

A rhythmanalysis of the (de)/(re)-territorialisation of self in trajectories of migration

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CACHE PROJECT (2021-22)

- “**Finding housing, making home: Romanian migrants in post-Brexit/post-Covid19 Britain**” (under peer review)

To understand the ways in which RO migrants’ **cultural values** (e.g. concerning mobility choices, home-attachment, social integration, preferences for homeownership; family; Francophone rather than Anglophone affinities) and **inequalities of labour/migration-status** shape their experiences of housing and home in post-Brexit /post-Covid-19 Britain.



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In this additional paper, I aim to explore:

- **The ways in which the intertwined rhythms of education, work, housing, home, place, family, age, body contribute to the (de)/(re)-territorialisation of self in trajectories of migration**
- **The related question on the reconstruction of identity through migration**

ASSEMBLAGE-THINKING (DELEUZE; DELANDA)

RHYTHMANALYSIS (LEFEBVRE) as a framework to obtain a deeper understanding of trajectories of migration as much looser practices of desires and affects when migrants traverse, ignore, struggle against or work with structures and assemblages of all sorts (e.g. education, labour, family, housing)

(De)/(re)-territorialisation of self

(or self reconstruction; to develop)

- **Co-constitutive processes of *unhoming, dis/emplacement***

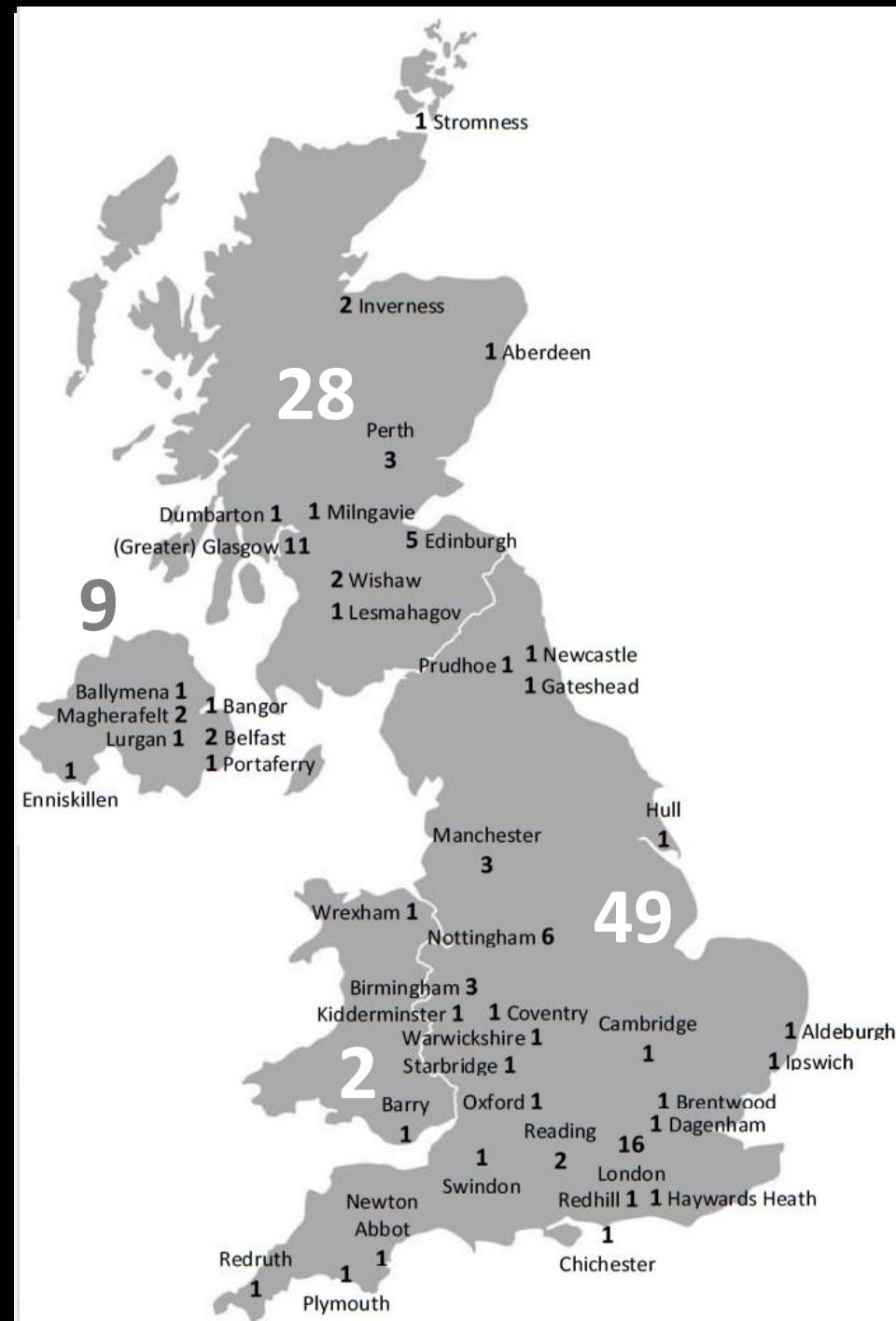


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QUALITATIVE QUESTIONNAIRES

88 responses (qualitative survey):

- Stratified sample (e.g. migration status, household income)
- Diverse sample (e.g. age, tenure, time of arrival, intention to stay)



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RO MIGRANTS

VISUAL-ELICITATION

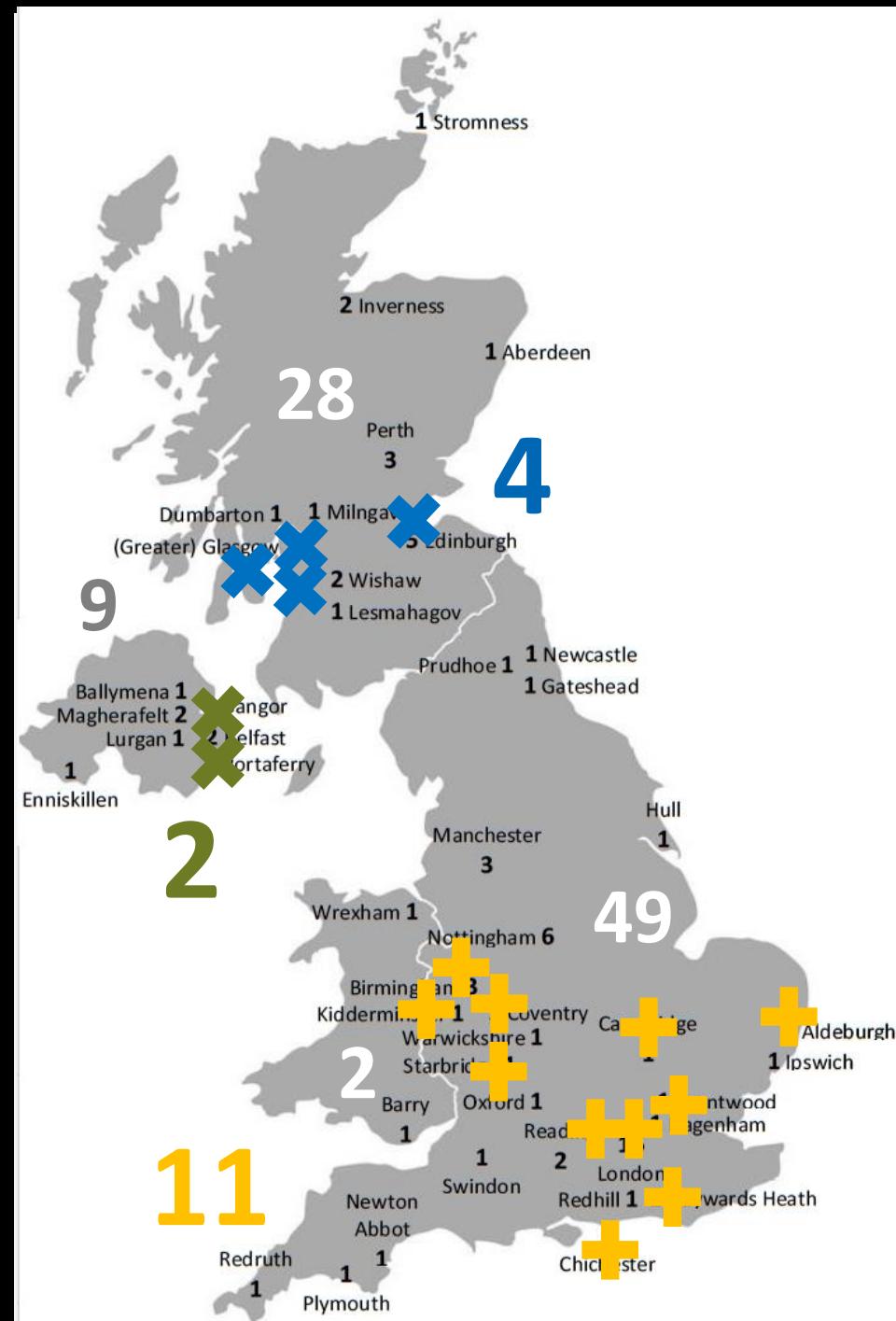
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Autoethnography

20 interviews with visual elicitation

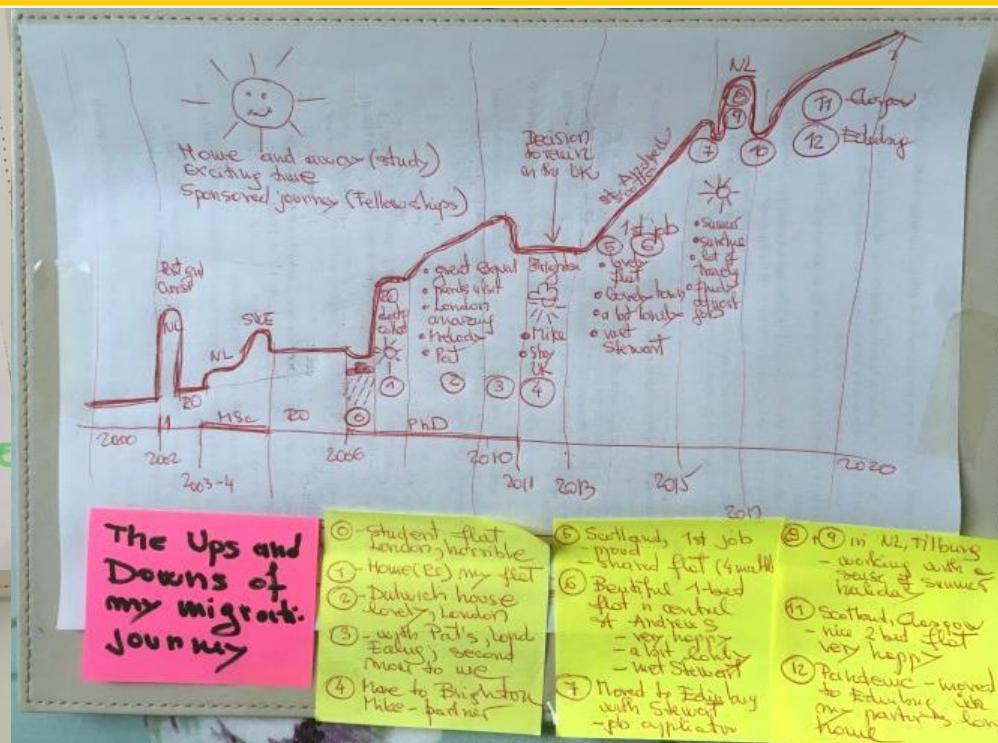
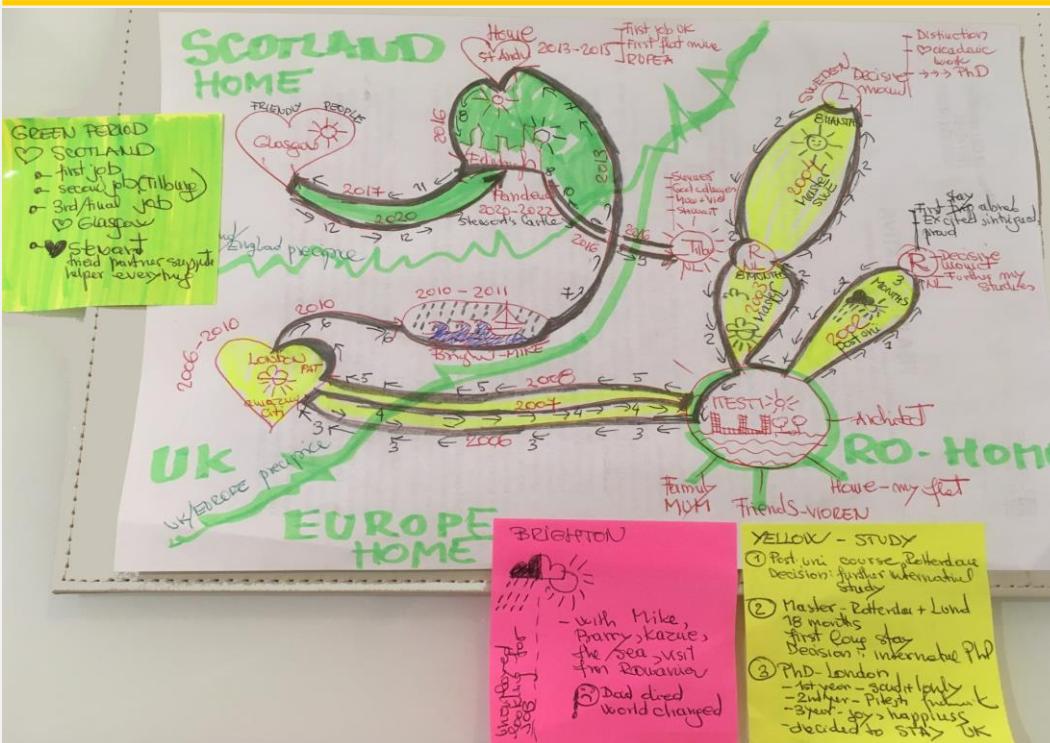
- *The river of life*
- Photos of home



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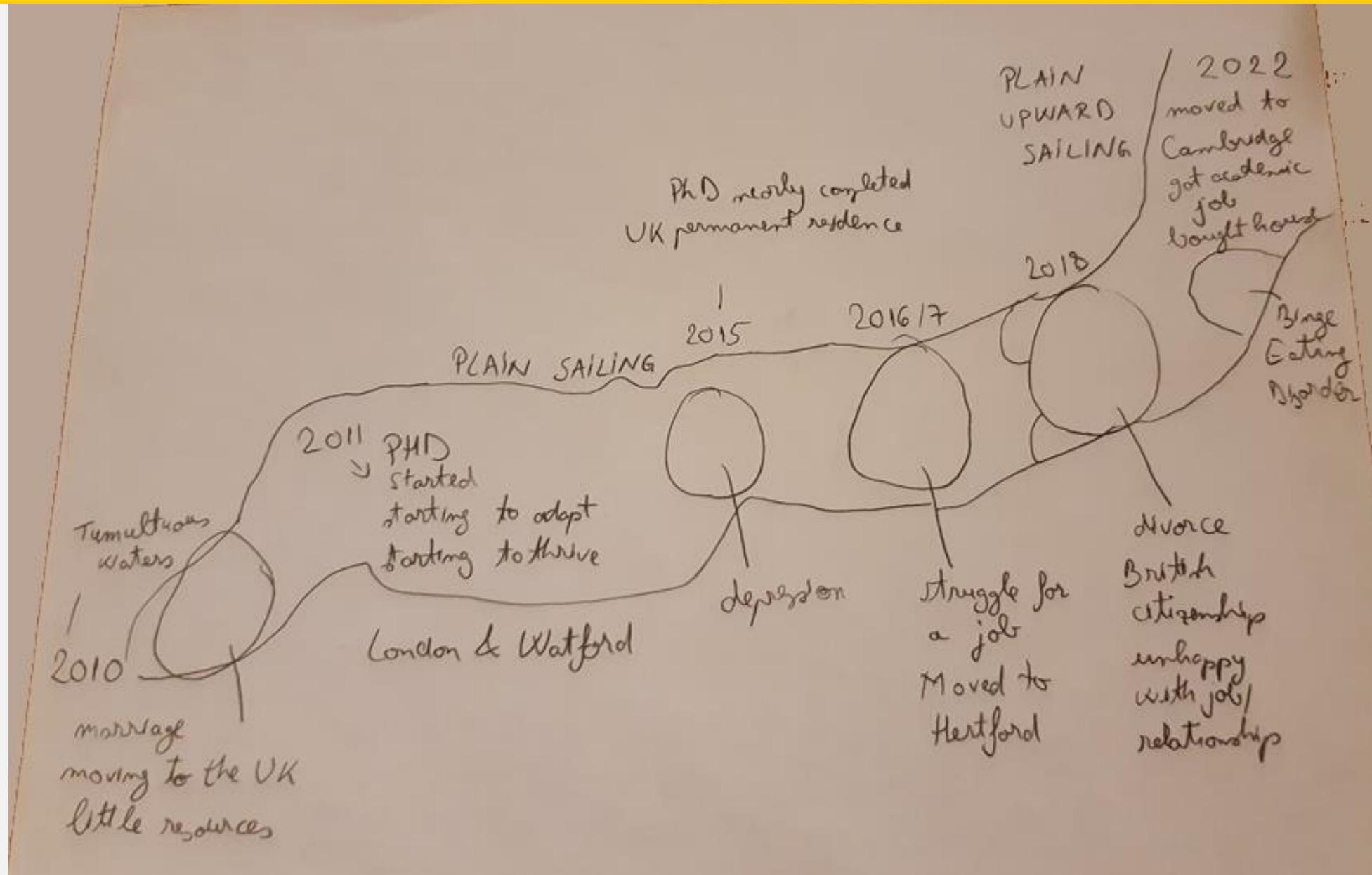
VISUAL-ELICITATION



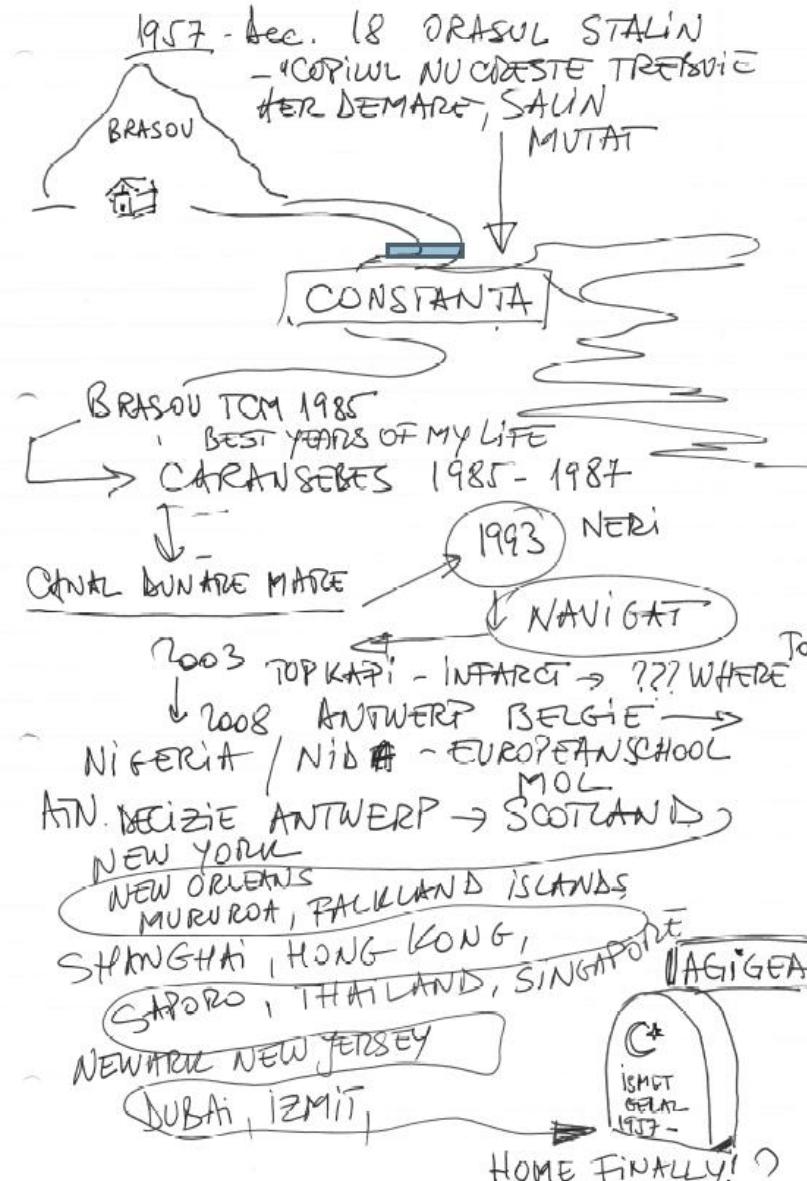
Takes time and an effort of synthesis (timeline, events; £15):

I had to recall events, decide which were more important. I wanted to show my whole life not just the UK period, as I am that whole, I never wanted to leave [Romania] and when I did, I brought the whole me, including my dog

RIVERS OF LIFE: THE RHYTHMS OF ARRHYTHMIA



RIVERS OF LIFE: EURHYTHMY (CRUISING THE LIFE)



1957 - 2008

* BU 1976 - YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW
1980 - UNIVERSITY

1985 → CARANSEBES
PORT ORF CANAL
NAVIGATE 1993 - NIDA
IN THE NAVY!
DUBAI ISTANBUL

ANTWERP BELGIE

DAMONA SHIP MOL E.S.

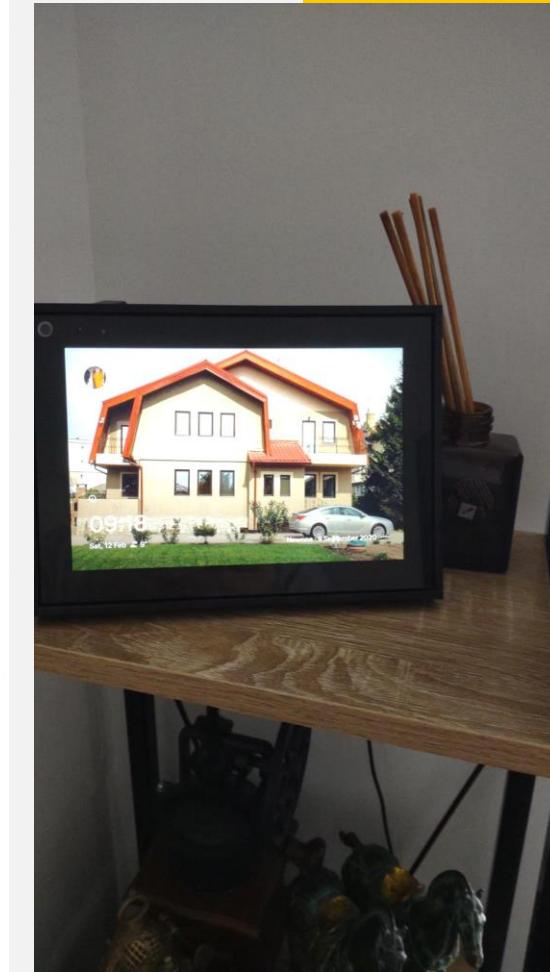
MARIFEC STABILITATE
NOUVELU AGE, VIITOR PRESTIGIU, BURGHEZIE

HARRY F....NG POTTER

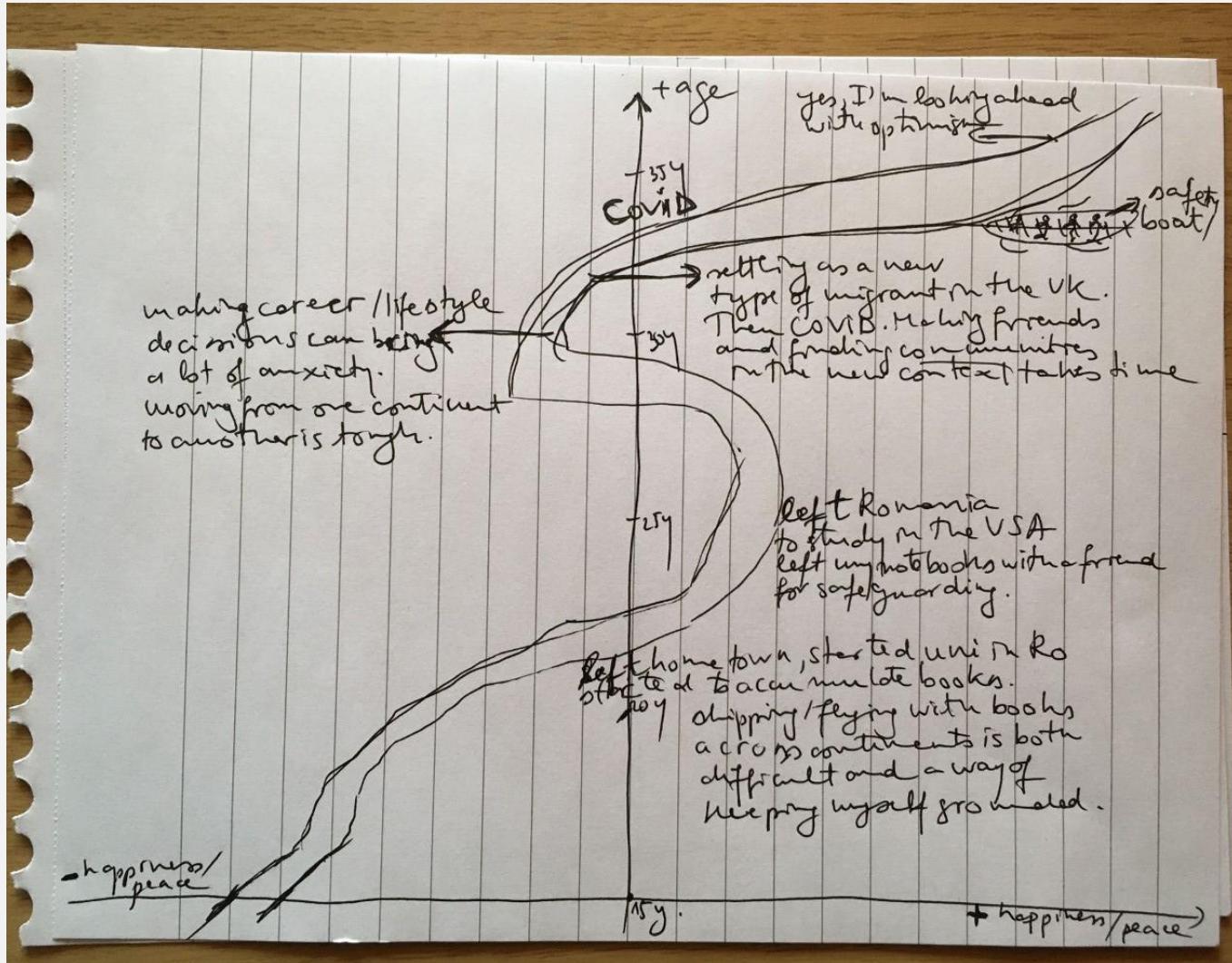
Glasgow SCOTLAND

work work work work work ---
24 APRIL 2020 IRAN → MUST
GROW IN AGIGEA
P.T. WANTS HOME

2022 July NIRVANA
AGIGEA HOME

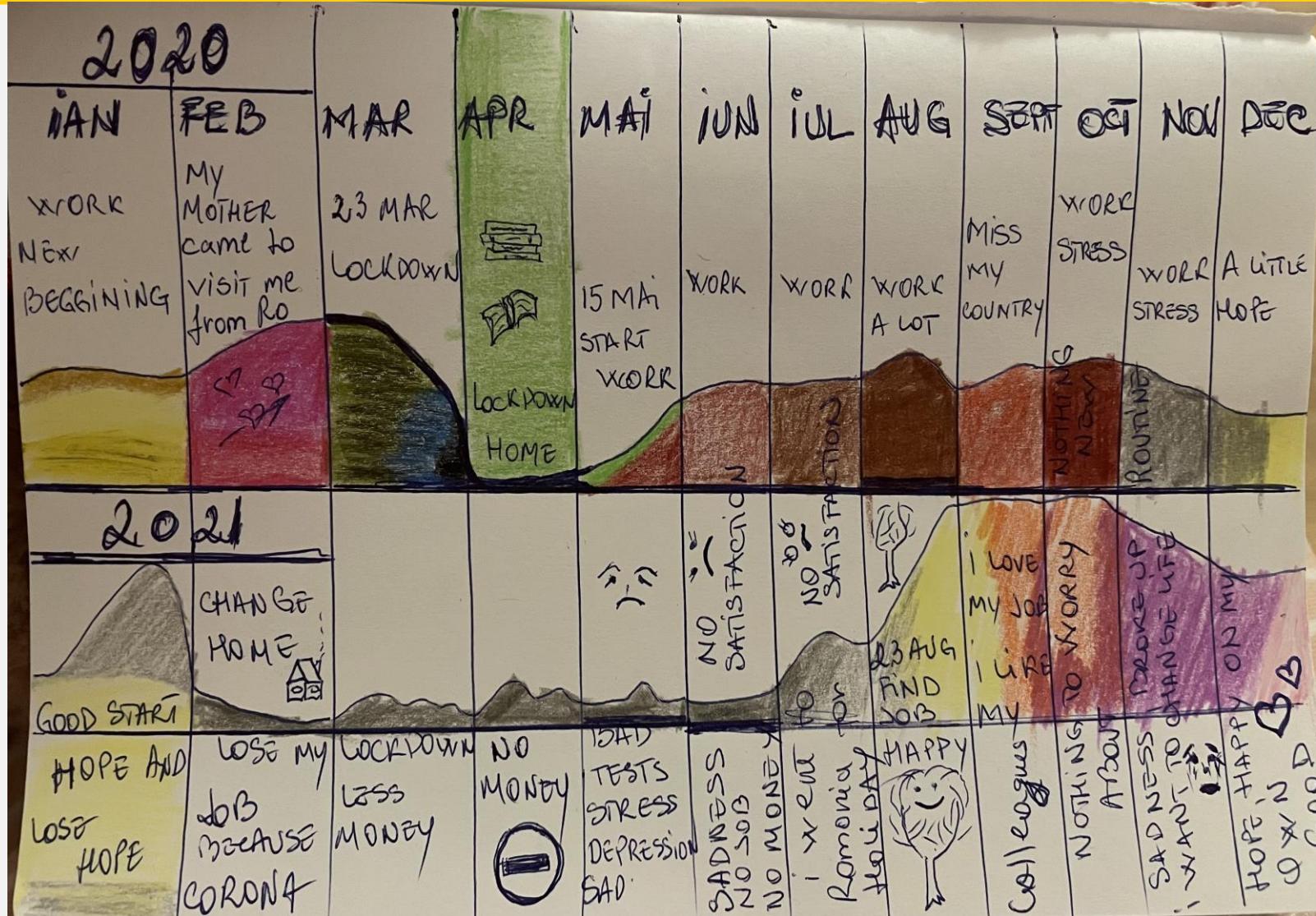


RIVERS OF LIFE: LIFE HAPPENS IS NOT PLANNED



The long sways of relatively privileged migration

RIVERS OF LIFE: LIFE HAPPENS IS NOT PLANNED



The swift rhythms of hope and disaster of precarious migration

He spent time in this magic territory, making a life, remaining as young as when he came. Until when, in error, he returned home. There, he found other people, other cities, while the old ones had changed beyond recognition; forests had changed into plains. With tears in his eyes, he searched for every pantry, every nook and cranny that reminded him of the past. He found but ruins and he noticed he now was 100 years old.

Youth without Ageing and Life without Dying
(children story by Petre Ispirescu)

Housing helps territorialise the self in the changing timespaces of migration



With my son and wife on the banks of the River Tay in [town], 200-300 m from where we live. It reminds me with pleasure of the Danube bank where I grew up in [village], Tulcea County.

Mixed cuisine and the obligatory Romanian '*mici*' on a summer day



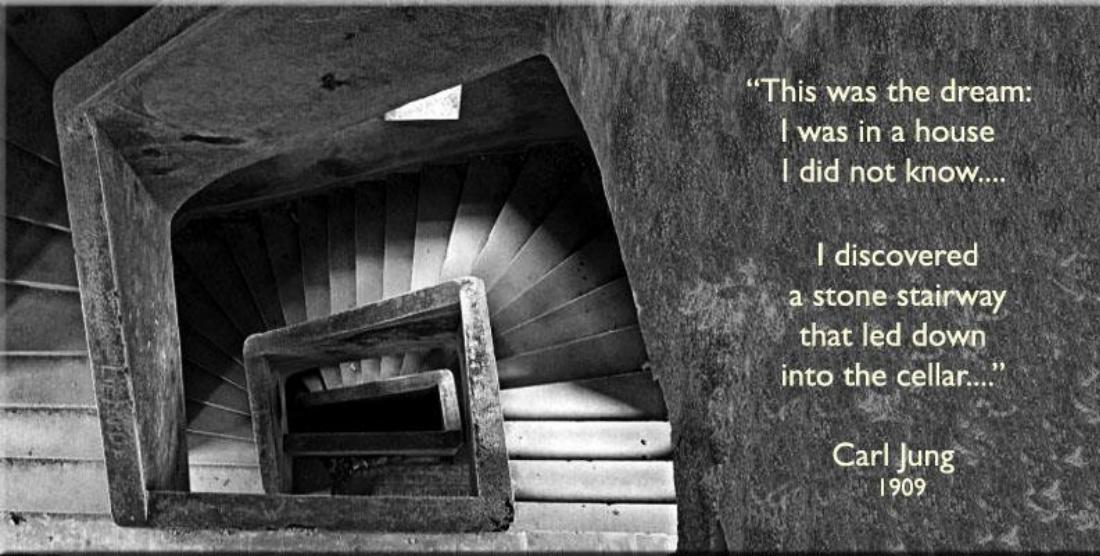
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Housing helps territorialize the self in the changing timespaces of migration



Through such practices home is continually *un/re*made, and the self *dis/em*placed in the unfolding of the cultural timespaces of migration just as a digital encounter of the transnational family emphases both nearness and distance

THE (DE)/(RE)-TERRITORIALISATION OF SELF



"This was the dream:
I was in a house
I did not know....

I discovered
a stone stairway
that led down
into the cellar...."

Carl Jung
1909

I have a recurring dream in which either one of the flats I lived in has more rooms than in reality, or I would have an extra flat compared to the two owned by my family. The feeling is not necessarily one

of abundance :) but somehow of confusion, it is not clear to me where I am or where I should be. Given this prevailing feeling of confusion, perhaps I unconsciously feel a need to be rooted, fixed in a place, as these are the values with which I was raised, even if over time I reoriented myself to value nomadism more.

This is work in progress by which I want to show that:

- The rhythms of migration trajectories speak of never ending (de)/(re)-territorialisation of the (transnational) self (which is more evident in contexts of precarious mobility)
- Migrants' dual frame of reference brings the co-constitutive processes of *unhoming* and *dis/emplacement* in the everyday (more so than in contexts of relative immobility)

Thank you