

Report from the 18th International Conference,



Conference opening by Örjan Molander, Museum Director and Linda Liljeberg President Bridging Ages

On the 4-5th March participants from 14 countries met for Bridging Ages 18th International Conference. The Conference was hosted as a hybrid conference by Kalmar County Museum and Bridging Ages International in Kalmar, Sweden. On site were 36 delegates with another 51 online.

During the Conference, the focus was both on the past 20 years as well as new adaptations and new ideas. We had presenters both on site and online. This made it easier for members and presenters to participate regardless of if it was possible to travel to Kalmar or not.

The conference began with a celebration of Bridging Age's 20th anniversary. A review of the first 20 years was presented and then there were short presentation from Latvia, Kenya, Finland, USA/Canada, South Africa, Estonia and Türkiye sharing stories about how they all use Time Travels in different ways and with different target groups, but using the same method. We also had greetings from different parts of the world sent by e-mail and video. The Celebration ended by launching the book "*I will never forget it, even if I try*". *Bridging Ages 20 years*. Here Time Travel stories from 23 countries are presented.

Our Keynote Speaker, Prof. Cornelius Holtorf from Linnaeus University, talked about how Time Travels, are more than engaging in history.

In the afternoon the first session was about Time travel and community building where we heard stories from Kwazulu-Natal and Port Shepstone, South Africa, Gender inclusion in Tanzania, and future time travels from Türkiye. It is inspiring to hear about the way Time Travels can be used in community building in different ways. Both for discussing what has already happened as well as how we want to impact the future.

Then we took a leap towards new ways of using the Time travel method. During the Pandemic a lot of project tried to find new ways to use the method. We also reached target groups who needed to work with Time



There were lots of happy reunions

Travels from a different approach. We heard about, and saw a film, from the Lithuanian project “The Migrant” where audio recordings play a big part in the experience and about digital Time Travels in an escape room format from Finland. Apart from the project this session also highlighted the learning process of Time Travels.

As part of the conference dinner in the evening, we made a short time travel to the year 1889 in the museum’s Jenny Nyström exhibition highlighting the gender issue of being one of the first female artists presented in Paris.

The second day was more focusing on Time travel and Education in different ways. We heard about ongoing projects with time travels in the local community from Sweden, Kenya, Alaska and Estonia. There was also a presentation from the collaborative cross border time travel projects between Sweden and South Africa. The last session of the conference gave a wider perspective. Presenters not directly involved in Bridging Ages discussed their work with historical clothing and games.



The whole program can be found on Bridging Ages website, and there you can also find most of the presentations.

In the final discussion we talked about the relations between physical experience and the digital benefits and limitations. We will hopefully never let go of the physical experience, but the digital complement and adaptations are here to stay. The physical experience is needed for the reflection, especially when working with hard heritage but, by adapting the Time travel method, we passed through the pandemic while continuing doing time travels. We can also stay connected even when it is hard to find funds for travelling.

Before the conference closed an idea came from the audience. How about a Global Time Travel? Locally arranged, but globally connected. To be continued...

This was an engaging conference. We would like to thank everybody that participated, on site or online. Thank you!

Linda Liljeberg, President Bridging Ages International



Picture from Time travel to 1998 in connection to the conference dinner at Kalmar County Museum

Impressions of BA conference through the eyes of a first-time visitor

Even though I have participated in several time travels, the Bridging Ages 18th International Conference was the first time I participated in a BA conference. At first, I was astounded by the warm and friendly atmosphere. It seemed like I had stumbled upon a gathering of old friends, and by the end of the conference, I felt included in the time travelling family.

The conference was very stimulating. There were numerous interesting, informative, and professional speakers sharing their wisdom and experience. The presentations provided a comprehensive overview of the wide range of the method. It was truly inspiring to see different perspectives of the TT method both from the perspective of various purposes of time travel (such as community-building, raising awareness, tackling difficult issues, empowering people, growing inclusiveness, etc.) as well as the various forms time travel can take and the activities it can include. The conference made me realize again just how versatile and modifiable the method is and how useful – and fun! – time travels are for learners, educators, and society as a whole.

We live in turbulent and uncertain times. The concerns about current events and the future were mentioned in several presentations and frequently discussed during breaks. I am deeply grateful to have been in such an international company, sharing thoughts and emotions during these challenging days when we were sore and sensitive due to world leaders' recent erratic behaviours and while wars and conflicts continue around the world. I am so happy to have found friends around the world. It gives me a sense of support in the present and makes me feel more hopeful about the future – and I believe this embodies the very essence of time travels and the mission of Bridging Ages.

Made Isak, Audentes school, Estonia

Digital Participation

I participated in the Bridging Ages 20th anniversary conference in digital format. It gave me possibility listen to the all presentations and also discussions from my working place in Latvia. The conference was very well organized and very rich and interesting in content. I'm a new member to the international Time Travel network and the conference broadened the view to the organization history and perspective on the future. It's really powerful that the common method can unit and influence different cultures all over the world and change the perspective on historical events and social processes. I wish to all the members creativity and development in future works!

**Egita Volinska, Tukums
Museum, Latvia**



Report from the AGM



Board members present in Kalmar: Mildred Ayere, Kenya; Gulshera Khan, South Africa; Linda Liljeberg, Sweden; Ebbe Westergren, Sweden; Made Isak, Estonia; Scott Green, US/Canada

Bridging Ages International board

Linda Liljeberg, Sweden, President

Mildred Ayere, Kenya, Vice President

Scott Green, USA/Kanada, Secretary

Monica Mattbäck, Finland, Treasurer

Gulshera Khan, South Africa

Samson Semakula, Uganda

Hakan Adanir, Türkiye

Made Isak, Estonia

Egita Volinska, Latvia

Ebbe Westergren, Honorary president

After the conference concluded on the 5th March, Bridging Ages held their yearly AGM. It was hosted as a hybrid event with the option to participate in Kalmar or online. In total 22 persons participated in the AGM (2 digital). In total, 8 countries were represented.

Mildred Ayere from Maseno University, Kenya chaired the meeting. Linda Liljeberg was re-elected as president.

Board member Saale Randaru, Estonia and Kristine Ozola, Latvia left the board and we had two new board members elected: Made Isak, Estonia and Egita Volinska, Latvia.

Vote of thanks was given by Agrita Ozola, Tukums museum, Latvia

Minutes, Annual report and Action plan can be found on the website.

Presentation of new Board members

Made Isak, Estonia, is currently working in Audentes as a history teacher. She also has experience as a museum worker, having worked six years in Tallinn City Museum. Thus, she has conducted Time Travels both as a school teacher and a museum educator. Made has participated in National Time Travel events which have been jointly organized all over Estonia.

Egita Volinska, Latvia, has been Project Manager at Tukums Museum since 2022. She has also worked as a Museum Educator and Head of Communications at the Tukums Museum. Her strength is communication and she is interested in cultural diversity. She is inspired by the Bridging Ages International network and is ready to get involved in the Board and develop communication between different organisations and countries.



To be part of the mailing list or subscribe to the newsletter, please send an e-mail to: Bridgingages@kalmarlansmuseum.se

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