



Welcome to the Bridging Ages Conference in the border town of Dundalk. The programme will bring inputs from those working on storytelling about the recent conflict in Ireland and the development of our Peace Process as well as those from across the world. Borders are points of meeting, departure, conflict, mixing, and diversity. Borders can be barriers and they can be points of connection. Dundalk and the conference will provide opportunity to reflect on all these and more. We look forward to an interesting time and the opportunities to learn from each other.



Brian Walsh  
County Museum Dundalk



Maura Maginn  
Diversity Challenges



Will Glendinning  
Diversity Challenges



# Program for the Bridging Ages Conference, draft

## 2 June

Am **Opening speech, – Heather Humphries, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht**

Bridging Ages all over the world – Annina Ylikoski and Ebbe Westergren

**Setting the scene, dealing with contested past**, Laurence McKeown, Aftermath; Brian Walsh, County Museum Dundalk  
Music from Aftermath - Elaine Agnew

Pm Two parallel workshops, each workshop has short presentations and common discussions

### 1. A Place and its Story, to give places meaning for people of today

EU Grundtvig project involving seven European countries:

Hafnarfjörður Museum, Iceland; Humansitische Fotografie, Berlin, Germany; Goldap Community Foundation, Poland; BARK, Ostrobothnian Childrens Cultural Network, Finland; Kalmar County Museum, Sweden; Vormingplus Antwerpen Region, Belgium

### 2. Diversity of stories, forgotten, hidden, old and new

Presentations from Agrita Ozola, Tukums Museum, Latvia; Tlou Setumu, Robben Island Museum, South Africa; Coral Bijoux, Voices of the Women Museum, South Africa; Saara Vesikansa, Finnish Network of Children's Cultural Centres; Mari Østhaug Møystad, Glomdal Museum and Ann-Mari Larsen, Queen Maude University, Trondheim, Norway

Evening Bus trip to the small historical town of Carlingford

## 3 June

This day is focused on **exploration of the Time Travel method**, a Time Travel in the morning and several aspects on the Time Travel method in the afternoon

Am **Time Travel, "Safety and/or Profit", 1889 seaside excursion by train**, (supported by Dundalk Railway Heritage Group)

Pm Two parallel workshops on the Time Travel method, each workshop has short presentations and common discussions

### 1. The Time Travel method and Social Cohesion

Presentations from Emma Angelin-Holmén and Tina Lindström, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden; Rajendran Govender, Department of Arts and Culture, KZN, South Africa; Jabulani Phelago, Freedom Park, South Africa; Douglas Muwonge and Semakula Samson, Entebbe Municipality, Uganda; Cecile Franchetti, Venice, Italy; Radikobo Ntsimane, KwaZulu Natal Museum Service, South Africa

### 2. The Time Travel method and Education

Presentations from Mattias Norrgrann and Kalle Granberg, Korsholm Secondary School, Finland; Marguerite Miheso O'Connor and Mary Nasibi, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya; Maria Rickardsson, Kerstin Carlsson and Teresia Clifford, Church of Sweden; Eva-Marie Backnäs, Victoria Nylund and Annika Harjula-Eriksson, Stundars Museum, Finland, Kaari Siemer, Tartu City Museum, Estonia; Floyd Dipale, Seiphemelo Secondary School, Ikageng, South Africa

Even **Irish music night**

## 4 June

This day is focused on **Storytelling innovative methods**, addressing issues of conflict and promoting reconciliation, **use of drama and art**

Am **Diversity Challenges Green and Blue Project**

Presentations from Michelle Maloney, Patrick Donnelly, International Police Association Ireland; Gloria Aduaidh, Northern Voices; Lydia Kitungulu and Ivan Lagat, National Museums of Kenya

Pm **Kabosh Theatre**, Verbal Arts Centre, Use of drama to promote dialogue on contentious issues

## 5 June

09.00 **Excursion**, Depart Dundalk

Am, **Tour along the border**, Current day view of what was contested space, visiting sites of incidents, memorials

Pm, **Tour to Belfast** and the Peace Walls interfaces of the City

17.00 Back in Dundalk

Conference fee: 200 euros, Excursion: 50 euros

**Registration, accommodation and updated information on the Bridging Ages website: [www.bridgingages.com](http://www.bridgingages.com)**



## Migration – a uniting theme for a Time Travel

My village, like most of the villages south of Vasa, Finland, has an association dealing with the local cultural heritage. Except for collecting old objects in our museum we organize activities for young and old. In the spring we invite children in kindergarten to meet elderly people, 80 plus. Also the grade five pupils come to our museum, to talk about interesting people from the past, old customs and items and we arrange Time Travels for them.

But for pupils in secondary school there has been nothing! In the area there are four cultural heritage associations. Last autumn we invited the chairmen to a discussion with the history teachers at school and The Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network BARK. We decided to organize a Time Travel for secondary school, to the year 1903 when the emigration to America from our region was enormous. The 86 pupils, grade 8, age 14, were divided into two Time Travels, one day for each Time Travel. We had seven activities; each of the heritage associations was responsible for one, BARK for one, a teacher another and in the last activity, playing old games, we shared responsibilities. It was up to each association to find people from their village to lead and also the items needed. Everybody was eager to join.

We applied for funding to be able to carry out the two Time Travels. And we got the funding!

Two weeks before the Time Travel all stakeholders met at the open air museum to be acquainted with the area, the buildings and with each other.

We spent two interesting days at the open-air museum! The discussions with the pupils were intensive, and the pupils were old enough to understand different problems facing emigrants. In this school there are also pupils from foreign countries, for instance from Burma, Thailand and Russia, and we wanted them to learn what it was like in Finland in those days. A mother told me afterwards, that they had never discussed emigration and relatives at home, the way they did after the Time Travel!

This cooperation will continue. Every autumn, the four associations, together with the secondary school and BARK, will arrange a new Time Travel for the pupils, grade 8. We want to meet and share our knowledge of old customs with the new generation, to make them aware of the cultural heritage and of migration, now and then.

**Margareta Björkholm, Petalax Cultural Heritage Association, Finland**



A lot of preparations, washing the clothes, to be ready to leave Finland for America, Time Travel 1903.

# The Relevance of the Time Travel Concept in South Africa

*"It is a serious indictment that our children do not know the men and women who brought about democracy and freedom. We need to work together to tell the story of where we come from and celebrate our heroes."* Minister of Arts and Culture, Hon. Nathi Mthethwa is highlighting the need for platforms to educate the generation of today on our history and how it has shaped the democracy and freedom we enjoy today. It is against this backdrop that the Department of Arts Culture on behalf of the South African government finds an impactful resonance to the relevance of the Time Travel concept.

## Rebuild a divided society

The Time Travel method has the potential to help rebuild a divided society, creating reconciliation, nation building and social cohesion. It provides an active participation, creates awareness and interaction with heritage. The benefit of the Time Travel method is to recognize the value of our democracy and freedom, and to understand how events in the past has on today's society. As Deputy Minister Ms. Mabudafhasi explained during her keynote address at the Time Travel Conference in Pretoria, 3 March 2015 that, *"Every community in South Africa has a story to tell, for example, how they were affected by apartheid and how they fought against it, but it is also the story of how diverse people in terms of race, culture and religion came together to fight the apartheid scourge. These are important stories to tell. These stories transcend time and space."*

## Social Cohesion and Nation Building

Time Travel unpacks the concept of social cohesion and nation building and how it is rooted in the experiences and history of South Africa: where we come from as a country, where we are going as a nation and the kind of society we need in the future.

October/ November 2014 and February/ March 2015, eight workshops on the Time Travel method, including Time Travel events and training, were organized in the Gauteng and North West Provinces in South Africa. The Time Travel workshops were held for various heritage institutions/museums and involved local communities, youth and adults. The workshops reflected on the journey on the fight against apartheid and also the democracy we enjoy today and the future society we wish to have.

One learner said after the Time Travel event to 1976 at the former prison at Constitution Hill, Johannesburg: *"I can now understand why commemorating our freedom and honouring our history is important"*.

## Expand the Time Travel Concept

Currently, out of nine Provinces in South Africa, Bridging Ages South Africa has chapters in four. There is a proposal to expand to other provinces. Several Time Travel workshops and events are planned in the near future in various parts of South Africa.

**Nnaniki Malesa, Department of Arts and Culture, South Africa**



Discussions on the Mamelodi massacre 1985 and how to express the hopes and dreams in Mamelodi today - in a speech, a poem or a song.



Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Rejoice Mabudafhasi greets Ebbe Westergren, also Pertunia Tshweu and Louise Graham, Dep. Arts and Culture.



## TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Department of Arts and Culture, South Africa, together with Kalmar läns museum and members of Bridging Ages South Africa, organized training sessions in the Time Travel method for five heritage institutions/ museums in Johannesburg and Pretoria and surroundings in 2014 and 2015 – Freedom Park, Constitution Hill, Voortrekker Monument, Hector Pieterse/ Kliptown Museum and Tlokwe Time Travel Committee. The trained Time Travel team in each of the organizations will now implement the Time Travel method further within their own organization and together.

## BRIDGING AGES SOUTH AFRICA CONFERENCE

The training sessions ended with a three-day national conference at Freedom Park, Pretoria, 3-5 March 2015. Organizers of the conference were Department of Arts and Culture and Freedom Park together with Bridging Ages South Africa and Kalmar läns museum with support from the Swedish Arts Council and the Swedish Embassy in Pretoria. This was the 4th national Bridging Ages South Africa conference, 110 delegates from all over the country. The conference Time Travel was focused on the Mamelodi massacre in 1985 with several representatives from Mamelodi community.



Time Travel, Johannesburg Prison (Constitution Hill) 1976. An engaged moment between a female prisoner and the matron warder



Time Travel, Freedom Charter, Kliptown 1955. Free and equal education for all!



Jabulani Phelago, Freedom Park/ Chairperson, Bridging Ages South Africa, in front of learners from Mamelodi schools

### **Some words on the conference Time Travel, the Mamelodi massacre 1985:**

*"It was a deeply spiritual experience. I had goosebumps for most of this experience. It is emblazed in my memory forever. Time Travel is the best way to make history interactive, memorable and honoured".*

Bontle Mokoka, Constitution Hill

*"The Time Travel experience is more profound and long lasting as one impersonate those before us. It assists with charting and forging the concept of social cohesion and reconciliation, and also in trying to find solutions of challenges in our societies."*

Matshidiso Faith Motubatsi, Mamelodi community

*"I will never forget it. I was really blown away by the debt of the learners' engagement".*

Louise Graham, Chief Director, Department of Arts and Culture



Spiritual healing ceremony around the Isivivane, Freedom Park; a magical moment in the conference Time Travel on the Mamelodi massacre



# Bridging Ages Western Kenya

## Background

Maseno University and Kisumu museum in western Kenya have cooperated with Linneaus University and Kalmar läns museum, Sweden, since 2012. Two Time Travels have been organized at the Kisumu railway station, 1973, using Mathematics in the Historic Environment. Representatives from Maseno University and Kisumu museum took part in the Bridging Ages conference in Ngurunit last year and, coming back, decided to start a secretariat of Bridging Ages Western Kenya.



Participants of the conference and the launch of Bridging Ages Western Kenya at Kisumu museum.

## Conference in Kisumu

4th February 2015, Maseno University and Kisumu museum organized a conference in Kisumu as a way to launch Bridging Ages Western Kenya. The 70 attendees were university lecturers, museum officials, education officers, teachers of primary and secondary schools, religious leaders, college students, primary and secondary school pupils and also visitors from Linneaus University and Kalmar läns museum. The presentation modes ranged from academic research presentations, discussions, dance and song. The mix in attendance and presentations were in itself a "Bridging of Ages".

## Presentations and Group Discussions

In the key note address, the Director of Education's representative noted that an organisation like Bridging Ages will enable the ministry to use the community as a resource, through support, goodwill and co-operation. She encouraged mathematics teachers to use local heritage in mathematics education.

Other presentations were on "The Mean Score Syndrome" which has turned learners into examination robots; on "Dysfunctional Parenthood", on "Transferable Knowledge", our children are going to school, but are they learning? and "Parental Loss". There were also presentations on the Time Travel method, Mathematics in the Historic Environment and from the Muslim and Christian communities.

Group Discussions: When do I learn best? Respect and values? Challenges facing Kisumu and how to address them? Heritage sites in Kisumu? Contribution of mathematics and heritage to education and community?

## Conclusion and way forward

Many good ideas came from the group discussions, both challenges and opportunities. Maybe focus on a theme like diversity or communication in the future? The participants agreed on formalizing Bridging Ages, Western Kenya, bringing together the University, Colleges, Museum, Primary schools, Secondary schools, the Education Office and religious leaders. More than 50 participants wrote their names as a sign of commitment, the birth of Bridging Ages, Western Kenya. BAWK can be used to bridge the gap between different communities in Kisumu town and in the whole of Western Kenya.



Dr Mildred Ayere, Maseno University

**Mildred Ayere**

For the Secretariat of Bridging Ages Western Kenya

## Bridging Ages Nigeria

Bridging Ages in Nigeria has just come on board the Bridging Ages Organization. It happened after the Bridging Ages International Conference in northern Kenya 2014

### How It All Come About

I was browsing the internet and saw the advert and details for the Bridging Ages conference in Ngurunit. I immediately wrote to Mr. Ebbe Westergren whether the conference was relevant to me as a Librarian by profession and he replied that it was. Then I talked to one of my colleagues and he picked interest, so I paid for the conference fee and accommodation and an invitation letter was sent to us.

### The Ngurunit Conference

The Ngurunit conference was my first time to attend a Bridging Ages Conference and I learnt a lot. The conference was well organized right from day one, when we had a warm welcome by the Branch members. I felt a spirit of gentleness from everybody. The organizational skills and strategies, teamwork and commitment, to ensure success of an international conference in a remote setting, were wonderful. I also experienced how a community can come together to make their environment a better place to stay. I am glad I was able to attend the Ngurunit conference. It gave me inspiration to form a Bridging Ages organization in Nigeria.

### The start of Bridging Ages Nigeria

When we came back from the conference, we presented a report to our Polytechnic Institute and based on that, our Rector advised us to form Bridging Ages in Nigeria with nuclear base in Nasarawa Polytechnic Institute.

We put up a notice inviting people for a take-off meeting. We briefed the audience of what Bridging Ages is all about, how we came to know about Bridging Ages and the conference in Kenya.

Many people were interested to join. So we decided to form Bridging Ages Nigeria with base at Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa, Nasarawa State, Nigeria

### Future plans

We plan to spread Bridging Ages to the immediate Nasarawa Community, that is the local government level, then to the States level and gradually to the National level. We also want to have a closer cooperation with the National Commission for Monument and Museum in Nigeria. We need to develop fund raising strategies and create good international relations with Bridging Ages International.

**Adamu B. Mshelia**  
**Acting Coordinator**  
**Bridging Ages Nigeria**  
**Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa**  
**Nasarawa State**  
**Nigeria**





## An important step for Time Travels in Manisa, Turkey

20th of January 2015 a Time Travel to 1533 was organized for 60 people at the Darüssifa, the old Ottoman hospital, in Manisa, Turkey. 60 university students and teachers from Celal Bayar University participated, with support from Manisa municipality.

In the 1530s the healthy Mesir paste was created at the Darüssifa by Merkez Efendi for Hafsa Sultan who was seriously sick. In the Time Travel scenario people are coming to the hospital for medication and treatment, but some of them more out of curiosity. On Fridays food is also given to the needy.

All participants had a chance to learn about social and cultural life in the Ottoman Empire in 1533. They connected to the past, but through the key questions on "Passion and diseases" also to today, and realized that much of the worries and problems are still the same.

The evaluations and reflections after the Time Travel were very positive. As this was the first Time Travel with Celal Bayar University, it was an important step forward. It gives new opportunities for Bridging Ages Turkey and for future Time Travels in Manisa.

### Ebru Iltenmis, Manisa, Bridging Ages Turkey



Editor: Helen Eklund ([helen eklund@kalmarlansmuseum.se](mailto:helen eklund@kalmarlansmuseum.se))

Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden - president of the Bridging Ages Organization.  
[ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se](mailto:ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se)

Kalmar County Museum, Box 104, 391 21 Kalmar, Sweden. Tel: + 46 480 45 13 45

Layout: Stefan Siverud, Kalmar County Museum

To be part of the mailing list, subscribe to the newsletter or send your contributions,  
please e-mail [ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se](mailto:ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se)

Next newsletter September 2015

[www.bridgingages.com](http://www.bridgingages.com)

 Find us at Facebook: Bridging Ages International