



**“Why don’t refugees just come by plane?” –
Historicizing Rapid Migration through New Media Works**

**THURSDAY,
JANUARY 30, 2020**

LOCATION:

Student Union Memorial Center
Agave Room

TIME:

4:00 pm



Eating Refugees – Distress and Circuses / Flüchtlinge Fressen – Not und Spiele, Center for Political Beauty / Zentrum für Politische Schönheit, Berlin, 2016

Migration is an essential characteristic of humankind. And yet, one of the most ancient exercises of human freedom is presented as an issue. Why is that? Why does a person who quickly crosses a border encounter fear, judgment, or even persecution? This talk first contextualizes rapid migration within the sociopolitical parameters of nation-building in the twentieth century. Within a greater European and global context, it then focuses on select contemporary German artists and filmmakers whose projects offer a highly complex perspective on individuals officially identified as “refugees,” “asylum seekers,” and “illegals,” ultimately compelling us to move past viewing rapid migration as a divisive reality, and towards a new kinship system of concepts for engaging with cross-border movements.



DR. LJUDMILA BILKIĆ

Ljudmila Bilkić is Visiting Assistant Professor of German Studies at Kansas State University. She holds a B.A. in German and History of Art and Architecture from Middlebury College, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in German Studies with a focus in Film from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Bilkić works at the intersections of refugee studies, critical geographies, post-imperial biopolitics, and visual cultures. She is completing a manuscript that historicizes constructed notions of cross-border movement, specifically hyper-visibility, refugee camps, and networks of migrant communities as the new logic in contemporary globalization.