



The Bridging Ages Conference 2010

Applied Cultural Heritage

How telling the past at historic sites benefits society



Linnæus University



International Conference
17-19 November 2010
Kalmar, Sweden



Linnéuniversitetet Kalmar Västergötland



KALMAR LÄNS MUSEUM

Contemporary society is in a process of transformation to adapt to new environmental, social and political challenges of global significance. In this situation we wish to reconsider the role of cultural heritage and ask how cultural heritage and stories about the past benefit society today.

- Which historic sites and stories about the past are important in creating meaning for people today?
- How should the past be told and whose stories should we tell in multi-cultural societies?
- In what way can historic sites promote social cohesion, human rights, peace and democracy?
- What contribution is made by recalling traumatic memories of violence and oppression?
- Which new ways are emerging in which cultural heritage benefits society today?

The purpose of the conference is to generate discussion across a broad spectrum of possible answers to these and related questions. The conference will bring together researchers and professionals from a variety of academic disciplines and occupations in several countries. The conference will also feature a unique "Time Travel" experience applying a widely practiced method of historic environment education. The resulting dynamic of the conference will result in new ideas and provide practical inspiration for all participants.

Call for papers

Send your paper proposal containing title, a few words about yourself and an abstract no later than the 15th August to cornelius.holtorf@lnu.se.



The Bridging Ages and Linnaeus University Conference 2010

Preliminary program

17th November

09.00	Registration	
10.00	Welcome, introduction, presentation	<i>Lena Fritzén, Birgitta E. Gustafsson, Cornelius Holtorf, Linnaeus University Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar läns museum Jon Hunner, Professor of History, New Mexico State University, USA</i>
11.00	Bridging Ages Organisation The Benefits of Teaching from Local Historic Environment at Universities	
12.00	Lunch	
13.00	Seminars, parallel sessions	
14.30	Coffee	
15.00	Instrumentalism in Heritage Learning	<i>Henrik Zipsane, Director, Jämtlands County Museum, Sweden</i>
16.00	Seminars, parallel sessions	
17.30	End	
19.00	Conference Dinner	

18th November

08.30	Introduction and practical information	
09.00	Multiple Woundedness: Listening to stories of dispossession, death and triumph in KwaZulu-Natal	<i>Radikobo Ntsimane, Deputy Director of Sinomlando Centre for Oral History and Memory Work, University of KwaZuluNatal, South Africa</i>
10.00	Coffee	
10.30	Seminars, parallel sessions	
12.00	Bus to Mönsterås	
13.00	Lunch at Kronobäck medieval monastery ruin How can we make the best use of a medieval ruin? Time Travel to the Middle Ages at Kronobäck	<i>Mönsterås municipality Friends of Kronobäck</i>
17.00	Leave Kronobäck	
18.30	Dinner and entertainment at Kackelstugan, Öland	<i>Gunnar Aldestam, Adult Educator</i>
21.30	Depart Kackelstugan	

19th November

09.00	To travel in an excursion and return	<i>Bernt Gustavsson, Professor of Education, Örebro University, Sweden</i>
10.00	Coffee	
10.30	Seminars, parallel sessions	
12.00	Lunch	
13.00	Panel discussion Conclusion	<i>Keynote speakers Linnaeus University, Kalmar läns museum, Bridging Ages</i>
15.00	End	

Additional information

Conference venue: Linnaeus University, Kalmar Campus, Nisbethska huset

Conference fee: 2000 SEK, 200 euros (the fee maybe reduced subject to successful funding applications)

Accommodation in hotels in Kalmar.

Registration for the conference will open 1 September.

The conference is organised jointly by Linnaeus University Kalmar-Växjö (www.lnu.se), Kalmar läns museum/Centre for Historic Environment Education (www.kalmarlansmuseum.se) and Bridging Ages, International Organization in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels (www.bridgingages.com).



The conference is supported by the Swedish Science Council (Vetenskapsrådet), Mönsterås Municipality, Union of Baltic Cities and the Regional Council of Kalmar County.

Organization Committee: Birgitta E. Gustafsson and Cornelius Holtorf, Linnaeus University; Ebbe Westergren, Bridging Ages, Kalmar läns museum.

For further information contact and pre-registration (to ensure receipt of full program and registration form): Ebbe Westergren, ebbe.westergren@kalmarlansmuseum.se +46 (0)480 451345, +46 (0)70 6729406 or Birgitta E. Gustafsson, birgitta.e.gustafsson@lnu.se +46 70 5477953

Bridging Ages

Bridging Ages is an international organization utilizing nearby history to understand life and society of today, recreating the past in an educational setting. Bridging Ages consists of people from schools, communities, museums, local historic societies and everybody who is interested in the local heritage. People from twenty countries in Europe, America, Africa and Asia are part of the organization.

Historic Environment Education and Time Travels

Historic Environment Education uses local historic sites and nearby history as an active way of learning and inspiring today's people and communities about the past.

Time Travels is an educational method where the participants research and take part in the life of another historical time period in order to learn about themselves and their society. With all your senses you experience the life of a historical time and site in your own neighbourhood.

Historic Environment Education and Time Travels provide a strong educational method to reflect and understand life and society of today by using historical perspectives, historical sites and stories from the past. Historic Environment Education uses historical knowledge to assist communities with the issues of today, like integration, democracy, inequality and reconciliation.

Historical props at Kalmar Läns Museum

On the ground floor at Kalmar County Museum in Sweden there is a workshop, which is part of the Centre for Historic Environment Education at the museum. The workshop is responsible for all of the props used in Time Travels and other historical activities organized by the museum.



Medieval tableware from the workshop is used in this medieval feast.

Making utensils and tools from 'scratch' requires the knowledge and expertise of historians and archaeologists to ensure authenticity of design. The original tool may be an actual artefact from the museum's collections, an illustration in a book, in the archives or in databases. We often find examples in our own archives or collections that we make replicas of.

Time Travels started at the Kalmar County Museum 25 years ago. From the very beginning all the props needed were produced at the workshop at Kalmar County Museum.

In 1997, during the 600-year Anniversary of the Kalmar Union, there was a need for medieval props and the workshop grew larger.

The goal is to produce all the props from the Stone Age to the 1950's at the museum. Qualified craftsmen and women work with many types of materials and techniques such as metal forging, leather, painting, wood, and much more.



A selection of Iron Age and medieval armour and shields.

The goal is to make the replicas look as similar to the original finds as possible. Sometimes a compromise is necessary, a creative solution that will hopefully not be visible in the final result. On occasion we buy props from the 20th century at flea markets. Private persons also kindly donate objects to the museum from time to time.





Some of the props from the Stone Age...



...and some belonging to the Iron Age.



Maintaining order pays off in the long run. Here is the medieval shelf.

Since 1985 we have acquired quite a substantial collection of props. In the large storage facility we store larger pieces such as tables, stoves etc. The smaller props are placed in boxes and on shelves. The entire collection comprises several thousand pieces. Meticulous documentation of inventory is required, from tiny spoon to massive stove.

A well-functioning system of logistics must be in place for the Time Travels. Before the Time Travel day the props needed are loaded into specific buses. May and September are peak seasons with 80-100 Time Travels and historical events, sometimes 2-3 Time Travels at different places each day. It's important to pack the right props in each bus.



The buses are packed with props and costumes for the Time Travel of the day.



18th century tableware and cooking utensils.

After each Time Travel all the props must be examined to make sure everything is intact. Taking care in this way is economical in the long run. During the winter all props are checked according to the inventory lists and prepared for the next season.

Through the Time Travels the museum props have become quite well known and we receive requests from schools, historical organizations and private persons who wish to rent props from us.

At present two persons are employed at the workshop while others come to us for shorter or longer period through employment office programs. The work is stimulating; producing new props is a challenging and creative task. Dialogue and cooperation between craftsmen, seamstresses, historians, archaeologists and educators at the Centre for Historic Environment Education at Kalmar County Museum is important in order to make Time Travel education effective and ensure high quality.

Eva Isaksson
 Head of the Historical Workshop
 Kalmar County museum

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First 'Public' Time Travel in Turkey!

The 3rd June 2010 was an important day for the City of Manisa and for Turkey! As part of the "Tarzan and the Environment Days" the first Time Travel ever in Turkey to be open to the general public was held in Manisa on this day. The Time Travel year was 1955 and the location the city centre of Manisa, the place where several trees once were planted by the local hero 'Manisa Tarzan'. The Time Travel took about one hour and fifteen minutes; some people chose to join in at the start while others joined in later on. All in all about 100 people participated.

The introduction and opening ceremony were held in one location before entering through the time tunnel. The second area, 1955, was an enclosed space with all of the relevant material and props.



Participants walked into 1955 through a time tunnel.

As soon as we reached the year 1955, two woodcutters entered the scene to cut down some trees in order to make place for a modern road. All attention was directed towards them. After a while they left to get the required permit.

While waiting for the woodcutters to return we planted flowers in a flowerbed, wrote protest placards, made coffee and tea and engaged in several other activities.

When the woodcutters returned with their permit Tarzan made his appearance. He persuaded the woodcutters to leave, hailed by the public who applauded with gusto; Tarzan had saved all the trees!

Before disappearing he handed out candy to the children.

There was a general atmosphere of good cheer with singing and dancing; everyone had a great time! Music brought us back to the present when it was time to go back through the time tunnel to 2010. We assembled a circle of participants for the evaluation of the event posing certain key questions. Some had actually met Tarzan in real life. They said they were deeply moved by the day, their memories of him having been revived. Some also expressed contentment that a historical figure who had benefited the environment was given attention. Comments were generally very positive and expressive of the joy of the experience.

We felt the energy of the crowd in our first 'Public Time Travel' and became convinced once more of the great value of the Time Travel project in Turkey.

We would like to express our gratitude for bringing this great educational idea to Turkey and Manisa.

*Ebru and Salih Iltenmis
Manisa Time Travel Committee*

The weeks before the Time Travel we had sent invitations to schools hoping to generate interest among teachers. When people arrived we handed out leaflets describing what a Time Travel is and a brief summary of the scenario for the day. In the time tunnel we had placed pictures from Manisa in the 1950's.

When enough people had gathered we gave more information about the scenario. Then the opening ceremony with its musical accompaniment began. The walk through the time tunnel was carried out in silence. We were concerned it would get a bit crowded in the tunnel, but all went well as we were very focused on the task. During the whole the Time Travel one person was always at the beginning of the time tunnel to inform newcomers before they entered the area of 1955.



About 100 people participated in Manisa's first public Time Travel.

Stundars Takes Time Travel to the Internet

Stundars, one of the largest Open Air Museums in Finland has over the past few years had a significant influence on the development of new ways of learning. Historic Environment Education and Time Travels have been implemented as a means of experiencing the heritage of the past. Now the museum has decided to make use of the concept of Time Travel in an Internet based variant. Connecting the past and the present has posed many challenges, not least from a technical vantage point. And in the final analysis it has to be fun and user-friendly!

Stundars' "Virtual Time Travel" is available via Stundars' website (www.stundars.fi). We are given the opportunity to follow 8-year old Erik and 10-year old Hilda on a summer day in the village of Stundars in the early 1900s. The blacksmith's wife, Maria Smed is arranging an emigration party for her son who is moving to America. She needs help to organize this special event...

The so -called "Virtual Time Travel" at Stundars is planned for children between the ages of 6 and 12. The themes discussed are mainly immigration, emigration and school lessons of the past as compared to the present, housekeeping and domestic issues. There are plans to expand the "Virtual Time Travel" by increasing the general content, games and tasks.

Funding for Stundars' "Virtual Time Travel" has been received from the National Board of Antiquities, "Svenska Folkskolans Vänner" and "The Harry Schauman Foundation".

Tarja Björkman
Stundars r.f.

Short news

Turkey – Time Travel Project

The Time Travel project in Turkey will be presented in the Turkish "Aktüel Arkeoloji" Magazine. Dr Zafer Derin, professor at Ege University in Izmir has been interviewed, together with some learners, about the Stone Age Time Travels at Yesilova Huyuck. Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar läns museum, also contributes with a short text about the TT project in Turkey.

South Africa – Western Cape

Life is not only about soccer in South Africa these days; A short report from Worcester Museum:

With the Fifa Soccer World Cup taking over the lives of South Africans, schools are forced to close for a period of six weeks. As part of our attempt to keep young and old educationally engaged during this momentous event, Bridging Ages Western Cape in partnership with the Worcester Museum are staging Time Travel events at the museum for learners from disadvantaged communities from the surrounding farms of Worcester. Also taking part in the activities are elderly from the Houmoed and Helpmekaar service centres in Worcester.

The scenario focuses on life on the farm Roodewal in 1913. The family on the farm are sharecroppers who face possible eviction because of the 1913 Land Act which aimed at regulating the acquisition of land by "natives"(black Africans). The result was that many of these families were evicted from white-owned farms and forced to find other ways of living. Altogether ten Time Travels are arranged at the Worcester Museum in June.

Louis Marais, coordinator of Bridging Ages South Africa

About Time Travels in [Port Shepstone, South Africa](http://www.psta2010.blogspot.com) check the blog: www.psta2010.blogspot.com.

Bridging Ages South Africa

National Conference in Port Shepstone, 20-21 October 2010

Social Cohesion through Time Travels

The program includes workshops, open discussions and training about Research, Oral History and Recent Time Travels. Educators, museum and university staff, managers, municipalities, students and everyone interested in local heritage are invited. Organizers are Bridging Ages South Africa, The Port Shepstone Twinning Association and KwaZulu-Natal Museum Service. More info in September.



The Bridging Ages Conference 2011

Welcome to the Estonian capital Tallinn, 8 - 12 June 2011

Using Time Travels to Explore Turning Points in History

Welcome to Estonia!

Tallinn City Museum invites members and partners of the Bridging Ages to take part in the conference and the medieval festival "Old Town Days" in the vibrant city of Tallinn. The Tallinn City Museum and its ten branches focuses on various periods and themes of the past, the present and the future.

In 2011 the Estonian capital Tallinn will serve as the European Capital of Culture. Come to Tallinn and take part in presentations, discussions and reflections about how to use Time Travels to explore Turning Points in History. The Time Travel will probably go to the 1980s, a Turning Point in Estonian history.



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