

## **Institutional Escapes: Spatial, Temporal, and Relational Breaks in Institutional Lives**

Organizers: Aleksandra Bartoszko, VID Specialized University, Oslo:

[aleksandra.bartoszko@vid.no](mailto:aleksandra.bartoszko@vid.no) & Mari Dalen Herland, VID Specialized University, Oslo:

[mari.herland@vid.no](mailto:mari.herland@vid.no)

Chair: Aleksandra Bartoszko

Anthropological inquiry into institutional lives have conventionally focused on life within the institution and life “after (and/or outside) the institution”. The purpose of this panel is to explore the states in between – or including – these two conditions: escapes and runaways. We broaden our gaze to institutions that do not necessarily organize their functioning based on escape or runaway predictions, including carceral institutions, residential childcare, adult residential care facilities, refugee institutions, and retirement homes. By focusing on the escapes and runaways, we seek to extend the analytical gaze on the institutions and raise questions about their boundaries.

The phenomenon of escape encompasses a variety of dimensions, including spatial, emotional, political, and logistical dimensions. This panel includes empirical, methodological, and conceptual contributions that address questions such as: What are the imaginaries of escaping? What are the individuals’ motives and expectations toward escapes and runaways? How do they prepare to run away? What are the lived experiences of being “on the run”? What are the limits and alleged possibilities of escape? How do the institutions respond to the escapes and runaways, and what meanings do they attach to them? In what ways can we conceptualize repetitive escapes that become an ordinary part of institutional lives? How can we explore escapes ethnographically? The panel’s overreaching objective is to advance our understanding of how individuals exercise agency and creativity in institutional contexts and how they resist and transform institutional relations through institutional escapes.

1. *Everyday Escapes: Forms of Marronage within California’s Unlocked Carceral Care Facilities*, Maxwell Hellmann, UCLA
2. *Escaping Home: Spatial and Emotional Dimensions of Rohingya Refugees’ Journey to Cox’s Bazaar*, Abellia Anggi Wardani, Universitas Indonesia
3. *“We stop trains, we stop buses”: Residential Childcare Employees’ Experiences with Institutional Boundaries*, Mari Dalen Herland, VID Specialized University
4. *Urban Aging in an Institution: Taking Seriously the Urban Experiences of Retirement Home Residents in Downtown Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*, Yvonne Wallace, University of Toronto
5. *Run-away or Run-around: Against Linearity of Youth Runaways in Norway*, Aleksandra Bartoszko, VID Specialized University