

WIM KRATSBORN PRESENTS

## TO-GATHERLAND FESTIVAL 2022

A passion-driven, interactive and musical lecture ('brainshop')  
about the youth of today on future turning points



### Words, images and music

After making the film and writing the book 'Hard to become who you are', it's the right time to meet and to share. This may be done online on YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn or the website, but the best way is to give a lecture face to face, in front of a live audience, using words as basic knowledge, images as visualization and especially music as audiolisation. Because music is a brainwash that enters areas of the brain that enable us to have feelings and to react emotionally (Antonio Damasio). Music is the energizer of something deep inside our brain and reality (Deleuze). During the presentation youngsters experience the five future turning points on the To-Gatherland Festival, 2022 in order to become who they are. The story is mainly told by music as a sense opener, a source of knowledge, a problem solver, a way of communication, creation, action and reflection. And this is something many

youngsters prefer to do collectively at festivals all over Europe and the Arab world. That's why a festival is a good metaphor for society.

*'Festivals can radiate the new message'* (Wubbo Ockels).

It's the right place to share freedom, to solve problems and to do something about it. *'Hey! Ho! Let's go'* (The Ramones)

Brain research about emotional knowledge and empathy by Mary Helen Immordino and the work of Howard Gardner about multiple intelligences and five minds for the future are great sources of inspiration. The aim is that the youth of today becomes who they are by choosing future actions as a 'multiple choice identity'. They are lifelong learning by doing.

Young people are growing up in a turbulent and complex world, 'The Multiple Society', where everything is floating and uncertain. Daily they are overwhelmed and saturated by 'Breaking News' about an economical or a financial crisis, seats of fire, natural disasters, terrorist attacks, armed conflicts and climate change. The songs *'Crazy world, crazy times'*(REM), *'Selling the drama'* (Live) and *'Pump it up'* (Black Eyed Peas) come to my mind. Turning points are sometimes transferred into whirlpools and that's why it's difficult for youngsters to keep standing and to become who they are. *'Everybody is telling me to become who I am, but I'm not like that'* (Theo Maassen). They need emotional knowledge in order to search the unknown.

*'We feel and therefore we learn'* (Mary Helen Immordino).

A lot of questions are waiting for an answer and more questions are initiated. Are the barbarians coming? Or all the barbarians already here? Is freedom getting more and more restricted? Or do they want to fight for their own freedom and the freedom of others?

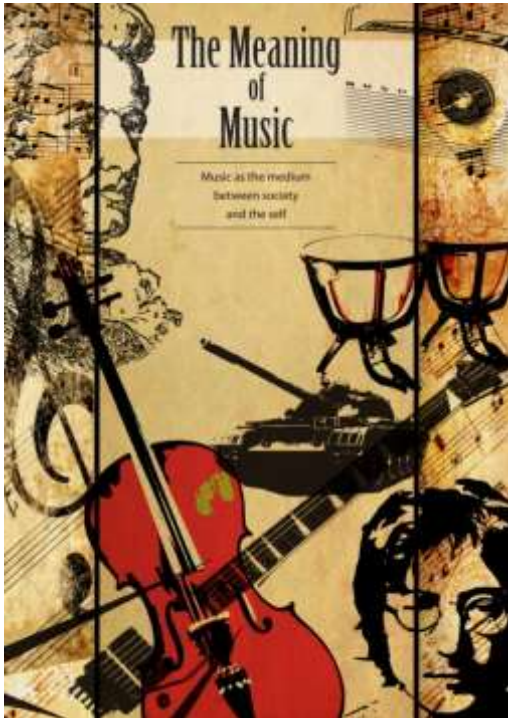
*'Why have we forgotten, what's important in life'* (Rob Riemen).

Mind the gap! What can be done? *'It's education, stupid.'* By good education youngsters may feel, know and internalize what's going on in today's world and to do something about it: the place to be is the To-Gatherland Festival 2022 as a confrontation with the past, the present and the future as well as with the self and the other. Different transmedia are at their disposal as music, films, books, games and the landscape. The aim is to feel, to gather knowledge and insight, but also to stimulate creativity, empathy and activity. Every youngster deserves an own learning style (Mary Helen Immordino) or a mix of learning styles like mix passion-driven learning, informal learning, constructivist learning blended learning, spiritual learning, real life learning and sustainable learning. Music is perfect to turn chaos into order. Music is like democracy, because it helps to make links between things and thoughts that are different.

*'Music can mean different things for different people and even different things for the same person at different times'*(Daniel Barenboim).

It also makes links between the individual and the collective to create a contagious harmony and to pass freedom. Music makes sense by telling the story as a sense opener, a source of knowledge, a problem-solver, a way of communication, action and reflection. It's not a coincidence that in dictatorships the only accepted style of music is a monotonous one.

***'And I said hey hey hey hey, what's going on?' (Four Non Blondes)***



It's amazing how many things are happening in our world simultaneously and paradoxically. That's why they need anchors such as five turning points about the past, economy, technology, ideology and human rights.

Welcome at the 'To-Gatherland Festival' in 2022, where 9 different youngsters meet up. You may also visit the festival by attending the presentation/lecture and by reading the last chapter of the book 'Hard to become who you are'. The youngsters want to develop an own identity and to make their own choices during the festival. Each one of them makes different choices regarding the identity, culture, musical taste and learning style. There's a lot to know, to feel and to do in order to become 'a multiple choice identity'.

The 9 youngsters are passengers in time, guides at the festival, ghostwriters in the book and actors in the film. Go for the film, the music and more information to [www.to-gather.org](http://www.to-gather.org). Come meet the 9 youngsters (below).



**Django: fundamentalist, jihadist**  
Londen



**Irina/Gertrud: aesthetical, empathic nurse.** Rome



**Monique: materialist, hedonist/narcissistic.** Amsterdam



**Thomas : violent, neo-nazi**  
Berlin



**Sandis: avatar and putinist**  
Riga



**CHillak: ecologist, alternative**  
Ljubljana



**Iqbal: Islamic, muslima**  
Damascus



**Hakan: activist, journalist**  
Istanbul



**Kristin: student, humanist**

## The presentation

This presentation is inspired by the international European KA4-project To-Gather (2006-2011), in which 9 countries were cooperating in an innovative, creative and interactive way, including a lot of knowledge, images, dance and music. Important were the meetings with youngsters and their teachers in Europe and the Arab world and especially at 8 To-Gather Festivals with presentations, performances, workshops and lectures. In To-Gather didactical

material was designed to be used in practice. But also the book and the film 'Hard to become who you are' are sources of inspiration. After 2011 To-Gather is still going on as an independent private project. Go for the film, the music and more info to [www.to-gather.org](http://www.to-gather.org).

The presentation is made for youngsters older than 16 years, but also for adults. Some people are forever young. About 25 to 200 persons may participate. After consulting together, some tents or turning points may be selected. The intro lasts about 10 minutes and focuses on the five turning points:

1. **'A past that's no history' (Tent 1: 'A rucksack full of memories')**
2. **'The new economy' (Tent 2: 'Life after growth')**
3. **'The new technology' (Tent 3: 'We are the robots')**
4. **'Isms and Wasms' as nationalism, capitalism, putinism, fascism and fundamentalism (Tent 4: 'Promises of no man's land')**
5. **'Human rights' (Tent 5: 'The Butterfly Touch')**

The participants will need and get 10 minutes in each tent to experience a turning point through information (7 minutes) and 2 songs (3 minutes). They have to think about what goes on in their mind, while listening to the music and sometimes by also looking at a clip. Their thoughts and emotions are filled in on the poster 'Headlines'.



**Poster 'Headlines'**



### Five tents and five turning points

1. The first tent '**Rucksack full of memories**' is about '**A past that's no history**'. The sense opener is 'Strange machines' by The Gathering. The 9 youngsters go back in time via a roller coaster in order to make contact with their own family or ancestors. What remnants and memories from the last 100 years are still important and alive? The music during this turbulent trip is 'Roadblox' from The Prodigy, including a fragment of 'One' by Metallica. They may have contact with a soldier in WWI, a resistor in WWII, a collaborator in the Cold War or a hippie in the 'Sixties. The participants write and/or draw their own memories or remnants on the poster 'Headlines', while listening to the song. In this way they energize their own genetic memory. After all it's all in the family.  
By consulting together the focus may be on WWI, WWII or the Cold War.



### **'The roller coaster'**

Tent 2 **'Life after growth'** is about **'The new economy'**. The sense opener is 'Cowgirl' from Underworld as a dynamic audiolisation of the capitalist society.



### **The stage**

What does that mean for the identity of young people? Different perspectives will be shown by DJ's like the writer Joris Luyendijk, the banker Johnny Greed, the Chinese leader Xi Jinping and the famous economist Jeremy Rifkin. Will economic growth be transformed into a sustainable society and how will it look like? What about climate change, waste, pollution and 'the invisible hand'? The soundscape for the sustainable world is 'A Forest' from The Cure.



**Chillak in 'A forest'**

2. **'The new technology** creates a virtual reality in tent 3 **'We are the robots'**. The sense opener is 'The Robots' by Kraftwerk. Youngsters put 'the Daft Punk helmet' on to experience the world as avatars, using the Oculus Rift, optogenetics and 'brain-to-brain communication'. What does new technology and virtual reality mean for their identity and personal freedom? Can youngsters become who they are in an infinite reality?



**Sandis as avatar**

**Virtual dance floor, Daan Roosegaarde**

Will technology solve the problems or is reality just another window? Will many youngsters migrate to a virtual world? Will they look like each other by cloning? Listen to 'Around the world' by Daft Punk, dance on the virtual dance floor and fill your brain on the poster 'Headlines'.

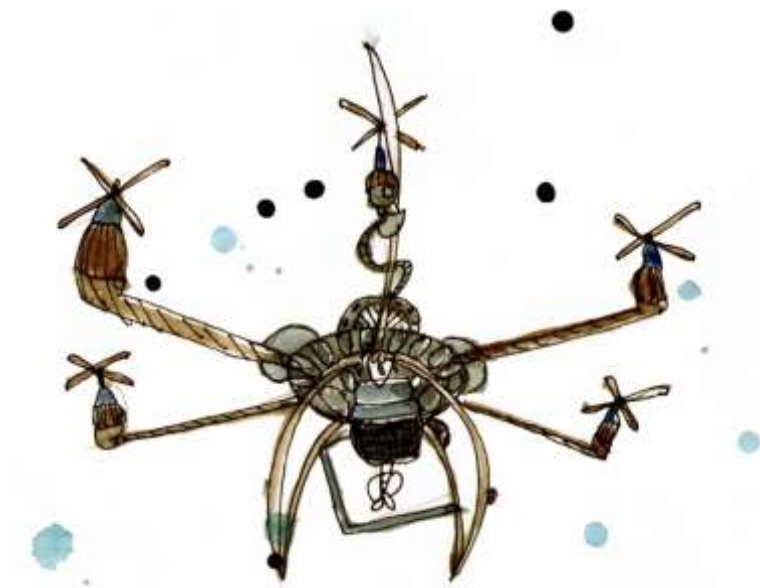
3. In tent 4 **'Promises of no man's land'** things are going wrong on the turning point **'Isms and Wasms'**. The tent looks like the Pantheon, where all religions are gathered.



There the song 'Promises of no man's land' is performed by Blaudzun. After a heavy earthquake, the youngsters are forced by IS-soldiers to go down into hell. In hell (Dante's inferno!) they are confronted with a long row of refugees, who are trying to escape from hell. Simultaneously they are threatened by drones, circling above their heads as poisonous insects. Each drone is filled with an 'ism' such as nationalism, capitalism, jihadism, populism, fascism or putinism. Through their tentacles the drones try to inject evil into the young brain. The drones-song are "Ich will" by Rammstein and Rage Against the Machine is singing:

*'And now you do what they told ya  
And now you do what they told ya  
And now you do what they told ya  
And now you do what they told ya  
And now you do what they told ya  
And now you do what they told ya  
And now you do what they told ya'*

Which drone or ism tries to inject you? Put it in your brain on 'Headlines'.



**Drone**

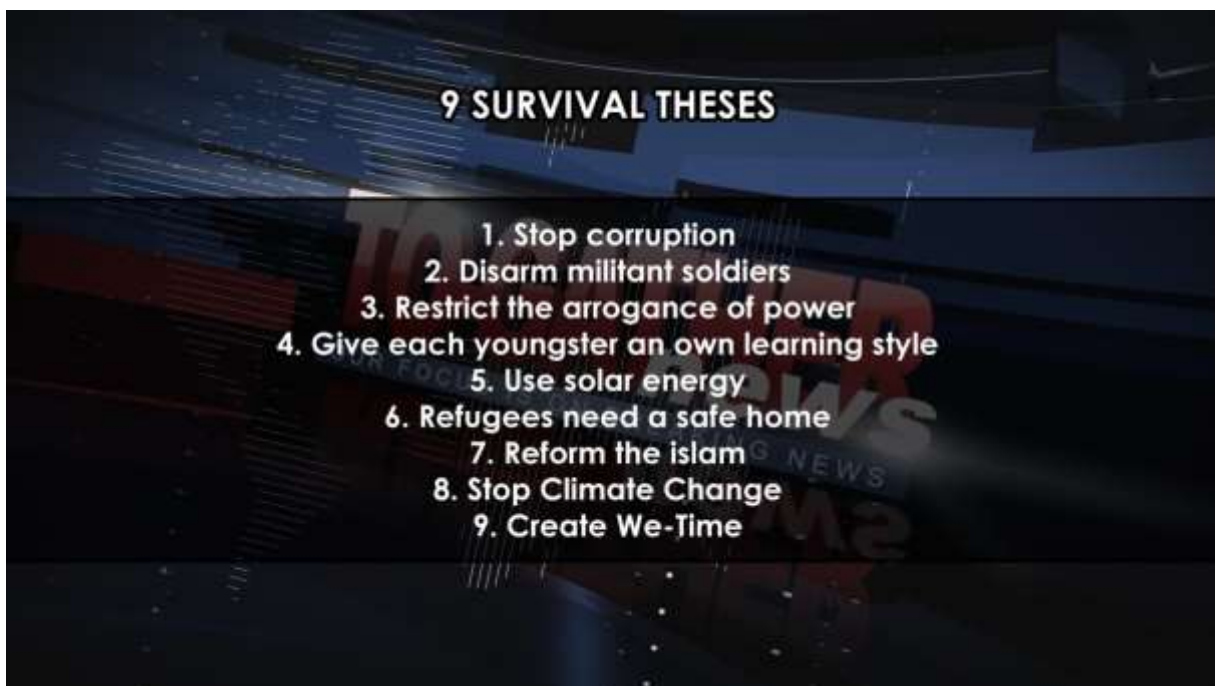


**Hell**



**The raindance of Europe**

Tent 5 '**The Butterfly Touch**' is about **human rights**. How can the youngsters learn by doing? How can they change the turning points? As an intro the young woman 'Europe' presents 9 survival theses for the youth of to-day, audiolised by the songs 'Hey Brother' (Avicii) and 'Knocking on heaven's door'(GunsNRoses),



**Survival Theses**

The next step is that each youngster takes part in the 'Global Tweet Revolution'. They are choosing three headlines for the revolution, energized by the song 'Uprising' from Muse. They may fill in the poster 'The Headlines' or use their mobile phones to send messages to others.

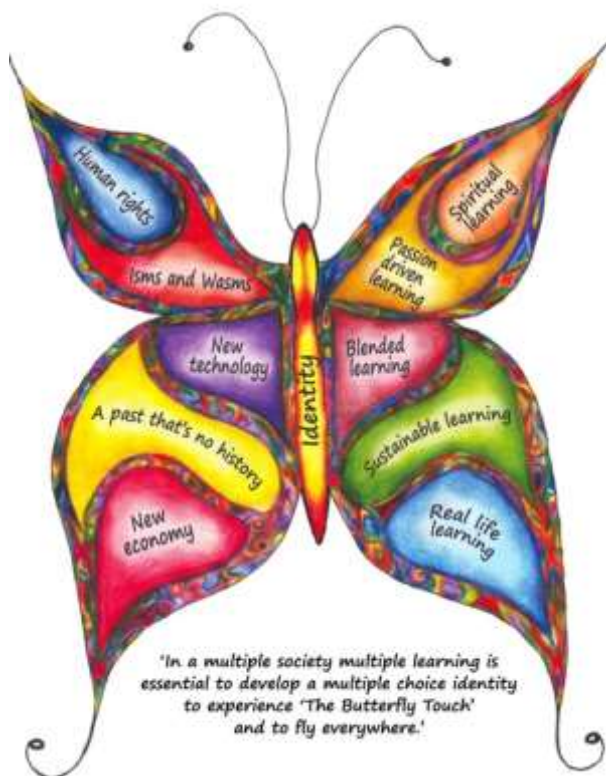


### 'The multiple choice identity'

The song 'Knights of Cidonia' from Muse is the apothéose (like at Pinkpop, 2015).

*'No one's gonna take me alive. Time has come to make things right .*

*You and I must fight for our rights. You and I must fight to survive'*



### 'The Butterfly Touch'

Each participant chooses what he's going to do about the survival theses. What is his solution and contribution? The experiences in the 5 tents may also be integrated. Finally he writes his ideas/actions on post-its and becomes 'a multiple choice identity' When leaving the room the post-its are placed on a big poster 'The Butterfly Touch' as a metaphor for the realization of the survival theses and becoming who you are. It's about the integration of the own learning style in the future turning points and turn it into a life-style.

*'Music gives me wings and I may go everywhere'* (Juliette Ode)

There are **three variants** of the presentation depending on the participants, the age, the place, the context and the aim:

1. Presentation with music and the filling of 'Headlines' and 'The Butterfly Touch'. Duration about 1 hour.
2. Presentation with music, including scenes from the film and the filling of 'Headlines' and 'The Butterfly Touch'. Duration about 90 minutes.
3. Presentation with music, scenes from the film, the filling in of 'Headlines', a workshop and a presentation by the participants. During the workshop each participant may use his own learning style. Afterwards the participants may present 'Breaking News' (like CNN) about their future actions related to the survival theses. Finally they write their future activities on a post-it and place it on 'The Butterfly Touch', when leaving the room. The presentation and the workshop last about 3 hours.

***'You ain't seen nothing yet'*** (Bachman, Turner, Overdrive)