A photograph of three people in a forest. On the left, a woman with blonde hair wearing a grey coat has her arms raised. In the center, a woman with red hair wearing a brown jacket is also in a dynamic pose with arms raised. On the right, an older man with white hair and glasses wearing a dark jacket has his right arm raised. The background is a dense forest with tall trees and green foliage.

EMBODYING THE
UNTRANSLATABLE:
SAMAR

Drama in Education Days 2023

Serena Cecco

ORIGINS

- *Lacunae*. Embodying the untranslatable. Project by Erika Piazzoli.
- Intercultural awareness, drama, dramatic tension
- (Un)translatability vs performability
- Body as vehicle to decipher the untranslatable
- Residency in Ireland (July 2022)
- How can Untranslatable Words be explored performatively to channel dramatic tension towards intercultural awareness



THE TEAM

- 7 people
- 6 nationalities
- 2 continents

- 3 days
- 7 workshops
- 10 untranslatable words

WHAT DOES
PERFORMING
UW GIVE
YOU?

What
does
performing
UW
give
us?

alternative non-text
code / mode based



personal
experience to tie
the concept to

3 / equal footing (lowering barriers)
(not English) fun / joy

4 / Community (makes it) together
spectator
performer
point of view
angle







SAMAR
MUSIC: HAL

origin: Arabic

Staying up late after the sun
has gone down and having an
enjoyable time with friends.

سمرًا *samura u* (سمرّة *sumra*) to be or turn brown; — *samara u* (*samr*, سمر *sumūr*) to chat in the evening or at night; to chat, talk (generally) II to nail, fasten with nails (الـ *s.th.* to or on); to drive in (المسّار *al-mismār* the nail) III to spend the night or evening in pleasant conversation, chat at night or in the evening (• with s.o.); to converse, talk, chat (• with s.o.) V to be or get nailed down, be fastened with nails; to stand as if pinned to the ground VI to spend the night or evening in pleasant conversation, chat with one another at night or in the evening; to converse, talk, chat IX = I *samura*

سمر *samar* pl. اسمار *asmār* nightly, or evening, chat; conversation, talk, chat; night, darkness

سمرّة *sumra* brownness, brown color

سمار *samār* (eg.) a variety of rush used for plaiting mats (*Juncus spinosus* F., bot.) | سمار هندي صلب (*hindī ṣulb*) a variety of bamboo

سماري *samārī* (n. un. ة) a variety of wild duck (zool.)

DEFINITIONS

- Chat, talk
- Night, moonlight
- Conversation
- Entertainment
- Social evenings
- Storytelling
-

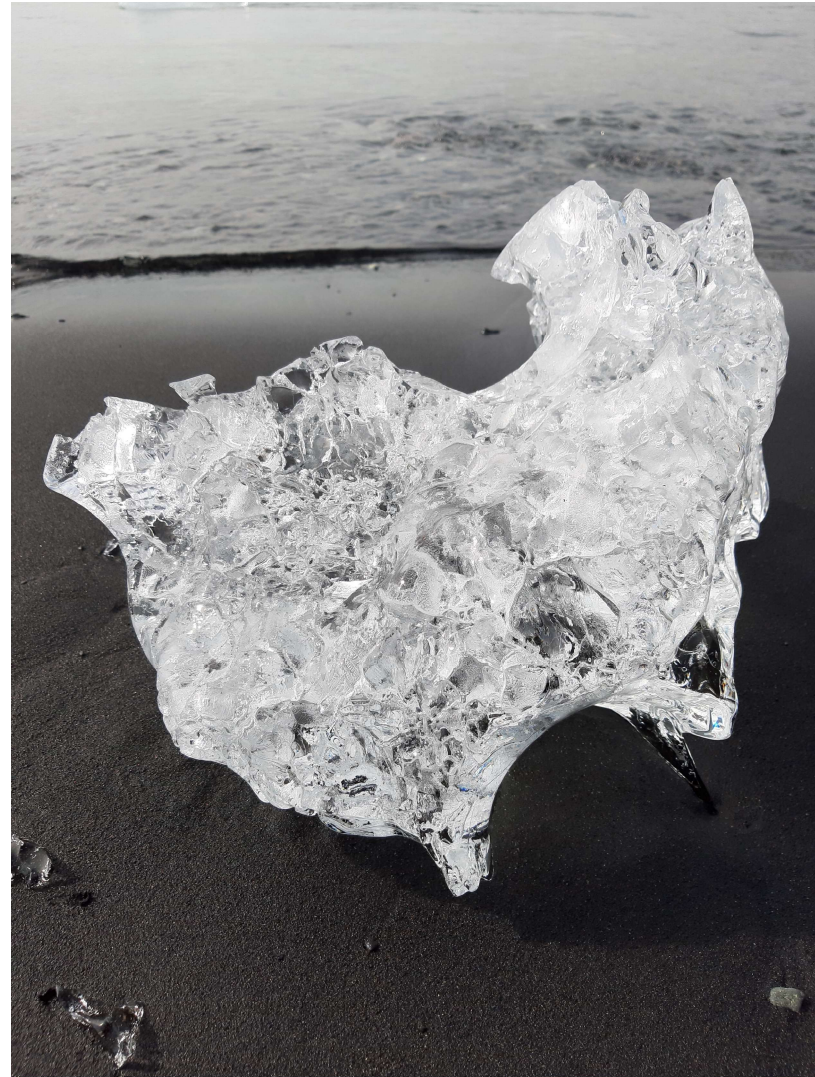
ICEBREAKER

What makes you feel good

Name and gesture

What's the story of your name?

The Mentalist



SHIM EL YASMINE

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1G0mPx-Ba8>
- Follow the follower
- Mirror
- Observation

REFLECTION

Exchange sensations and
comments

How did it feel?

What have you learnt?



ASFUR

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L--5yELJJmc>

LYRICS

YOU ARE A BIRD

- What clour
- What size
- Predator or prey
- Where are you now
- What can you see around you
- How are you feeling
- You have a secret
- You meet someone...

DISCUSS

- What is the story about?
- What's the ending? / what's going to happen
- How did it feel?
- Share comments, sensations, experience from this workshop
- Have a chat

REFLECTIONS

- Write your reflections on the Jamboard

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1z6Edk0AH7NEpHjRtd163pi3iknu435ZQ8OKEtjlhY/viewer?f=0>

CONCLUSIONS

- *Samar* però è una parola non solo araba ma greca, romana, ebraica, egiziana, insomma mediterranea, perché in tutto l'antico Mediterraneo raccontare e ascoltare era il dono e contro dono dell'ospitalità
- vuol proprio significare ogni parola di libertà, ogni parola che non si chiude nei pregiudizi e tantomeno alle frontiere

(Samar: la luce azzurra a Itaca, Roma, Bagdad. L. Marchetti)