



UCL MAL NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2022

In the picture: the making of the Chiru. Read about it in our Q&A with Luan Iturve!

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As an organisation that champions freedom from conflict, UCL MAL strongly condemns Russia's unprovoked aggression towards Ukraine. We stand in solidarity with Ukrainians and all others affected by President Putin's unnecessary and vicious militarism, which has caused thousands of Ukrainian deaths since 2014.

To support the Ukrainian people and their right to safeguard their democratic society, our international team has compiled a list of resources for those that can offer help, through donations and ways of raising awareness of the victims of this needless conflict. Additional information on volunteering opportunities to help refugees and those requiring assistance on ground in neighbouring states can be found at www.uclmal.com

#нівійніукраїні 

#нетвойне

UA

#StopRussianAggression

#StopWarInUkraine



In December, UCL MAL closed a busy, enriching, and challenging year of [collaborative multimedia projects](#) with our end-of-year virtual showcase.

The event, held jointly with the Kuñangue Aty Guasu (KAG) and the Institute for the Development of Art and Culture (IDAC), presented selected works from across MAL's teams, ranging from experimental sound recording, VR design, 3D modeling, filmmaking, to GIS technologies, initiating conversations on the role of digital technologies and collaborative methods in anthropological research, cultural heritage management, and museum exhibits.

If you missed the event, you can now find the recordings of the presentations on our [Youtube channel](#)

NEWS

The 2022 Terra Livre (Free Land) Camp



From the 4th to the 8th of April, [Kuñangue Aty Guasu will be in Brasilia](#) for the "Terra Livre" Camp 2022. They are undertaking a 13908 km journey to join the biggest encounter of Indigenous people of Brazil, in which they will come together to fight for their rights in light of the upcoming presidential elections. The expenses for food, transportation, and biosecurity (such as masks, and hand sanitizer) will be high, so please consider donating to ensure the Guarani and Kaiowà delegation can have their voices heard! Atyma pora, thank you, from Kuñangue Aty Guasu.

UCL MAL field team at *Adhana Festival*

The UCL MAL field team began the year in São Paulo, presenting some of our ongoing projects at Adhana Festival for New Years' Eve.

The festival included an exhibition of the Guarani and Kaiowá Virtual Museum at the Art Gallery, a lecture on the collaborative making of the Guarani and Kaiowá Virtual Museum, and a creative presentation of archival sounds in a Guarani and Kaiowá Jam Session.

The team present included Indigenous leader and anthropologist Jaqueline Aranduhá, Indigenous filmmakers Scott Hill and Luan Iturbe, Guarani and Kaiowá Shamans Dona Neuza and Dona Ivone, IDAC President Fabiana Fernandes, multimedia artist Alice Hellman, and MAL co-founder Raffaella Fryer-Moreira. We are grateful for the remote support from the MAL team and the creative collaboration with music producer and sound artist Bill Robin Fuller



Ecologies Of Thought: Multisensory Data Experiments awarded UCL Global Engagement Fund

Congratulations to the UCL MAL team who have been awarded the UCL Global Engagement Fund Small Grant! The project will build on a global partnership between artists, anthropologists, Indigenous communities, sound designers, and botanists to interrogate the role of sound in ecological knowledge and archival practice.

This project will contribute new datasets to the [Guarani and Kaiowá Digital Archive](#) and [Virtual Museum](#) currently being developed by the UCL Multimedia Anthropology Lab and the Kuñangue Aty Guasu, in partnership with the British Museum's EMKP, UCL Grand Challenges and UCL Global Engagement.



Making Violence Visible awarded UCL Global Engagement Fund

Congratulations to our incredible team working on the [Making Violence Visible project](#), who have been awarded the UCL Global Engagement Fund to continue supporting the Kuñangue Aty Guasu as they [map](#) and make visible the violence experienced by women in their communities

The next phase of the project will involve developing a sustainable system of data collection and analysis in the region, strengthening the KAG's website through regular workshops with the community, and showcasing the project's outputs through multimedia exhibitions in Brazil and the UK.

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Kuñangue Aty Guasu & OKA release first Report on Religious Intolerance, Religious Racism and the Arson of Ceremonial Houses in Guarani and Kaiowá communities



Queima da casa de reza em Itay, 29 de dezembro de 2021. Fonte: Kuñangue Aty Guasu

On the 2nd of March 2022, the Kuñangue Aty Guasu and the [Observatório da Kuñangue Aty Guasu](#) (OKA), a recently launched local support network, presented their first “*Report on Religious Intolerance, Religious Racism and the arson of ceremonial houses in Guarani and Kaiowá communities*”

During 2021, Kuñangue Aty Guasu registered 6 arsons attacks against Oga Pysy - their traditional Ceremonial Houses. The Guarani and Kaiowá women who lead the Kuñangue Aty Guasu have been coordinating emergency responses and mobilising urgent actions in their communities. The report denounces the horrors suffered by their Nhandesys (female elders and shamans), the community, and their territory in the name of religious intolerance and racism.

In the next months, Kuñangue Aty Guasu and UCL MAL will collaborate to integrate these new reports of violence into our digital map, so to continue recording, analysing, and denouncing the human rights abuses suffered in the region.



The UCL MAL field team now includes six young Guarani and Kaiowá community members who are documenting the processes and techniques through which the traditional ceremonial houses, Oga Pysy, are built. This project is made possible by the support of [EMKP](#) and British Museum Fund.

While learning valuable skills, actively participating in the research process incentivizes younger generations to learn more about their own cultural heritage and contributes to MAL's ongoing efforts to work with Indigenous communities and decolonize the processes through which archives are assembled and displayed.

Are you wondering what an Oga Pysy is, and why are we recording them? Learn more here: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CWejTfPIVtq/>

INSIGHT FROM THE TEAM

Q&A with Luan Iturbe, Guarani and Kaiowá filmmaker

How does being part of the project impact your development as a filmmaker? Which aspect of the project have you enjoyed the most so far?

For me, the most impactful part of the project was to follow the construction of the Chiru, which was made by the shamans at Pirakuá. That was the moment I came into contact with the wisest elders and the oldest of our community, who also carry the shamanic essence, the beliefs of Guarani and Kaiowá. After 22 years Chiru was made again. We filmed it, and I was part of the filming process. We followed each part, each prayer before cutting the wood, before lapidating it, and each of us was there to learn, to hear the wise speeches of our elders since they are disappearing..



At that moment, I really felt touched: I saw it, and I got sad thinking that maybe the next generations won't be able to see the construction of the Chiru. At least not with these elders we met, maybe with others, but we don't know when we will see the Chiru ritual again

So this was the most important moment of the project for me, because while we were there, seeing and learning, we felt the pain of realising what we are losing, little by little, because of the devastation of the territory and the oppression by the 'big ones': the agribusiness, the industry. We can see that our culture is being threatened, especially our elders, our shamans. These shamans are the last ones we have, and we try to value them through the use of audiovisual technologies, which I believe is also a form of recording, through which others in the future can receive a bit of all this knowledge and learn to value their own elders, leadership, communities, and all the richness within.

During the project, I could construct something new, a different understanding in my mind and in my trajectory as an audiovisual producer. This is all very important to me as an Indigenous person as well, because it helped me to get to know myself, know more about my history and the territory in which I live. So it's not only about how to use a camera, or a voice recorder, or to use technical parts of audiovisual, but how to bring the feeling, the look, the people, the sadness, the joy, and to learn with all the people who are there.

Curious about the Chiru? Read more [here](#).

BLOG

[*Translating Guarani and Kaiowá Cosmology*](#)

Literary critic, translator, and MAL researcher, Elton Uliana has recently written an insightful reflection on the crucial role of translation in every aspect of UCL MAL's experimental collaboration with the Guarani and Kaiowá Indigenous peoples of Brazil.



[The Whole World's A Recording Studio](#)

Read this article by MAL's Sound Team member, Eugenia Zanarini, to learn more about the emerging and innovative possibilities of sound recording and how audio has become an integral part of MAL's collaborative projects with the Guarani and Kaiowà communities.

To stay up to date with MAL's research, follow us on [Medium](#)

AFFILIATE NETWORK & TEAM UPDATE

LINEs OF CORRESPONDENCE



Congratulations to MAL member [Natalja Vikulina](#) for exhibiting her solo show 'Lines of Correspondence' at the Willesden Gallery, London!

Lines of Correspondence brings together different elements of Natalja's transdisciplinary practice. It investigates the human ability to project our feelings and consciousness onto inanimate natural

objects such as rocks, plants, or soil – in other words, to animate different things around us.

By transforming actual organic material into virtual landscapes that people can be part of, Lines of Correspondence invites the audience to re-imagine our relations with what we call the inanimate world, to look closely into the ontological order that is independent from human beings.

ALGORITHMIC LANDSCAPES

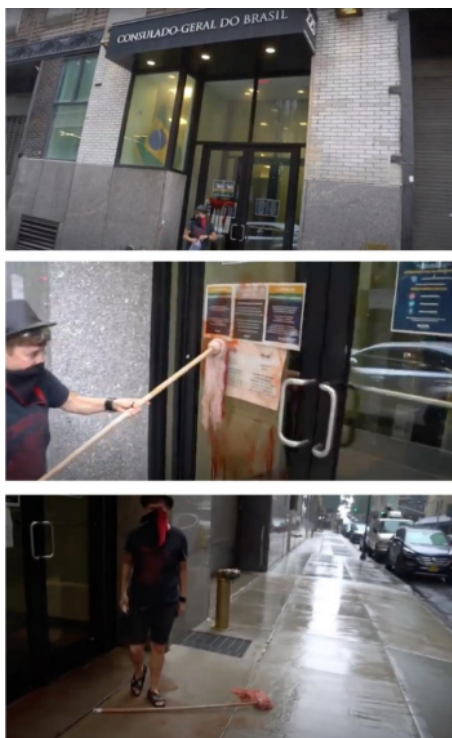
MAL member Matheus da Rocha Montanari is exhibiting his work “Algorithmic Landscapes” as part of the “Mapping the Cartographic: Contemporary Approaches to Planetaryization” exhibition. Matheus’ work makes algorithmic approximations of two geographically distant places – Paris, France, and Caxias do Sul, Brazil – creating a cartography of a space that emerges from the combination of images selected by Artificial Intelligence.



As the project investigates the algorithmic layer which permeates the city landscape, several layers of algorithmic, performative and material operations crash, meet, connect, and overlay, revealing the landscape’s never-ending state of becoming.

Explore the exhibition [here](#).

Social and Environmental Demands Through the Art of TransArchitecture Project: Deterritorializing and Building Networks



Figures 7 – 9. Performance *No More Indigenous Blood* by Adriana Black, 2021. Video-documentation by Ana Luisa Anjos.

Written by artist and lecturer Natalia Marzliak, the article "Social and Environmental Demands Through the Art of TransArchitecture Project: Deterritorializing and Building Networks" analyzes Adriana Black's (MAL affiliate) recent project "Transarchitecture" which aims to support the reclaiming of Indigenous territory and the ongoing decolonial movement among the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil.

Black's artwork is politically motivated and is concerned with disrupting colonial structures and territorialisation processes and constructing non-oppressive and decolonial spaces. They collaborated extensively with MAL and with Guarani and Kaiowá communities in Brazil, such as Kuñangue Aty Guasu.

Read the article [here](#).

JOIN MAL'S GLOBAL NETWORK

UCL MAL is a global network of interdisciplinary researchers, dedicated to exploring innovative methods for producing research and presenting it to diverse audiences. Founded in 2017 by postgraduate students at UCL Anthropology, we are now composed of over 100 members from 30 different countries around the world, drawing on the diverse expertise of over 22 disciplines. Join us and help us strengthen and grow our global network!

