

## Iniva Syllabus IV Gathering 7-9 June 2019

### Theme

This gathering is framed around speculative fiction, working with archives, and “unlocking” future possibilities.

Across the weekend you will be joined by Iniva staff Melanie Keen (Director), Tavian Hunter (Library and Archive Manager), Simina Neagu (Programme and Operations Coordinator), and by guests Victoria Sin, Taylor Le Melle, Irena Krüger, Priya Jay and Hassan Vawda.

### Thursday 6 June

13.00- 17.00

**1:1 with Helen Nisbet**

*Iniva*

---

### Friday 7 June

10 -10.30

**Morning arrival and check-in**

*Iniva, 16 John Islip Street, SW1P 4JU.*

This is a chance to meet as a group if people have only just arrived. Help yourself to a hot drink and snacks in the reception area.

10.30 – 13.30

**Introduction to the Stuart Hall Library collection with Tavian Hunter/ zine-making workshop on the theme of speculative fiction**

*Iniva*

This is an opportunity to explore the Stuart Hall Library collection, in particular the zine collection. Paper, glue, scissors will be provided. Feel free to use the photocopier.

13.30 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30-16.30

**Screening from the Stuart Hall Library Collection**

*Iniva*

16.30-17.30

**Quiet reading time**

*Iniva*

This is an opportunity to explore the Stuart Hall Library or prepare for the reading group with Victoria Sin the next day. We can provide hard copies of the texts.

18.00-20.00\* Suggested events:  
[‘GENERATIONS: Connecting Across Time and Place’](#) private view. Somerset House, East Wing Galleries, Strand, London WC2R 2LS.  
[Late at Tate Britain: Waves](#). Tate Britain, Millbank, London SW1P 4RG.

---

## Saturday 8 June

- 10.00 – 10.15 Arrival at Iniva.
- 10.15-11.45 **Lock-picking workshop with Irena Krüger**  
*Iniva*  
An introduction to the social history of lockpicking, followed by a practical demonstration on how to pick a padlock.
- 12.00-13.30 **Talk and discussion with Taylor Le Melle**  
*Iniva*  
The talk will focus on Taylor Le Melle’s practice as a writer and curator, including their contribution to [Dream Babes](#) and introduction to Sophia Al-Maria’s recent publication [Sad Sack](#), which takes inspiration from Ursula K. Le Guin’s essay ‘The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction’.
- 13.30-14.30 Lunch
- 14.30-16.30 **Artist talk and reading group with Victoria Sin**  
*Iniva*  
The session will include a presentation of Victoria Sin’s work, focusing on their project *Dream Babes*, followed by a reading group on Ursula K. Le Guin, ‘The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction’ and Samuel R. Delany, ‘Aye, and Gomorrah...’ (texts attached).
- 16.30-18.00\* Break. Suggested exhibition in the area: ‘It Bites Back’, solo show by [Pedro Neves Marques](#). Drawing inspiration from the literary traditions of horror and science fiction, Neves Marques invites the viewer to speculate on the future of love, care and intimacy in the midst of the current rise of authoritarian politics. Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall Street, London SE11 5RH.
- 18.00-20.00 **Dinner**

---

## Sunday 9 June

- 11.00                      Arrival at South London Gallery Fire Station, 82 Peckham Road, London, SE15 5NX (opposite the main gallery).  
Suggested exhibition at South London Gallery Fire Station: [‘Back to the Bookplace’](#).
- 11.30-13.00              **Planning and reflection time for Syllabus group**  
*South London Gallery Fire Station, Gallery 4, second floor.*
- 13.00-14.00              Lunch.
- 14.00-15.30              **Tate tour/talk with Hassan Vawda on fictionalising history**  
*Tate Britain, Millbank, London SW1P 4RG.*
- 

## Monday 10 June

- 11.00-17.00              **1:1 with Sonya Dyer**  
*Iniva*
- 

### Contact details

- Address: Iniva, 16 John Islip St, London SW1P 4JU
- Telephone: 020 7630 1278

### By underground

Take the Victoria line to Pimlico Underground Station or Vauxhall underground Station.

**On foot from Pimlico Station** (5 mins)– Iniva is located in Block E of the Chelsea College of Arts, UAL campus in front of the black railings on John Islip Street.

**On foot from Vauxhall Station** (10 mins)– Walk along the Vauxhall Bridge, crossover Grosvenor Road and turn right on to John Islip Street, continue for approximately 100m.

### By Bus

There are a number of buses which travel close by including 88, C10, 87 and N87.

### Biographies

**Victoria Sin** is an artist using speculative fiction within performance, moving image, writing, and print to interrupt normative processes of desire, identification, and objectification. This includes:

Drag as a practice of purposeful embodiment questioning the reification and ascription of ideal images within technologies of representation and systems of looking,

Science fiction as a practice of rewriting patriarchal and colonial narratives naturalized by scientific and historical discourses on states of sexed, gendered and raced bodies,

Storytelling as a collective practice of centering marginalized experience, creating a multiplicity of social contexts to be immersed in and strive towards.

Drawing from close personal encounters of looking and wanting, their work presents heavily constructed fantasy narratives on the often unsettling experience of the physical within the social body.

Their long-term project Dream Babes explores science and speculative fiction as a productive strategy of queer resistance, imaging futurity that does not depend on existing historical and social infrastructure. It has included science fiction porn screenings and talks, a three-day programme of performance at Auto Italia South East, a publication, and a regular science fiction reading group for queer people of colour.

**Taylor Le Melle** is a curator and writer based in London. Taylor's writing has been featured in anthologies such as: *Gender, Space* (Macmillan) ed. Aimee Meredith Cox as well as in periodicals such as *Art Monthly*. With artist Imran Perretta, Taylor has initiated not/no.w.here, an artist workers' cooperative. Taylor co-facilitates the Art Magazines Reading Group and alongside Rowan Powell, Taylor runs PSS, a publisher of printed material which has recently launched Daniella Valz Gen's poetry chapbook *Subversive Economies* and Victoria Sin's performance relic, *A View From Elsewhere*.

**Hassan Vawda** is the Guides Coordinator at Tate and a co-chair of Tate's BAME network. He is also an artist involved in programming and projects across multiple disciplines and an Aziz Foundation Scholar studying Community Development, looking at inclusion/exclusion within cultural and creative spaces, particularly faith-based creative expression. Currently finishing his MA in Applied Anthropology & Community & Youth Work at Goldsmith's University of London, he will start his PhD at Tate in October 2019.

**Melanie Keen** was appointed Director of Iniva in 2015. Melanie is an Independent Advisor to the Government Art Collection, sits on the British Council's Visual Arts Advisory Group and the Mayor of London's Suffrage Commission Group. Most recently, she was on British Pavilion Selection Committee for the 58th Venice Biennale. In a career spanning over 20 years, Melanie started her career as an assistant curator at Iniva has worked as an independent curator and consultant. Her curatorial projects include *Figures of Speech* for Film & Video Umbrella; and *Oscar Muñoz: Mirror Image* for Iniva. She was a curator at Iniva from 1997 to 2003 and projects include *Yinka Shonibare's Diary of a Victorian Dandy*. She has contributed to several publications and she also co-wrote *Recordings: a selected bibliography of*

contemporary African, Afro- Caribbean and Asian British art with Elizabeth Ward. Prior to joining Iniva, Melanie was a senior manager at Arts Council England.

**Priya Jay** is a researcher using curatorial, artistic and herbalist methods to develop a practice that is healing and experimental. Her background is in anthropology, with specific focus on digital and decolonial ecologies. She is interested in our collective futures and the question guiding this practice is, How can we (in allyship with our bodies, each other and the earth) be well? She co-runs Patchwork Archivists, formed out of a need to create and hold space for the histories within, across and between south asian diasporas. Priya has previously worked with Barbican, Iniva, Autograph ABP, Wellcome Trust and Approved By Pablo.

**Simina Neagu** is Programme and Operations Coordinator at Iniva and has previously worked with various arts organisations and artists including Chisenhale Gallery, Céline Condorelli, Rana Begum and Aleksandra Mir. Her research and writing is concerned with notions of translation, identity, diaspora and migration particularly in a post-socialist context. With curator Valentina Bin, she co-runs AfterHours, a series of workshops aimed at art workers. She was a commissioned writer for Gothenburg Museum of Art, Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, and The Project Biennial of Contemporary Art, D-0 ARK Underground. Her writing was published in springerin, 3AM Magazine, Revista ARTA, and Kajet Journal among others.

**Tavian Hunter** is the Library and Archive Manager of Stuart Hall Library and as part of Iniva's artistic programme runs the Library's Research Network events. She has a keen interest in developing diverse library collections and recently published an article on the 'South Asian collection development at the British Museum' in Arts Libraries Journal (2019). Tavian was previously Senior Administrator and Librarian in the Department of Asia, British Museum and Collections Library Graduate Trainee at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. She completed her MA in Library and Information Studies at UCL in 2015 and holds a degree in Business Management and Information Management with Japanese from the University of Westminster.