



Boston College

Global Engagement Portal

Programing Guide | March 16 - April 29, 2022

How To Book the Global Engagement Portal

1. **Browse the program overview** (page 3 of this document) to see the schedule of dates/times and how the four broad themes (innovation, climate, migration, and culture) are presented in the seven portal locations.
2. **Get detailed information** about the specific topics available for conversation in each session (pages 4-12), and about representative guests each portal would bring (page 13).
3. Look for dates and times that suit your class or group, being mindful that most sessions repeat on different dates, then **book your session(s) of choice on this site**, indicating topics of preference from the list provided. Time slot reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis beginning February 9.
4. If for any reason you decide to cancel your booking, please send an email to Saraphina Birtolo (birtolo@bc.edu) so the session can be made available to other groups

Additional guidelines:

- Each session can accommodate between 6-10 participants in the Portal
- Multiple sessions can be booked, back-to-back or on different dates
- Note that session times and lengths vary, to approximate the BC class schedule.
- We recommend a 45-minute minimum engagement time for each group; but groups can rotate through a longer reserved block in 45- or 50-minute sessions.
- Program subject to change.

Please contact BC's lead curator, **Saraphina Birtolo '22** (birtolo@bc.edu), with questions; Prof. Erik Owens (erik.owens@bc.edu) is the faculty director for the project .



Schedule Overview

Color-coded by theme: **Innovation** | **Climate** | **Migration** | **Culture**

	Tue 10:30 – 11:45am 12:00 – 1:15pm 1:30 – 2:45pm	Wed 11:00 – 11:45am 12:00 – 12:45pm 1:00 – 1:45pm 2:00 – 2:45pm	Thu 10:30 – 11:45am 12:00 – 1:15pm 1:30 – 2:45pm	Fri 8:00 – 9:00am 9:00 – 10:00pm
Week 1	March 15 Nakivale UGANDA	March 16 Kigali RWANDA	March 17 Erbil IRAQ	March 18 Cox's Bazar BANGLADESH
Week 2	March 22 Gaza City PALESTINE	March 23 Bamako MALI	March 24 Mexico City MEXICO	March 25 Cox's Bazar BANGLADESH
Week 3	March 29 Nakivale UGANDA	March 30 Kigali RWANDA	March 31 Erbil IRAQ	April 1 Cox's Bazar BANGLADESH
Week 4	April 5 Gaza City PALESTINE	April 6 Bamako MALI	April 7 Mexico City MEXICO	April 8 Cox's Bazar BANGLADESH
Week 5	April 12 Nakivale UGANDA	April 13 Nakivale UGANDA	April 14 Erbil IRAQ	April 15 Cox's Bazar BANGLADESH
Week 6	April 19 Gaza City PALESTINE	April 20 Bamako MALI	April 21 Mexico City MEXICO	April 22 Cox's Bazar BANGLADESH
Arts Week	April 26 Nakivale UGANDA	April 27 Kigali RWANDA	April 28 Erbil IRAQ	April 29 Cox's Bazar BANGLADESH

Week 1: March 15-18, 2022

Tuesday, March 15

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Innovation (Nakivali, Uganda)

As the oldest and one of the largest refugee settlements in the world, Nakivale is home to nearly a dozen different nationalities of people. Various groups often remain segregated within the settlement and despite having existed for 60 years, their time in the settlement is still articulated as “temporary”. This has led to innovative approaches to building and clever strategies for social cohesion. From the use of recycled waste to build “temporary” housing, to innovative approaches to refugee integration through the use of sport, explore the ways that scarcity leads to new ideas in often unexpected places.

Topics to explore include:

- Innovative approaches to a permanent building ban: Building plastic bottle houses
- Football as a tool for social integration amongst refugee groups
- Opportunistic: Turning refugees into entrepreneurs

Wednesday, March 16

11am - 11:45pm | 12pm - 12:45pm | 1pm - 1:45pm | 2pm - 2:45pm

Climate (Kigali, Rwanda)

Home to a number of East African climate activists, discover Africa’s cleanest city in this interactive conversation with climate leaders in Kigali, Rwanda. From solar powered barber shops, to the world’s first plastic bag ban, engage the complexity of the climate crisis from folks at the forefront of climate change, and gain insights into how to take climate action in your community.

Topics to explore include:

- Social and economic impacts of the climate crisis on East Africa
- Innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to the climate crisis
- Cultural transformation as a result of climate change

Thursday, March 17

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Migration (Erbil, Iraq)

After nearly 2 decades of war, the Harsham Camp for Internally Displaced Persons on the northern edge of Erbil, Iraq hosts more than 1,500 internally displaced Iraqi families who fled militant attacks in Mosul and its surrounding village. As a space that is both “home” and away from home, explore what it means to be displaced in your own country, how Iraqis in the camp have created a sense of community, and what the future holds for the camp and its people.

Topics to explore include:

- No home in your homeland: The IDP experience
- Innovation and entrepreneurship in the Harsham Camp
- Rebuilding Mosul

Friday, March 18

8am - 9am | 9am - 10am

Migration (Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh)

OBAT Helpers assist refugees and IDPs across Bangladesh and its surrounding countries. OBAT is located right outside the Kutupalong Rohingya refugee camp and has started several initiatives to provide emergency relief, food and medical assistance for those living in the camp. Explore the Rohingya experience, how this community is carving out a place for itself in Bangladesh, the challenges they face in doing so, and how organizations like OBAT are helping this community thrive in the face of enormous adversity.

Topics to explore include:

- The Rohingya experience
- Images of the refugee experience: Documenting life through Instagram
- Innovation in the face of adversity

Week 2: March 22-25, 2022

Tuesday, March 22

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Innovation (Gaza City, Palestine)

Gaza Sky Geeks in Gaza City, Palestine was founded in 2011 to build Gaza's start-up movement and is a part of a vibrant co-working space in Gaza City. In 2013, the Gaza Sky Geeks accelerator began connecting top GeeXelerator teams tasked with building usable products to transform Gaza's most talented youth into the Middle East's brightest business leaders. Explore innovation in the face of occupation, how Gaza is using technology to build community and train the next generation of tech leaders.

Topics to explore include:

- GeeXelerating startup culture in Gaza
- Using technology to tell the Palestinian story
- Training the next generation of women in tech

Wednesday, March 23

11am - 11:45pm | 12pm - 12:45pm | 1pm - 1:45pm | 2pm - 2:45pm

Innovation (Bamako, Mali)

Recognized as one of the World Economic Forum's "Schools of the Future" [Kabakoo Academy](#) connects youth, local communities, and people from around the world to collaborate using technology and indigenous knowledges. Explore how modern technology is being combined with traditional approaches to problem solving and how pairing students with community members creates opportunities for both education and community development.

Topics to explore include:

- Community-based approaches to education
- Indigenous knowledge as a foundation for education
- Using technology to combat climate change

Thursday, March 24

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Migration (Mexico City, Mexico)

The immigration debate in the U.S. is often understood from the perspective of left versus right; however, this debate has consequences not only for migrants seeking assistance or a new life in the U.S., but for the countries through which they travel to reach our borders. Explore the impact of U.S. policies on Mexico, how Mexico is actually a sanctuary for a diverse group of global migrants, and hear alternative perspectives on the U.S. immigration debate.

Topics to explore include:

- The impact of the remain in Mexico policy
- Mexico as a migration crossroads
- Mexico migration policies

Friday, March 25

8 am - 9am | 9am - 10am

Culture (Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh)

OBAT Helpers assist refugees and IDPs across Bangladesh and its surrounding countries. OBAT is located right outside the Kutupalong Rohingya refugee camp and has started several initiatives to provide emergency relief, food and medical assistance for those living in the camp. Explore the Rohingya experience, how this community is carving out a place for itself in Bangladesh, the challenges they face in doing so, and how organizations like OBAT are helping this community thrive in the face of enormous adversity.

Topics to explore include:

- The Rohingya experience
- Images of the refugee experience: Documenting life through Instagram
- Innovation in the face of adversity

Week 3: March 28-April 1, 2022

Tuesday, March 29

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Innovation (Nakivali, Uganda)

As the oldest and one of the largest refugee settlements in the world, Nakivale is home to nearly a dozen different nationalities of people. Various groups often remain segregated within the settlement and despite having existed for 60 years, their time in the settlement is still articulated as “temporary”. This has led to innovative approaches to building and clever strategies for social cohesion. From the use of recycled waste to build “temporary” housing, to innovative approaches to refugee integration through the use of sport, explore the ways that scarcity leads to new ideas in often unexpected places.

Topics to explore include:

- Innovative approaches to a permanent building ban: Building plastic bottle houses
- Football as a tool for social integration amongst refugee groups
- Opportunitee: Turning refugees into entrepreneurs

Wednesday, March 30

11am - 11:45pm | 12pm - 12:45pm | 1pm - 1:45pm | 2pm - 2:45pm

Climate (Kigali, Rwanda)

Home to a number of East African climate activists, discover Africa's cleanest city in this interactive conversation with climate leaders in Kigali, Rwanda. From solar powered barber shops, to the world's first plastic bag ban, engage the complexity of the climate crisis from folks at the forefront of climate change, and gain insights into how to take climate action in your community.

Topics to explore include:

- Social and economic impacts of the climate crisis on East Africa
- Innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to the climate crisis
- Cultural transformation as a result of climate change

Thursday, March 31

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Migration (Erbil, Iraq)

After nearly 2 decades of war, the Harsham Camp for Internally Displaced Persons on the northern edge of Erbil, Iraq hosts more than 1,500 internally displaced Iraqi families who fled militant attacks in Mosul and its surrounding village. As a space that is both "home" and away from home, explore what it means to be displaced in your own country, how Iraqis in the camp have created a sense of community, and what the future holds for the camp and its people.

Topics to explore include:

- No home in your homeland: The IDP experience
- Innovation and entrepreneurship in the Harsham Camp
- Rebuilding Mosul

Friday, April 1

11am - 11:45pm | 12pm - 12:45pm | 1pm - 1:45pm | 2pm - 2:45pm

Migration (Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh)

OBAT Helpers assist refugees and IDPs across Bangladesh and its surrounding countries. OBAT is located right outside the Kutupalong Rohingya refugee camp and has started several initiatives to provide emergency relief, food and medical assistance for those living in the camp. Explore the Rohingya experience, how this community is carving out a place for itself in Bangladesh, the challenges they face in doing so, and how organizations like OBAT are helping this community thrive in the face of enormous adversity.

Topics to explore include:

- The Rohingya experience
- Images of the refugee experience: Documenting life through Instagram
- Innovation in the face of adversity

Week 4: April 4-8, 2022

Tuesday, April 5

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Innovation (Gaza City, Palestine)

Gaza Sky Geeks in Gaza City, Palestine was founded in 2011 to build Gaza's start-up movement and is a part of a vibrant co-working space in Gaza City. In 2013, the Gaza Sky Geeks accelerator began connecting top GeeXelerator teams tasked with building usable products to transform Gaza's most talented youth into the Middle East's brightest business leaders. Explore innovation in the face of occupation, how Gaza is using technology to build community and train the next generation of tech leaders.

Topics to explore include:

- GeeXelerating startup culture in Gaza
- Using technology to tell the Palestinian story
- Training the next generation of women in tech

Wednesday, April 6

11am - 11:45pm | 12pm - 12:45pm | 1pm - 1:45pm | 2pm - 2:45pm

Innovation (Bamako, Mali)

Recognized as one of the World Economic Forum's "Schools of the Future" [Kabakoo Academy](#) connects youth, local communities, and people from around the world to collaborate using technology and indigenous knowledges. Explore how modern technology is being combined with traditional approaches to problem solving and how pairing students with community members creates opportunities for both education and community development.

Topics to explore include:

- Community-based approaches to education
- Indigenous knowledge as a foundation for education
- Using technology to combat climate change

Thursday, April 7

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Migration (Mexico City, Mexico)

The immigration debate in the U.S. is often understood from the perspective of left versus right; however, this debate has consequences not only for migrants seeking assistance or a new life in the U.S., but for the countries through which they travel to reach our borders. Explore the impact of U.S. policies on Mexico, how Mexico is actually a sanctuary for a diverse group of global migrants, and hear alternative perspectives on the U.S. immigration debate.

Topics to explore include:

- The impact of the remain in Mexico policy
- Mexico as a migration crossroads
- Mexico migration policies

Friday, April 8

8 am - 9am | 9am - 10am

Culture (Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh)

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Topics to explore include:

- The Rohingya experience
- Images of the refugee experience: Documenting life through Instagram
- Innovation in the face of adversity

Week 5: April 11-15, 2022

Tuesday, April 12

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Innovation (Nakivali, Uganda)

As the oldest and one of the largest refugee settlements in the world, Nakivale is home to nearly a dozen different nationalities of people. Various groups often remain segregated within the settlement and despite having existed for 60 years, their time in the settlement is still articulated as “temporary”. This has led to innovative approaches to building and clever strategies for social cohesion. From the use of recycled waste to build “temporary” housing, to innovative approaches to refugee integration through the use of sport, explore the ways that scarcity leads to new ideas in often unexpected places.

Topics to explore include:

- Innovative approaches to a permanent building ban: Building plastic bottle houses
- Football as a tool for social integration amongst refugee groups
- Opportunitee: Turning refugees into entrepreneurs

Wednesday, April 13

11am - 11:45pm | 12pm - 12:45pm | 1pm - 1:45pm | 2pm - 2:45pm

Climate (Kigali, Rwanda)

Home to a number of East African climate activists, discover Africa's cleanest city in this interactive conversation with climate leaders in Kigali, Rwanda. From solar powered barber shops, to the world's first plastic bag ban, engage the complexity of the climate crisis from folks at the forefront of climate change, and gain insights into how to take climate action in your community.

Topics to explore include:

- Social and economic impacts of the climate crisis on East Africa
- Innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to the climate crisis
- Cultural transformation as a result of climate change

Thursday, April 14

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Migration (Erbil, Iraq)

After nearly 2 decades of war, the Harsham Camp for Internally Displaced Persons on the northern edge of Erbil, Iraq hosts more than 1,500 internally displaced Iraqi families who fled militant attacks in Mosul and its surrounding village. As a space that is both "home" and away from home, explore what it means to be displaced in your own country, how Iraqis in the camp have created a sense of community, and what the future holds for the camp and its people.

Topics to explore include:

- No home in your homeland: The IDP experience
- Innovation and entrepreneurship in the Harsham Camp
- Rebuilding Mosul

Friday, April 15

8 am - 9am | 9am - 10am

Migration (Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh)

OBAT Helpers assist refugees and IDPs across Bangladesh and its surrounding countries. OBAT is located right outside the Kutupalong Rohingya refugee camp and has started several initiatives to provide emergency relief, food and medical assistance for those living in the camp. Explore the Rohingya experience, how this community is carving out a place for itself in Bangladesh, the challenges they face in doing so, and how organizations like OBAT are helping this community thrive in the face of enormous adversity.

Topics to explore include:

- The Rohingya experience
- Images of the refugee experience: Documenting life through Instagram
- Innovation in the face of adversity

Week 6: April 18-22, 2022

Tuesday, April 19

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Innovation (Gaza City, Palestine)

Gaza Sky Geeks in Gaza City, Palestine was founded in 2011 to build Gaza's start-up movement and is a part of a vibrant co-working space in Gaza City. In 2013, the Gaza Sky Geeks accelerator began connecting top GeeXelerator teams tasked with building usable products to transform Gaza's most talented youth into the Middle East's brightest business leaders. Explore innovation in the face of occupation, how Gaza is using technology to build community and train the next generation of tech leaders.

Topics to explore include:

- GeeXelerating startup culture in Gaza
- Using technology to tell the Palestinian story
- Training the next generation of women in tech

Wednesday, April 20

11am - 11:45pm | 12pm - 12:45pm | 1pm - 1:45pm | 2pm - 2:45pm

Innovation (Bamako, Mali)

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Topics to explore include:

- Community-based approaches to education
- Indigenous knowledge as a foundation for education
- Using technology to combat climate change

Thursday, April 21

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Migration (Mexico City, Mexico)

The immigration debate in the U.S. is often understood from the perspective of left versus right; however, this debate has consequences not only for migrants seeking assistance or a new life in the U.S., but for the countries through which they travel to reach our borders. Explore the impact of U.S. policies on Mexico, how Mexico is actually a sanctuary for a diverse group of global migrants, and hear alternative perspectives on the U.S. immigration debate.

Topics to explore include:

- The impact of the remain in Mexico policy
- Mexico as a migration crossroads
- Mexico migration policies

Friday, April 22

8 am - 9am | 9am - 10am

Culture (Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh)

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Topics to explore include:

- The Rohingya experience
- Images of the refugee experience: Documenting life through Instagram
- Innovation in the face of adversity

Week 7: April 25-29, 2022

Arts and Culture Week

In conjunction with the [Boston College Arts Festival](#), this week's connections explore art as a form of cultural expression, how art can be used to build and maintain community, and the use of art as a form of resistance and protest. From the use of theater to promote reconciliation and healing in the wake of the Rwandan genocide, to rap music as powerful tool of protest in Iraq, explore the role of art in shaping communities around the world.

Each site will explore arts related topics including:

- Art as cultural expression
- Art and community
- Art and resistance

Tentative schedule:

Tuesday, April 26 Culture (Nakivali, Uganda)

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Wednesday, April 27 Culture (Kigali, Rwanda)

11am - 11:45pm | 12pm - 12:45pm | 1pm - 1:45pm | 2pm - 2:45pm

Thursday, April 28 Culture (Erbil, Iraq)

10:30 am - 11:45am | 12pm - 1:15pm | 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Friday, April 29 Culture (Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh)

8 am - 9am | 9am - 10am

Representative Guests

Innovation

Patrick Muvunga (Nakivali, Uganda): Co-founder of Opportunigee the world's first organized, free learning space for refugees

Nour Al Khodary (Gaza City, Palestine): Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator at Gaza Sky Geeks, a leading co-working space, startup accelerator, and technology education hub in Gaza.

Yanick Kemayou (Bamako, Mali): Founder and Chief Learning Officer of Kabakoo Academies, an educational center with a unique model of learning that has been recognized by the African Union, the UNESCO and the World Economic Forum as a major innovation on the global education landscape

Climate

Ineza Umuhoza Grace (Kigali, Rwanda): - Founder and CEO of [The Green Fighter](#), a Rwandan youth-led NGO that designs and implements community-based projects

Christelle Kwizera (Kigali, Rwanda): Founder of [Water Access Rwanda](#), a Rwandan organization that addresses the water crisis and youth unemployment in Africa

Migration

Rami Khalaf (Erbil, Iraq): Experienced curator, connector, and speaker on the matters of displacement in Iraq
Shafiqur...

Culture

Songa Bahati Manassé (Nakivali, Uganda): Social entrepreneur, poet, activist, and spoken word artist and founder of Naki Football Academy

Eric 1Key (Kigali, Rwanda): Independent artist from Rwanda navigating through various formats of storytelling

Khalid Kamiran (Erbil, Iraq): Kurdish musician

Mutasim Khaled (Erbil, Iraq): Kurdish musician