The Ties that Bind: Connecting Families, Communities and Places Through the Gathering

Theresa Ryan
Technological University Dublin, theresa.ryan@tudublin.ie

Ziene Mottiar
Technological University Dublin, ziene.mottiar@tudublin.ie

Bernadette Quinn
Technological University Dublin, bernadette.quinn@tudublin.ie

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The ties that bind: Connecting family, community and place through the Gathering 2013
Literature

• Festivals are a medium for producing and remembering social meaning and realizing community through shared play and celebration (Levenda 1977)

• Festivals can also reconstruct identities of places and regional identity

• In terms of the diaspora people are often attracted to a particular place in order to maintain social contacts and because of ‘emotional ties’ (Hughes and Allen, 2010)
Focus of this research is on the extended family and their motivations and experiences of attending a family gathering.
The Gathering
Research Questions

• 1. Did attending the Gathering Event play a role in connecting and reconnecting families and friends?
• 2. How did sharing memories and history impact on these individuals?
• 3. Did the experience of attending the event have a longer term impact on the visitor upon their return home?
• 4. Were identities affected by the Gathering?
• 5. Did place identity and perception change as a result of the Gathering?
1. Did attending the Gathering Event play a role in connecting and reconnecting families and friends?

• The Gathering provided the impetus for events to be organized and people to be invited

• X family gatherings were organized in Ireland during 2013

• Questionnaire on why did you come
How did sharing memories and history impact on these individuals?

• Case of boatyard in Dingle
• Questionnaire 2 questions I think on this
Did the experience of attending the event have a longer term impact on the visitor upon their return home?
Were identities affected by the Gathering

• Questionnaire
Did place identity and perception change as a result of the Gathering

• Case of Tarbet
• Questionnaire