

The Power of a Compelling Narrative

Ahmed Badr & Brice Nordquist

Narratio

Nobel Prize Museum Teacher's Summit
Stockholm, 2023





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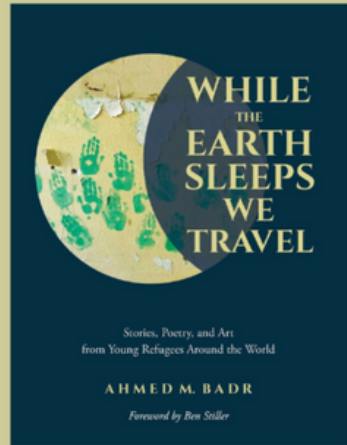
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Brice Nordquist, PhD

Managing Director, Narratio

Dean's Professor of Community Engagement

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Syracuse University

Literacy and Mobility
Complexity, Uncertainty, and Agency at
the Nexus of High School and College



Brice Nordquist

EXPANDING LITERACIES IN EDUCATION SERIES







5
years

80
fellows

2.5m+
reached

Session Goals

- **consider needs and challenges around self- and community representation for displaced youth (and other historically marginalized populations)**
- **introduce Narratio method of object-oriented storytelling**
- **sketch out structures for collective and sustained representation and advocacy**

Representation: Ethics & Problematics

ADMITTED AS A REFUGEE
PURSUANT TO SECTION 207 OF
THE INA FOR AN INDEFINITE
PERIOD OF TIME. IF YOU DEPART
THE U.S. YOU WILL NEED PRIOR
PERMISSION FROM INS TO
RETURN.

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZED.

JFK
NYC

05-19-08
DATE

2117
IMM. OFF





Sources: EY Global; Vatican Migrants & Refugees; Impakter; Norwegian Refugee Council

Challenges

- 1 Communications divisions of migration-focused UN agencies like UNHCR and IOM disproportionately focus on creating content to support fundraising efforts, with displaced populations rarely exercising control over their depictions in promotional media.
- 2 Resettlement agencies in the U.S. do not have the resources to create spaces and opportunities for refugees to share their own stories, on their own terms.
- 3 The stories of displaced youth are often flattened to center on the most tragic components. As a result, these young people are rarely provided with the spaces and opportunities to express and engage with the fullest complexity of their narratives.



Object-oriented Storytelling



Fellows choose objects from the Metropolitan Museum of Arts' Ancient Near East Collection and compose stories across media, expanding cultural meanings and representations through their own experiences, memories, and histories.

Outcomes of Object-oriented Storytelling?

- disrupts expectations around which stories to tell and how.
- brings up unexpected memories and experiences to process in community through artistic expression
- becomes a key mechanism for mutual understanding, vulnerability and support within fellowship cohorts
- creates points of entry and interventions within institutions of cultural power and authority
- generates counterstories of cultural artifacts through lived experiences

Sara Haroun

2023 Narratio Fellow,
Richmond, Virginia



Who do I go back home to?



Infrastructure of Engagement

Playbook



Playbook

Community
Center



Playbook



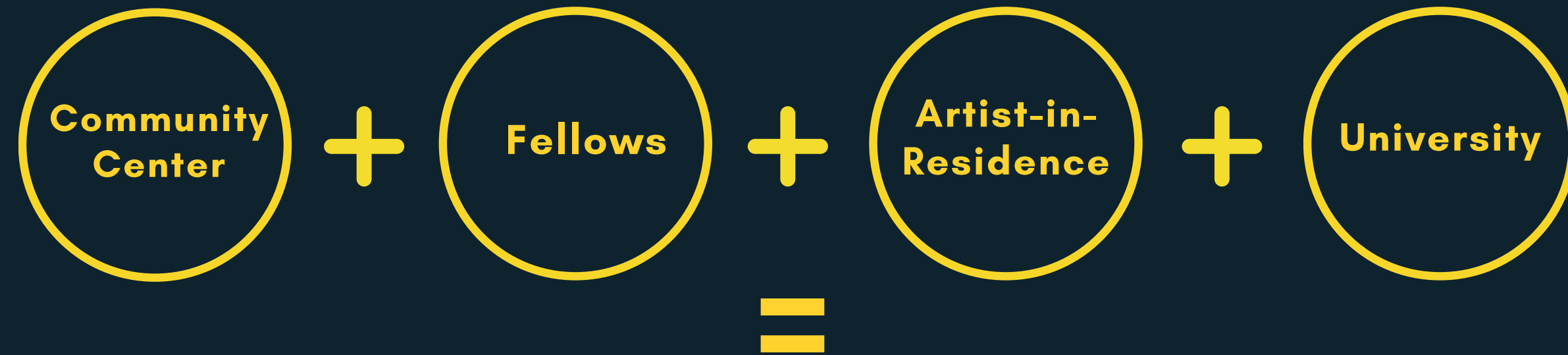
Playbook



Playbook



Playbook



Year-long storytelling and leadership Fellowship featuring public performances, exhibits, and publications.

THE MET

n p r



CHRISTIE'S

NatGeo









Partners



Office of the
Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth



ReEstablish
RICHMOND

**THE
MET**



**HARVARD
Kennedy School**

**WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY**

VMFA
VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

National Geographic



**HARVARD
BUSINESS SCHOOL**



Syracuse University



CONNECT4CLIMATE

Long Term Impact

Fellows



Their Work

Poems
Films
Photographs
Visual Art



**Cultural agents & multimodal educational tools for
engagements across
media,
academia,
government,
and the arts.**

 LEARN MORE



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