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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

