

“MOSAIC” – Documenting narratives of home, identity and (multi) belonging among young descendants of immigrants in Denmark

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ABSTRACT

In 2025, Migration Museum of Denmark launched a new project, MOSAIC, focusing on the experiences of home and identity among young descendants of immigrants (aged 15-30) in contemporary Denmark. Despite their significant presence in Danish society, their voices remain underrepresented in the national museum collections and cultural heritage narratives.

MOSAIC aims to encourage young descendants of immigrants to view their stories as part of a broader national history by collecting, sharing, and reflecting on their testimonies – to nuance prevailing understandings of (multi)belonging and to gain insights into the complex navigation between cultures, identities, and expectations which characterizes the everyday life of many the so-called “second and third generations”. Through a mix of co-creation, ethnographic methods, experience-based workshops and collaborative processes, the project investigates the intersection of relationship-building, active collecting, and user-driven interpretation. Outcomes include a co-created exhibition presented at Nørrebro Library in Copenhagen in the autumn of 2025 – an exhibition, which is also planned to be shown in other public spaces. Moreover, the project gathers data on how such participatory processes affect the participants’ perception of museums and their relevance to the younger generations.

By presenting MOSAIC as a case study, this paper reflects on how museums can shift toward more inclusive, co-creative models, which contribute to broader discussions on cultural sustainability, democratic collecting, and how to ethically document the experiences of those often absent from the museological landscape.

CV

Emma Barnhøj Jeppesen holds an MA in Cultural History from Aarhus University. She works as a historian and curator at the Migration Museum of Denmark in Farum, Denmark. The museum collects and exhibits material and immaterial testimonies from the past 500 years of migration history in Denmark. Since her employment at the museum, Emma has worked closely with collecting, outreach and co-creative projects in collaboration with various migrant communities in Denmark.