

Newsletter
May 2024



International Conference – Call for Papers

Re:Action

- Time Travels in a changing world.

29-31st Jan 2025 Kalmar County, Sweden

Kalmar County Museum and Bridging Ages International invites you to the Bridging Ages conference 2025 hosted in Vimmerby, Kalmar County, Sweden.

It is now 20 years since the first international Bridging Ages conference was held in 2004 in Vimmerby. This conference will highlight the Time Travel Method: Historical Development, Lasting Impact and New Initiatives.

The goals of this conference include creating interdisciplinary and multi-national exchanges and using the past to improve the future.

We invite heritage professionals, educators, students, and scholars from museums, universities and schools, heritage organizations, living history programs, and any other field of study to submit a proposal for a paper.

We invite papers and presentations about:

- How the Time Travel Method has changed over the years in correlation to society and how communities have changed as a result of Time Travels.
- The impact of Time Travels from 2004 until now.
- Projects and structures that are in the beginning of their development.
- Experimental and alternative ways the the Time Travel Method has been applied.
- Looking to the future, what digital solutions can help us further develop Time Travels around the world?

Please send your proposal to linda.liljeberg@kalmarlansmuseum.se Deadline: 30th Sept 2024 and include the title, a 250-word abstract, and a short biography about yourself.



In this Newsletter you can read about two international projects where teachers traveled to get new inspiration and work with the Time Travel Method. Through an Erasmus+ project, Estonian teachers travelled to Sweden. In another article you can read about an Atlas project where schools from Port Shepstone, South Africa and Borgholm, Sweden cooperate using the Time Travel method. You can also read about Philani Gcaba who that just started his PhD about *Reflecting on teacher-learner stories in using the Time Travel educational method, globally*.

Working together to create fun and unforgettable memories with the Time Travel method



Estonian teachers recently embarked on a study trip to Sweden to learn about the Time Travel method from experts in Kalmar County museum and to exchange insights and experiences.

An Erasmus+ project enabled a group of teachers from Audentes School to participate in the interactive course. The project underlined the importance of international cooperation in educational practices, encouraging a shared commitment to enhancing learning through historical immersion.

Kalmar museum specialists and also the best time travelers in the world, Linda Liljeberg and Adam Norman provided the teachers a crash course on the Time Travel method, giving an overview of the main principles of the method, and an introduction to different kinds of time travel. They were also able to visit the museum's impressive and extensive props and costume storage. The theoretical part was

followed by practical tasks. We took part in different workshops that are part of various time travels starting with the Stone Age and ending up in the future.

The following day, teachers had a great opportunity to take part in a Time Travel on the island of Öland. At Borgholm Castle, a Time Travel took participants to the year 1651. According to the scenario, the local



residents had gathered for preparatory work, because the expected future king, Duke Karl Gustav, is expected at the castle. This was an exceptional way to see how the theory is put to practice, pupils learned by engaging in different activities and using different senses. As educators who work in schools, it was very impressive to see several subjects being engaged to the workshop: there was barely a curricular topic that was not covered in the time travel.

In this time travel, the Audentes teachers assumed the role of guests from an overseas province of the kingdom of Sweden, their second largest city: Tallinn. Every teacher contributed to the time travel with their own experiences and their academic knowledge, which shows that Time Travel allows us to intertwine all sorts of different topics and subjects.

After the Time Travel, the museum and school workers reflected on their experiences, pointing out similarities and differences in Time Travels they had previously seen. The teachers found the entire experience to be very inspirational and encouraging.

Thanks to the study trip they will be more willing to indulge in practicing more varied methods in their lessons, collaborate with

museums and engage different senses while learning.

All the theoretical and practical knowledge we accumulated will be used in an upcoming Time Travel. In the autumn of 2024 Audentes School with Estonian National Museum are going to travel to the year of 1944 a very important year in our history. This will be the 6th national Time Travel event. The idea for the 1944 Time Travel came about during project DISAH in 2022.

The trip highlights the crucial role of international cooperation in education, demonstrating how shared knowledge and experiences can lead to innovative teaching methods and enriched learning environments.

We would like to thank the Kalmar museum and especially Linda and Adam, for a fun learning experience and we would recommend this kind of study trip to anyone interested.

Pille Rohtla, Made Isak



International Collaboration : Port Shepstone, South Africa and Borgholm, Sweden

In 2019, Christina Larsson, teacher in Borgholm, Sweden, was inspired when she met international delegates, including a representative from the Port Shepstone Twinning Association, during an academic course in Kalmar, Sweden. This course was a collaborative effort between Kalmar County Museum and Linnaeus University, coordinated by Ebbe Westergren. The encounter sparked a vision for a pilot exchange programme focused on mathematics and natural science, which led to a successful funding application.

The pilot programme's exceptional outcomes secured renewed funding for the second year. Although the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily halted physical exchanges, virtual discussions on Zoom maintained the momentum. Since September 2022, two successful exchanges have taken place, demonstrating the programme's resilience and dedication to its goals.

Experimental learning in action

During the Time Travel events in both countries, the delegation engaged in a fruitful exchange of music and dance, showcasing the rich heritage of both countries. Additionally,



The delegation from Port Shepstone, South Africa: Philani Gcaba- educator and learners, Siyamthanda Gumede and Wenzile Karabo Lentoa from Ingwemabala Technical High School together with Rosey Mudaly, an educator from Marburg Primary School had the privilege to participate in Time Travel



they explored various activities, including craft, speech writing, washing, and artwork, all around the theme of water as an energy source. This theme resonated deeply with all participants.

It was interesting to note the learners enthusiasm during an activity on measurements, integrating Maths and Science, bridging the gap between theoretical classroom learning and practical application in a historical context. This experiential learning approach had a profound impact on both educators and learners, making the subject matter more accessible and engaging.

In the Time Travel event in Sweden, they were awaiting Queen Victoria's arrival to her summer residence Solliden, Oland, Sweden. This experience brought together visitors from diverse backgrounds, all united by a shared interest in learning about each other's cultures. The programme was managed by Kalmar lans museum.

Educators Christina Larsson and Jonas Boberg together with learners Julia Norén and Sanna Martinsson participated in a Time Travel,

Betania Mission 1912 , South Africa during this exchange in October 2023 . The Time Travel at Betania Mission is significant as the school Ingwemabala Technical High School was established by the Swedish missionary in the late 1800's. Marburg Primary School was an associate school participated in the exchange. The programme was co-ordinated by Port Shepstone Twinning Association and supported by community stakeholders, volunteers and families.

Time Travel at Betania Mission highlighted the significance of harnessing water as a renewable energy source, echoing the goals of the Time Travel programme in Sweden. This shared focus emphasizes the importance of addressing global challenges through education and collaboration. The Time Travel aimed to explore the importance of lifelong learning, with a focus on subjects such as Natural Science, Mathematics, Social Science, and English. The learners delved into topics like energy and change, space and shape measurements, and the significance of local heritage sites.

Programme Impact

The programme aims to foster good collaborative relationships in Teaching and Learning, share ideas in classroom management and school leadership, promote a deeper understanding of diverse cultures and learning through the Time Travel programme.

By achieving these goals, the programme strives to create a more interconnected and compassionate world, one partnership at a time. The programme's objectives are centred around building bridges between nations, cultures, educators, learners and communities. This facilitates the sharing of best practices and enriching the educational experience for all participants. By doing so, it aims to make a positive impact on the global educational community.

The impact of this initiative extends beyond the school community, with visits and interactions involving parents, siblings, and the wider community. In both countries, delegates were warmly welcomed to homes of participants

and wider community, fostering lasting connections that transcend traditional school exchanges.

The delegation observed diverse teaching methods in various subjects and educators were active participants in teaching classes in both countries. The learners' active participation exemplified the collaborative spirit, demonstrating that effective teaching transcends borders and cultures. These experiences reinforce the importance of collaboration in education, highlighting the value of sharing knowledge, adapting new methods, and fostering a global community of learners.

Reflections

Reflection by learners Siyamthanda and Wenzile:

"I have learnt about history of Sweden and the Time Travel event was my highlight because I could see and feel how people have lived in the past that affects us now. We have enjoyed the Time Travel event, learnt about Swedish history, it was fun and educational. Learnt Swedish music, dance and will teach fellow classmates at school. The programme instilled love for agriculture, crafts and sewing. we wish these subjects to be brought back to our school.



South African learners are dressed in traditional Zulu attire during the exchange in Sweden

Whatever we have learnt will be shared with our peers in South Africa."

Reflection from learners Julia Norén and Sanna Martinsson.

"It was a really great experience. We had a lot of fun and learnt a lot. The people were very welcoming and absolutely the best part about the trip. We got to know so many amazing people and their culture. It was an educational trip where we got to know new things about the school systems in a completely different part of the world. We liked how the learners encouraged each other to answer questions and to learn. The learners are interested and focused during the lessons."

Time travel is a fun way too learn ... You learn a lot when you do it practically and even learners that have a hard time in school can learn from it. We really enjoyed that the time travel in South Africa because it helped with the feeling of being in 1912. To do the time travel in different groups with different activities was good. The Swedish time travel was also great and that you were able to switch groups was fun because you could try different things."

The programme has benefits for the learners, teachers, and parents. It is educational, inspiring, and informative. Learners have started to write to each other as pen pals

where teachers and parents monitor the chats. Parents also have started to write as friends, and this is interesting. Teachers have exchanged worksheets, teaching methods and shared teaching stories and experiences.

Educators also echo's Rosey Mudaly sentiments:

'My participation in the Time Travel exercise at the castle was a remarkable experience that paralleled our efforts in South Africa. The Time Travel event at the castle resonated deeply with our own initiatives aimed at supporting education. This shared passion for cultural education and applied heritage programme has strengthened my resolve to continue driving positive change in our country.'

In conclusion, Christina, the programme coordinator, reflected that the programme has had a profound impact on their lives, enriching them in numerous ways- new friends, new ideas and new insights. To get to know and learn from other cultures is essential today. Important for more learners to have the opportunity to be engaged in Time Travel activities, it is important for education and knowledge of one's heritage.

Collective compilation by:
Christina Larsson, Philani Gcaba,
Rosey Mudaly and Gulshera Khan



GCABA PHILANI's, PhD on Reflecting on teacher-learner stories in using the Time Travel educational method, globally.

Philani Gcaba, South Africa, have recently started his PhD, KwaZulu Natal University, Edgewood, Pinetown, South Africa, and now is he looking for contacts and other researchers within the network.

What is your research topic?

Reflecting on teacher-learner stories in using the Time Travel educational method, globally.

What is your personal motivation for the study?

The Rationale for the study is two-fold, one is personal the other is professional. Firstly, I have noticed and witnessed that teaching and learning when it is done outside the class, it is more meaningful, fun, and interesting. Whatever is learnt and taught in that setting, will linger in the minds of the learners for longer. I believe that this study will indicate that teaching and learning cannot only take place in class and that different teaching methods can bring favourable results. I want to indicate that Time Travel method can bring about change in different school contexts.



Reflecting on teacher-learner stories in using the Time Travel educational method, could give core evidence that this method enhances teaching and learning.

Secondly, as a Time Travel School Facilitator, and a member of PSTA, this study will provide me with a platform to expose this to other teachers so that the method is tried and tested. With this understanding, I will be able to spread this concept world-wide for the benefit of schools, Bridging Ages network, PSTA and the community at large. All recordings and transcripts collected using interviews during data collection will be kept in the archives of UKZN and PSTA. No publication to be used for personal gain or to be shared elsewhere.

I have also noticed that there is not much literature specifically written about Time Travel thus I motivate the network of friends to write articles about this phenomenon for future referrals.

Philani Gcaba: gcabaphilani93@gmail.com

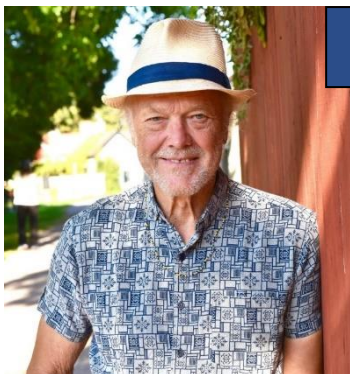
Thanks to PTSA for allowing me to undertake the study and using the already established data sources. I also thank Ebbe, Adam, Linda, PhD Gustav for according to me a platform to find help and by giving me ideas on data sources and angles to pursue.

Invitation to Webinar:

Time Travels in the academic world.

There are many researchers connected to Bridging Ages network. Bridging Ages International and Kalmar läns museum invite you to a webinar mid Oct 2024.

More information on www.bridgingages.com in September.



Ebbes Corner, What is the Time Travel method?

This is what 35 Time Travel experts from several Bridging Ages countries agreed on after three days of extensive discussions in Pretoria, South Africa March 2016.

What does this mean when you develop Time Travels in your organization, at your place? What is the important local heritage, site and story? What is the contemporary issue to highlight and discuss in the Time Travel?

Next newsletter: The goal of the Time Travel Method. What do we want to achieve? To be continued...

The Time Travel method is

- an educational method,
- using local heritage in a learning process,
- to create reflection on contemporary issues,
- and provide tools for community building

Yours Honorary President
Ebbe Westergren



International collaboration is essential for achieving common goals

International collaboration is indispensable for achieving common goals and fostering global

understanding. Through such partnerships, teachers can enhance their professional skills, including advanced lesson presentations, innovative teaching methods, and a deeper understanding of their roles and responsibilities. This benefits learners by broadening their cultural awareness, promoting unity and equality, developing teamwork and collaboration skills, and enhancing their confidence and self-esteem.

Moreover, schools and communities can gain global recognition, share innovative ideas, and benefit from economic opportunities. In South Africa, international collaboration and

partnerships have been instrumental in promoting unity and social cohesion among diverse populations, healing historical wounds, and embracing the spirit of 'UBUNTU' (humanity towards others). Over three decades the Port Shepstone Twinning Association and numerous exchange programmes have demonstrated the power of international collaboration in fostering a more harmonious and interconnected world, fostering a culture of mutual respect.

***Gulshera Khan**, former President of Bridging Ages International, has spent three decades championing international collaborative projects. Her extensive experience has equipped her with a unique understanding of the transformative power of global partnerships.*



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Layout and editor: Kalmar läns museum. linda.liljeberg@kalmarlansmuseum.se

English edit: Gulshera Khan, Scott Green