

corrymeela



In partnership with
Belfast
City Council



Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council

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Queen's University
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Heritage as Reconciliation

A winter school exploring heritage practice in contested societies.

Monday 15 January -Friday 19 January, 2018.
Corrymeela Centre, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland.

FAQS – Version 1 issued 1 September, 2017

1. What are the start and finish times?

The conference will begin with a meal at 7.00pm on Monday 15 January, 2018, followed by a Welcome Session at 8.00pm.

The conference will finish with Lunch at 12.30pm on Friday 19 January, 2018, with participants departing at 1.30pm.

2. How can I get there?

By Car - we have plenty of parking on site. Directions are available at <http://www.corrymeela.org/bookings/find-us>

By Private Coach – we have booked a Private Coach to support transfers to and from Corrymeela. This can be booked return £30 through the Conference online booking form. The current schedule for the coach is:

Monday 15 January, 2018:

Depart Belfast City Airport at 4.00pm, arriving at Belfast International Airport at 4.45pm

Depart Belfast International Airport at 5.00pm arriving at Corrymeela Centre at 6.15pm.

Friday 19 January, 2018:

Depart the Corrymeela Centre at 1.30pm, arriving at Belfast International Airport at 2.45pm.

Depart Belfast International Airport at 3.00pm, arriving at Belfast City Airport at 3.40pm.

3. Who is it for?

The school is for all those who are interested in exploring the role of Heritage in Reconciliation processes. There is no specific criteria for participation and we expect delegates from a variety of backgrounds, such as related academic disciplines, museum professionals, peace building activists, policy and funding bodies and community development workers. There is no requirement to be an expert in any particular area. Participants should have commitment to the school's themes and aims. The School is restricted to around 50 participants.

4. Can I come for just one day?

We are seeking to build a cohesive learning community across the duration of the school and beyond and as such we are giving preference to participants who can commit to the whole event.

5. What is the agenda for the School?

A full itinerary including confirmed speakers will be available **by September 2017**. The draft schedule for school is as per the below.

Monday 15 – Friday 19 January, 2018					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
AM Session 1		Heritage as Reconciliation: Setting the Scene	Immersive Field Visit	Theme 2: Archaeology and Inclusive Community Practice. Convenor - Prof Audrey Horning	School Close. Next Steps and Network Development
12.30PM - 1.30PM		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
PM Session 2		Introduction and Overview of Key Themes	Immersive Field Visit	Theme 3: Museums and the Heritage of Conflict. Convenors: Robert Heslip & Helen Perry.	Departure.
Session 3	Arrival of participants	Theme 1: Heritage, the Past and Contemporary Conflict. Convenors - Dr Colin Breen & Sean Pettis.	Immersive Field Visit	Theme 4: Evaluating the Impact of Heritage Programmes. Convenor - Gemma Reid.	
7PM -8PM	EVENING MEAL	EVENING MEAL	EVENING MEAL	EVENING MEAL	EVENING MEAL
Evening	School opening & Welcome	Optional Session	Debrief of Site Visit. Key Learning	Optional Session	

The emphasis across the School will be on creating participatory and creative spaces where participants can reflect on inputs, share their own perspectives and experiences and build a collaborative learning environment. A brief description of the four themes can be found below.

Theme 1: Heritage, the Past and Contemporary Conflict.

Convenors -Dr Colin Breen & Sean Pettis.

This session will examine the ways by which heritage can be appropriated for use in contemporary conflict. From the construction of nation narratives and origin myths through to the erection of monuments and creation of interpretative spaces, heritage has often been utilised as a vehicle to justify socio-political perspectives as well as presenting or promoting difference. History and heritage can often be manipulated to create, confirm and reaffirm collective identity. Contemporary national states have tried to maintain and negotiate identity sets through aspects of their built environment, art and culture, and to further interpret it through museums, monuments and other forms of remembrance. Individual groups or organisations can, in turn, establish their own set of heritage places or resources, which might stand in opposition to officially sanctioned narratives or opposing groups in society. Through the examination of a series of case studies session participants will examine a number of global conflict arenas and position heritage within the broader discourse surrounding heritage agendas.

Theme 2: Archaeology and Inclusive Community Practice.

Convenor - Prof Audrey Horning

Drawing on international perspectives, this session explores ways in which archaeological practice can contribute meaningfully to community development, sustainability, and conflict transformation through inclusive practice. Discussions of direct relevance to heritage practice in Northern Ireland will consider how to balance ethical responsibilities to communities in the present as well as to the people of the past, especially when contemporary understandings may deviate from what archaeological evidence reveals. Critical to engaged archaeology is the ability to listen. Confirmed speakers include Professor Peter Schmidt, University of Florida, author of the 2017 volume *Community-Based Heritage in Africa: Unveiling Local Research and Development Initiatives*. Professor Schmidt is the 2016 recipient of the Peter Ucko Award from the World Archaeological Congress which recognized his dedication to the welfare of archaeology in Africa and the decolonization of African archaeological practice for over 40 years

Theme 3: Museums and the Heritage of Conflict

Convenors- Robert Heslip & Helen Perry.

The focus of this theme is on the roles of museums in facilitating engagement with the heritage of conflict and its impact on current societies in transition. This will be done by looking at how objects and museum spaces can be used. The process by which material culture can be used in reflective, personally apposite engagement to develop nuanced understandings of past events and contemporary situations will be examined. The roles and challenges of using museum

spaces and professional skills to facilitate and mediate democratically as well as overcoming assumptions about power relationships and hierarchies will also be interrogated.

It is hoped that the discussion will help map the roles of museums and museum practices in the wider context of the overall heritage field and the dynamic between academic and hands on approaches.

Drawing on, in particular, the experience of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services, the session will reference this against the international practice of the additional speakers.

Theme 4: Evaluating the Impact of Heritage Programmes.

Convenor -Gemma Reid.

Archaeological projects incorporating community involvement and participation are becoming ever popular in research, heritage management and civic engagement. But robust methodological frameworks for understanding the social outcomes and benefits of these projects remain underdeveloped. Community archaeology is often thought of simply in relation to public access and engagement with the discipline. But where a mutually beneficial, sustainable partnership between researcher and community is established, there is the potential to create a process of collective, transformative learning. In this way, community archaeology may be thought of as a process of social innovation, one that requires a complex multi-disciplinary approach to identify, understand and respond to change as the process develops. This session will explore the application of participatory and developmental evaluation methodologies to community archaeology practice, particularly where archaeological researchers are working in contested spaces that involve additional political, social and ethical concerns.

6. Who is organising the School?

The School is being organised by an innovative partnership of organisations across the voluntary sector, local government and academia. It is led by the Corrymeela Community with Queens University, University of Ulster, William and Mary College, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Belfast City Council. The partnership developed out of previous initiatives that explored and shared contested heritage, with a pilot project being initially funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. A short film about the project can be found [here](#).

The individual partners are:



Dr Colin Breen - Ulster University

Colin is senior lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Ulster. He brings unique scholarship that traces the lines between history and conflict to his archaeological analysis and has been involved in studies from across Ireland to Asia and Africa looking at how archaeological information gives insight to historical and contemporary identities across political and national lines.



Colin Craig - Corrymeela Community

Colin has worked in the field of Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland for over 40 years. In 2014 he joined Corrymeela as the Executive Director to support the organisation through their major restructuring initiative and rebuild their capacity to act as a “radical centre” for peacebuilding and reconciliation both locally and globally. Colin announced his retirement in June 2017, but has committed to supporting the development of the Winter School.



Robert Heslip - Belfast City Council: Tourism, Culture, Arts and Heritage Unit

Previously a history curator at the Ulster Museum between 1978 and 2006, Robert has also served as a board member, chair, as well as in training and policy roles for Irish Museums Association between 1991 and 2006. He was a board member at Public Achievement 2001 – 2007 and facilitated on the Spectator to Co-Curator project. He has taught on heritage topics at number of universities and is currently a board member of MINOM



Prof Audrey Horning - William & Mary College & Queens' University, Belfast

Audrey is an anthropologically trained archaeologist whose research centres on comparative colonialism and the relationship between archaeology and contemporary identity. She has directed archaeological excavations with integral public-engagement components at Jamestown, Virginia; on Plantation-period sites in Northern Ireland; at the Slievemore Deserted Village, Achill Island, Co Mayo; and in the Virginia Blue Ridge. Her research address the ethics of engagement and future directions in historical archaeology and community archaeology amongst other interests.



Helen Perry –Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council: Museum Service

Helen has successfully delivered a number of participative learning projects exploring contested heritage through collections, including 'The Project of Plantation', North East Peace III Cultural Fusions programme and 'On the Brink: The Politics of Conflict 1914-1916'. CCG Council covers approximately one quarter of Northern Ireland's area.



Sean Pettis –Corrymeela Community

Sean joined the Corrymeela team in September 2010 as Project Coordinator for the, 'Facing Our History, Shaping the Future' project. Sean has 17 years' experience in the design, delivery and evaluation of community relations and active citizenship programmes as both a trainer of educators and a youth work practitioner. He holds a BA Joint Hons in Modern History & Politics and a Post Graduate Diploma in Community Youth Work



Gemma Reid –Quarto Collective

Over the last 15 years, Gemma has developed innovative approaches to community engagement in the museums and heritage sector. This includes a wide range of interpretive and learning resources, including exhibitions, heritage trails, community archives and primary and secondary curriculum resources. Gemma has worked with community groups from diverse economic, social and political backgrounds and is highly experienced in project planning, fundraising and management.

7. What is the Corrymeela Centre?

The Corrymeela Centre is located just outside Ballycastle on the beautiful North Coast of County Antrim. The Centre is run by a combination of staff and local and international volunteers, welcoming those of all faiths or none. It is not a hotel or a hostel and operates with an ethos of shared community. We ask guests to support the running of the centre through help with cleaning dishes after meal times and by changing their bed linen on the day of departure. Please note bedrooms in the Davey Village are en-suite, however those in the Main House have shared bathroom facilities. Images of the site and accommodation can be viewed [here](#) . As part of the Christian ethos of Corrymeela a short ecumenical worship is held in the morning and late evening. This is an optional space for those who want to attend. To find out more about the Centre you can view our Welcome Brochure [here](#).

8. Can I stay for extra nights?

We expect that the Centre will be fully booked prior to and after the School. Accommodation in Ballycastle town can be found via <http://www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com/Places-to-Stay-A85> . You may also wish to consider visiting Belfast before or after the School. See <http://visitbelfast.com/> for more information.

9. Are bursaries available?

We are actively pursuing funding to support the participation of participants from the island of Ireland. We will be unable to provide bursaries for participants from outside Ireland. If you from the island and your organisation/institution is unable to pay all or some of the conference fee, please contact Sean Pettis via the details below for more information.

This document will be regularly updated in the coming period. If you have an additional question, please contact Sean Pettis, via email seanpettis@corrymeela.org or telephone +44 (0) 28 90 50 80 80.

Community Relations Council

