**MOVEMENTS: PROTEST, POLITICS AND ACTIVISM IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

 **CONFERENCE 6th JULY 2018 AT NOTTINGHAM CONTEMPORARY**

* This very stimulating one-day conference was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Midlands3Cities Doctoral Training Partnership, one of the generous partners of Journey to Justice: Nottingham in 2017.
* Academics and non-academics were invited to platform work on social and political movements in the arts and humanities, social sciences and beyond. There were over 80 applications to present papers; 30 presentations (in small groups) and two keynote speeches on the day……..a packed programme indeed! JtoJ was delighted to be invited to participate in this enriching and very thought-provoking conference.
* We learned about activism in Kenya, Iran, Portugal, Spain, Israel, India, Chile, Cameroon, Romania, Brazil and Hong Kong as well as in the UK. The researchers highlighted factors which make for successful activism and examined why some activism was less successful and the lessons learned from this.
* Keynote speakers, Anita Biressi, Vickie Cooper and David Whyte presented papers on *Reflections on the London 2018 March 4 Women* and *Grenfell, Austerity and Institutional Violence.*
* Tania Aubeelack and Pat Boyer from JtoJ spoke to the conference about the work and mission of JtoJ and the power of stories to inspire activism. We showed that storytelling connects us as human beings and how stories hidden from history of people ‘like us’ can inspire, galvanise and encourage others.
* We also described how JtoJ celebrates the role of the arts – poetry; music; visual and digital arts- in energising individuals and movements.
* The conference continued into the evening with a live performance about the NHS from the theatre company *Bread and Roses* and a screening of the film *Austerity Fight.*

It was a highly-engaging, diverse and innovative day which motivated and encouraged us. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to present the work of JtoJ to the many delegates and contributors attending the *Movements* conference. Thank you!

Pat Boyer, JtoJ

For more information about the conference, please see: movements2018.wordpress.com

Conference organisers: Richard Bromhall (PhD student, Nottingham Trent University and JtoJ Nottingham); David Civil (PhD student, Nottingham University) and Abi Rhodes (PhD students Nottingham University and JtoJ Nottingham).