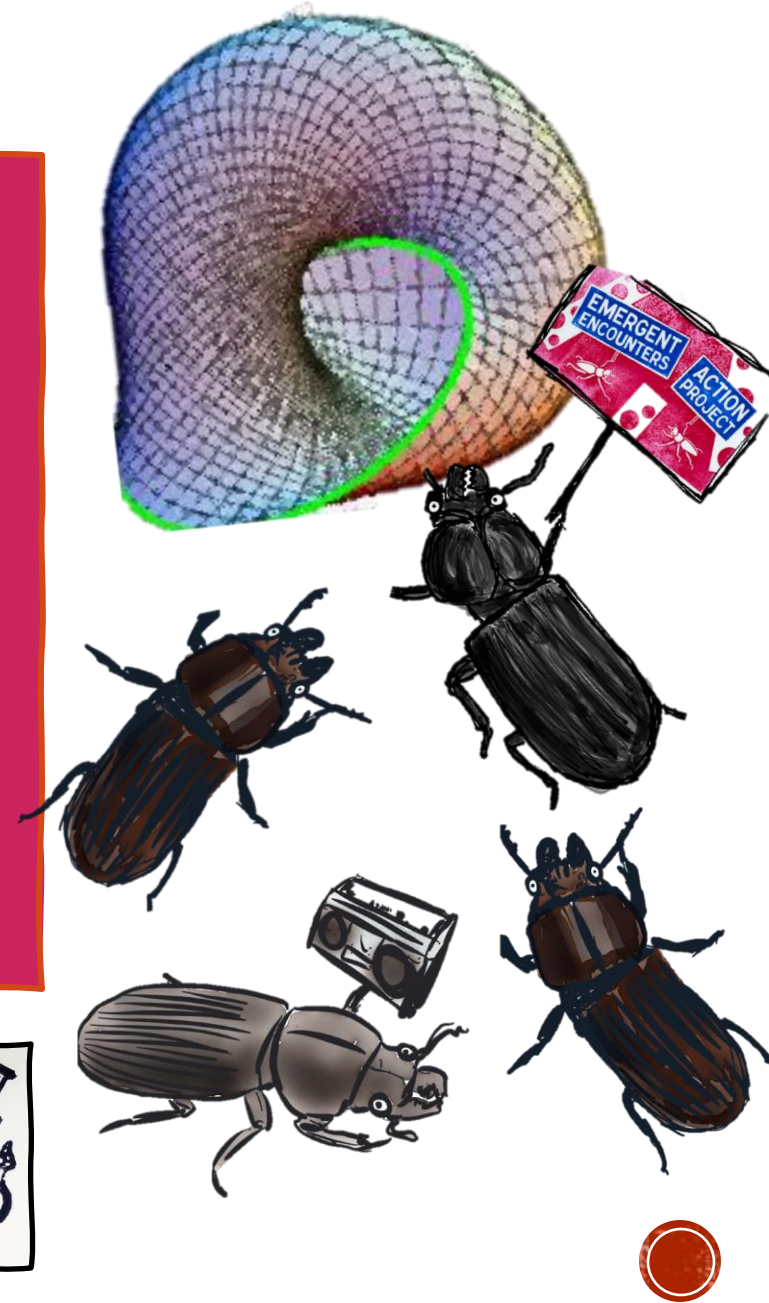
“This is tremendously important. I don't think scale is our friend. I think scale is our enemy. In order to renew our habits of assembly, we do so in small scale with hopefully infinite proliferation. And we have to learn how to get together with one another on a small scale with a kind of patience, with ethical regard for one another in ways that I think could be proliferative...”

- Fred Moten



SEASON ONE

1. **DEEP LISTENING** – SEPTEMBER 2022 – EQUINOX
2. **ENCOUNTER** – OCTOBER 2022
3. **RELATIONSHIP** – JANUARY 2023
4. **SMALL ACTIONS** – FEBRUARY 2023
5. **REPAIR** – APRIL 2023
6. **RETURN** – SEPTEMBER 2023 - EQUINOX



1. DEEP LISTENING

“A practice that is intended to heighten and expand consciousness of sound in as many dimensions of awareness and attentional dynamics as humanly possible.”
- Pauline Oliveros

September 23rd, 2022
Featuring: Star Gazing



EMERGENT
ENCOUNTERS
ACTION PROJECT
SEPTEMBER 23, 2022



2. ENCOUNTER

“A border is a dividing line, a narrow strip along a steep edge. A border land is a vague and undetermined place created by the emotional residue of an unnatural boundary. It is in a constant state of transition. The prohibited and forbidden are its inhabitants. *Los atravesados* live here: the squint-eyed, the perverse, the queer, the troublesome, the mongrel, the mulatto, the half-breed, the half dead: in short, those who cross over, pass over, or go through the confines of the normal.”

- Gloria Anzaldua

November 4th, 2022

Featuring: Sharmeen Khan, No One Is Illegal



Our session flowed through three key transitions:

a) **Connections & Conversations** - we spent some time learning about each other's involvement and commitment to social justice (even if it's just at the beginning!) and then we'll also discuss what we know is going on around us.

b) **Facilitating Encounter, a workshop with Sharmeen Khan** - as a bridge builder locally and internationally, Sharmeen has developed a strong practice of creating connections between at times disparate movements through relationality and care. Sharmeen is also a skilled facilitator and will provide us with tips/theories on how to approach facilitating small- and large-scale meetings with purpose and the importance of principled disagreement.

c) **Sifting Through Movement Stories** - our final segment of the session worked us through an engaged activity where we began to collect, learn, and dig through the history of movement organizing on UW campus, in KW, and in the spaces we currently move in.



Guest Speaker - Movie - Discussion
Presented By Food Not Bombs

RESISTING POVERTY

7pm - Thursday - March 15
multi-purpose room
Student Life Centre
University of Waterloo

Our guest speaker will be Sarah Vance from the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP). Come watch the movie "Fighting to Win" and hear about OCAP's plan for a campaign of economic divestment aimed at defeating Mike Harris and the Tories.

For more information contact
Waterloo Public Interest Research Group
Call 888-8882
E-mail: info@wpirg.org

THURS. MAR. 31
FIVE O'CLOCK
CONRAD GREBEL
ROOM 2211

COMMUNITY CURRENCIES and GLOBAL CHANGE

With James Tavis from Australia
currently on a 400 day 17 country tour around the World

Wed. Jan. 14 4:30p.m.
Student Life Centre
Rm 2134

wpirg

TUPPERWARE.
PLASTIC CONTAINERS.
YOGURT TUBS.
MARGARINE TUBS.
ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING WITH A LID.

Help us re-use your clean food containers of medium-large size.

Drop-off locations:

- Designated bins around UW and WLU
- WPIRG office: Conrad Grebel College, #4209
- LSPIRG office: 165 Albert St., third floor

Freedom of Information vs. Government Secrecy

vs. Ontario

TOP SECRET

NOT FOR RELEASE

For Internal

THE ANTI-COLONIAL ACTION ALLIANCE PRESENTS

Colonialism in Canada

JOIN THE **WPIRG** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
NOMINATIONS OPEN

FOOD NOT BOMBS

STIR Students for indigenous rights

SIFTING THROUGH MOVEMENT STORIES

...where we begin to collect, learn, and dig through the history of movement organizing on UW campus, in KW, and in the spaces we currently move in.

UDLEY GEORGE!
SEPTEMBER 6, 1995



...and Anishinabe (Stoney Point) burial grounds with others... the province of Ontario had... the burial grounds were

3. RELATIONSHIP

“All around me, the people I loved were in crisis – psychological, financial, medical, interpersonal. When you live in a community of queers, anarchists, and activists, crisis is the baseline and stability an outlier....So, in the midst of despair, I have come to believe that love – the feeling of love, the politics of love, the ethics and ideology and embodiment of love – is the only good option in this time of apocalypse.”

– Kai Cheng Thom

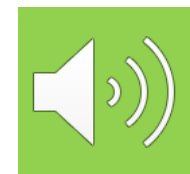
January 23rd, 2023

Featuring: Lal (Rosina Kazi & Nicholas Murray)





Session 3: Relationship - LAL - January 23rd, 2023



4. SMALL ACTIONS

“Left social movements have two big jobs right now. First, we need to organize to help people survive the devastating conditions unfolding every day. Second, we need to mobilize hundreds of millions of people for resistance so we can tackle the underlying causes of these crises.”

– Dean Spade

February 17th, 2023

Featuring: Farrah Miranda



FARRAH MIRANDA



PROJECTS / MASS ARRIVAL, QUEEN ST.

Marking the arrival anniversary of the MV Sun Sea, the ship that brought 492 Tamil migrants to Canada, the group staged a mass arrival of their own. Two-hundred self-identified white people descended into one of Toronto's busiest intersections aboard, a satirical canvas replica of the MV Sun Sea.



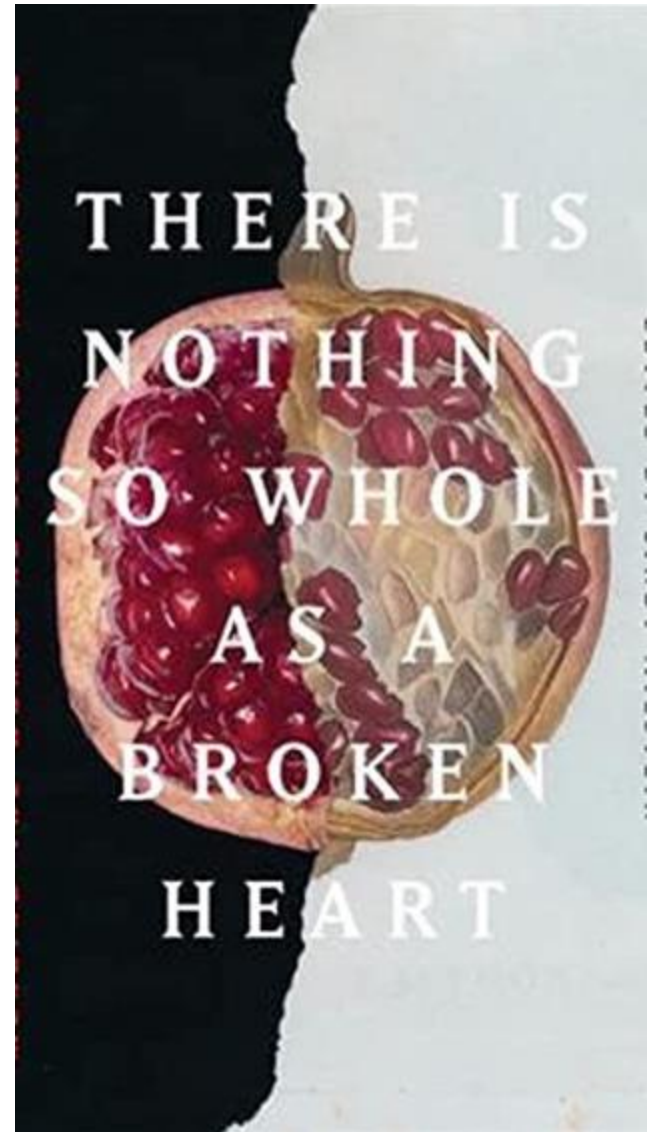
Yoko Ono Painting for the Wind, 1961 *Alnus Gallery, New York*
Cut a hole. Cover with fine bamboo screen. Place it in the wind.
Cut a hole in a bag filled with seeds of any kind and place the bag where there is a wind.

5. REPAIR

“Within rituals, we lovingly argue out the meanings of what we do, for whom, and why... In these and other ways, our rituals at once prepare us for freedom and set us free, even if only in pockets of time. They are a pre-condition for and the condition of freedom. Part of that freedom is our own healing – a multigenerational process involving our selves and societies.”

– Cindy Milstein

April 2023

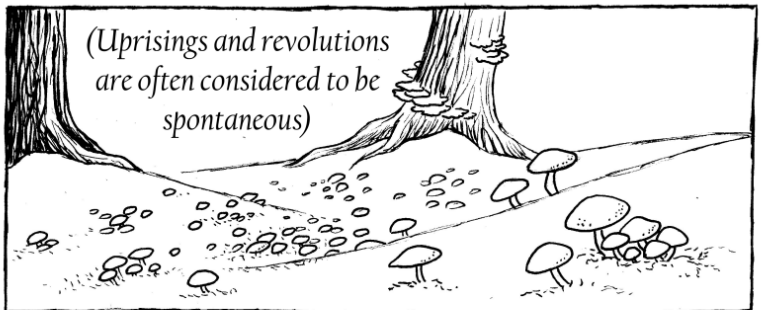
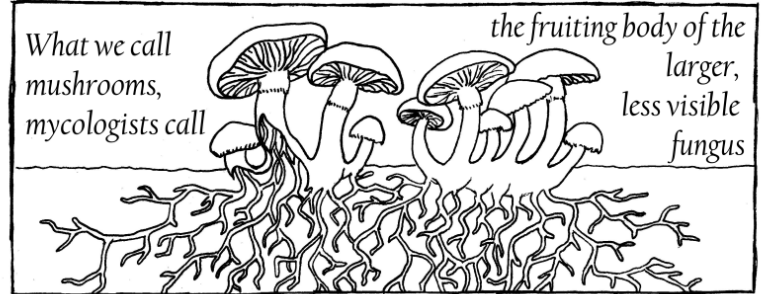
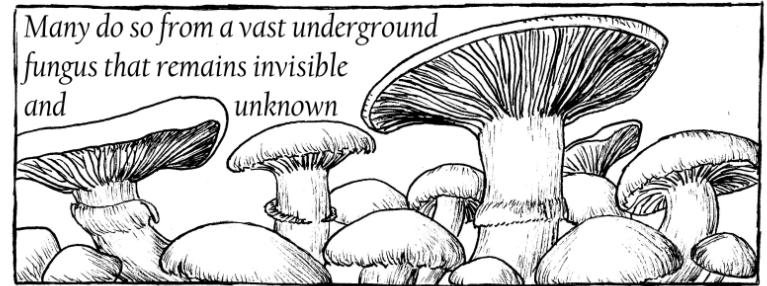


Mushroomed:

ON REGENERATION

EMERGENT ENCOUNTERS IS CYCLICAL & ITERATIVE

Our goal with this project is to develop a long-term, sustainable, and cyclical space that can grow, adapt, and seed relationships of encounter – that will lead to the flourishing of social justice outlets on campus and beyond.



PROMPTS FOR PRINTING

How do we plug into and support social movements outside the university?

When groups like Black Lives Matter, No One Is Illegal, student organizing against gun violence are mobilizing, what supports feel useful to contribute from where you are positioned in life?

