



Vårkonferensen 2017

# SVÅRA SAMTAL

Dialog genom kulturarv

HATE YOUR  
HEIMAT

UK  
EURO

# DIFFICULT CONVERSATION

**Dialogue through Heritage**  
**8th-9th of February 2017, Östersund**

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NCK:s Spring Conference 2017 highlights the importance of *dialogue* in activities run by museums and archives. Dialogue is of specific importance in contexts where conflict exists between individuals or groups of people, or when people need to communicate difficult subjects or experiences. In dialogue the act of listening is just as important as talking, and the ambition to understand is at the centre of conversation. This conference explores how our museums can be the open, democratic and safe meetingplaces for dialogue that we want them to be.

European societies show signs of growing polarisation. The process is fed by increasing segregation and decreasing contact between people of different backgrounds and with different life experiences. The access to digital and social media makes it possible for people to select information and input produced by people with similar views and opinions as themselves. Thereby, many people can avoid being affected by other experiences and perspectives. During the past few years, this development has been parallel to the great migration into Europe from other countries. This has caused tensions between different political, ideological and ethnic groups.

The ongoing transformation of society has also influenced our heritage institutions. The greater the emphasis that heritage institutions place on social purposefulness, the more they are subject to political debate. Amongst other things, the debate is about how to cope with collections which, to a great extent, have been gathered with a nationalistic and androcentric agenda. How can these collections be a tool for dialogue between the manifold groups of society? The debate also concerns the histories a heritage organisation can or should tell, as well as the risk that museums might be too politicized.

We hereby invite you to partake in an exciting conversation about how to use *dialogue* as tool in socially purposeful activities at cultural heritage organisations.

Welcome!



09.30 – 10.00

Coffee and registration

Jamtli entré and Café

10.00 – 10.15

Difficult Conversation.  
Dialogue through Heritage  
– Introduction

Rentzhogsalen

10.15 – 11.00

BRITT BOHLIN  
The Nordic Dialogue

Swedish

11.00 – 12.00

CHRISTER MATTSSON  
Heritage and Dialogue-  
based Learning as Tools  
against Intolerance

Swedish

Lunch at Restaurant Hov

13.30 – 14.30

DANIEL LAVEN &  
LINDA SHAMMA  
Dialogue through Heritage:  
Explorations from the Arts  
and Sciences on the Israeli-  
Palestinian Context.

English

Break

# Sessioner

14.45 – 16.15

14.45-16.15 Dialogue through Heritage Practicum (English)	14.45-16.15 Creative Dialogue through Waste (Swedish)	14.45-17.45 Applied Heritage and the Time Travel Method for Social Cohesion and Conflict Management (Swedish)	14.45-16.15 Dialogue with <i>Postkodlotteriets Kulturstiftelse</i> (Swedish)
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Coffee break

16.45 – 18.15

16.45-18.15 Dialogue through Heritage Practicum (English)	16.45-18.15 Creative Dialogue through Waste (Swedish)	16.45-18.15 Applied Heritage and the Time Travel Method for Social Cohesion and Conflict Management (Swedish)	16.45-18.15 <i>Swedish Arts Council</i> informs about the EU programme <i>Creative Europe</i> (Swedish)
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18.15 – 19.00

Bar

Restaurant Hov

19.00

Conference Dinner

Restaurant Hov



09.00 – 10.00

HENNING LINDBERG  
The Identity-shaping  
Dialogue. Who was I ... at  
that Time?

Danish

Coffee break

10.30 – 11.30

NELLY LAITINEN  
To Speak for the Silent –  
How Heritage can give a  
Voice

Swedish

Lunch at Restaurant Hov

13.00 – 14.00

STINA OSCARSSON  
Dialogue or Weapons?

Swedish

14.00 – 15.00

CARIN LINDGREN  
Dialogue in the Context of  
Psychotherapy. Final  
Discussion.

Swedish

Coffee break at Jamtli Café



The contributions of the first day will revolve around the meaning of dialogue in more or less conflict-laden situations. Taking the current complex situation in modern-day Europe, characterized by migration, growing polarisation and political tensions as a springboard, we call attention to the necessity of dialogues across borders and between partners with different agendas. We will be given examples of how dialogue and cultural heritage might be used to create a better understanding of other people. In the afternoon we will explore how dialogue and heritage might be used as tools in museum and archive activities. Moreover, participants will have the possibility to talk with representatives of *Postkodlotteriets Kulturstiftelse* and *Kulturrådet* about funding for cultural heritage organisations.

On the second day the topic *dialogue* will be further developed – with a focus on those who have difficulties to speak for themselves, but who have a great need for communication. The final two presentations will touch upon the meaning of dialogue for democracy and human society. The conference will close with a synoptic reflection about how to integrate the topics raised in the talks into the work at our cultural heritage institutions.

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## **Britt Bohlin**



### **The Nordic Dialogue**

Britt Bohlin is the director of the Nordic Council and was previously governor of the county of Jämtland and a politician of the Swedish parliament. For a long time, she has been active in foreign politics. Especially in the Nordic politics as a member of the Swedish delegation of the Nordic council between 2002 and 2008. Today, Britt is engaged in a study about how to develop the tourism sector for the future.

Britt Bohlin will give a speak on the Nordic Dialogue. The Nordic cooperation is politically, economically as well as culturally anchored an an important part of the wider, European and international cooperation. Similar values and political standings between the coutries strengthens the Nordic position internationally. Several political agreements and treaties between the Nordic countries makes the cooperation between them easier. But what effects will todays growing polarization in our societies have on this cooperation? Will it be affected by dislocations in values between our different countries? Will it be possible to continue cooperation through close dialogue, and what will happen with te Nordic relations to the rest of the world? Will the Nordic countries continue speak with a unified voice?

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## Christer Mattsson



### Heritage and Dialogue-based Learning as Tools against Intolerance

Christer Mattsson is the acting director of the *Segerstedtinstitutet* at Göteborg's University and the founder of *Toleransprojektet* that started in 1995, when Swedish 14-year-old John Hron was killed by young neo-nazis. *Toleransprojektet* is aimed at young people and driven by Kungälv's municipality and *Teskedsorden* with the goal of counteracting racism, violence and extremism. Mattsson uses heritage in order to increase empathy in young people and to decrease xenophobia and intolerance. He advocates dialogue-based pedagogics to communicate about topics where empathy and the willingness to listen are central. Mattsson's publications include *Ingen blir nazist över en natt: om hur skolan kan möta intoleranta elever* and *Till Herrhagen kl 13.24*.

[Read more](#)

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# Daniel Laven & Linda Shamma

## Dialogue through Heritage: Explorations from the Arts and Sciences on the Israeli- Palestinian Conflict



Daniel Laven is associate professor at the European Tourism Research Institute and head of the Department of Tourism Studies and Geography at Mid Sweden University. His research examines how cultural heritage can be used in order to create sustainable environments for societies, e.g., by using heritage tourism as a resource for peace-building in regions that are characterized by intercultural conflicts. Among other topics, Daniel has worked on cultural heritage in Nazareth to which he with his American-Jewish background also has a personal connection.

Linda Shamma is a researcher and an artist. Taking her own Swedish-Palestinian identity as a starting point, her own art frequently tackles questions related to the colonial heritage. Despite her Swedish upbringing, she was often confronted with her father's history when meeting persons with an Israeli or Jewish background. In her art, Linda explores how these experiences can be articulated and shared for a contribution to an integrative society.

Daniel's and Linda's presentation will offer an alternative view on the role of heritage in complex conflicts. Drawing from their different cultural backgrounds and professional orientations, they will explore possibilities for heritage to open alternative spaces and experiences that can promote cross-cultural dialogues.

The presentation will be followed by an interactive workshop.

[Read more about Daniel Laven](#)

[Read more about Linda Shamma](#)

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# Henning Lindberg



## Identity-shaping Dialogue. Who was I ... at that Time?

Henning Lindberg is the leader of the department *Levende Museum og Erindringsformidlingen* at the open air museum *Den Gamle By* in Århus in Denmark. He is educated as a teacher, librarian and drama pedagogue and has many years of experience with museum educational work. Henning has worked at the *Gamle By* since 2001, in particular with teaching methods that bring history to life and stimulate all senses. He was NCK's 2016 Pedagogical Prize winner for his exceptional contributions in the field of museum education.

Cultural history museums are treasure troves that give us the possibility to meet and reflect on our history. For many years, *Den Gamle By* has successfully worked with people suffering from dementia, giving them their identity, self-understanding and history back – even if only for a short while. This is done by using historical interiors as meeting places and by conducting a “good dialogue”. Henning will in his talk focus on how to build relations that allow positive dialogues, how to teach these competences to museums and collaborators, and how to develop new ways to communicate.

[Read more](#)

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## Nelly Laitinen



### To Speak for the Silent – How Heritage can give a Voice

Nelly Laitinen is principal archivist at the *Svenska litteratursällskapet* in Finland and responsible for educational activities in the archive. She has been the editor of the book *Krigets barn (Children of war)* 2013/2014 that is based on archival material from the time of the World War II. Nelly is currently working on a pedagogical book about archival material related to the Finnish Civil War 1918 (to be published in 2017).

In her talk Nelly will address two events in the 100-year-old history of the Republic of Finland that are still difficult to talk about, the Civil War of 1918 and the following wars from 1939 to 1945. She will present two workbooks for school-children, where these events are presented with the use of archive material and put into dialogue with the individual in the present.

[Read more](#)

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## Stina Oscarsson



### Dialogue or Weapons?

Stina Oscarsson is a film director and author. She was previously head of *Radioteatern* and *Orienteatern* and writer for *DN kultur*. Now she is writing for *Mittmedia* and published her debut book in autumn 2016, titled *Inte en berättelse (Not one story)* that attracted attention from reviewers all over the country. Stina is also highly engaged in questions related to peace, and initiated, together with Pierre Schori, the NATO-investigation that drew a lot of attention.

In her talk *Dialogue or Weapons?* Stina will talk about the limits of the freedom of speech, the value of "provprat" (test-talk) and that the willingness to misunderstand others in public debate threatens democracy.

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## Carin Lindgren



### Dialogue in the Context of Psychotherapy

Carin Lindgren is a psychologist and specialized in work- and organizational psychology. She is interested in prevention and low-affective treatment and has a strong experience in crisis work and crisis management. Carin has previously worked with occupational health, development of organisations and schoolchildrens' health. She is now working as a supervisor and trainer at *Rova och Sjögren Psykologi AB*.

In her talk, Carin will discuss examples that highlight the meaning of dialogue in the psychotherapeutical context: In which way can we handle dialogues that affect us? Which factors are important to regard, and how do we keep a dialogue alive as opposed to ending up in locked positions? Carin will, together with NCK, lead the final discussion where we will summarize the meaning of dialogue as a tool for activities carried out in museums and archives.

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## Dialogue through Heritage Practicum

In this workshop Daniel Laven and Linda Shamma want to invite and challenge us to engage in the not always comfortable process of dialogue with “the other”. The workshop will also offer opportunities to reflect on what such engagement means in our increasingly globalized yet fragmented society

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## Can we play together?

*Spilloteket* is a creative workshop of democracy that creatively reuses waste materials donated by Jämtlands industries and companies and tenacitly follows its visions of a sustainable life on this planet. The workshop is driven by the three educators Camilla Abrahamsson, Frida Kjellgren and Linda Vestberg. In 2016 *Spilloteket* was appointed both *Årets formbärare i Jämtland* and *Årets miljöpristagare* in Östersund’s municipality, in particular for their work with children and young people.

During *Spillotekets* workshop the participants will put both heads and hands to work in order to take on some challenging contemporary concepts, thereby going into dialogue with themselves and others. The activities are meant to lead us to new perceptions of our own role in the present, as well as in the future, and at the same time give us insights into *Spilloteket’s* unique pedagogical methods.

[Read more](#)

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## Applied Heritage and the Time Travel Method for Social Cohesion and Conflict Management



Tina Lindström and Ebbe Westergren both work for *Kalmar läns museum*. Tina is head of the pedagogical department, while Ebbe is an archaeologist and culture historian involved in many international collaborations and development projects. Both have many years of experience with work related to heritage on national and international levels, and both have been engaged in the international organisation *Bridging Ages* whose focus lies on applied cultural heritage and the time travel method.

In their workshop Tina and Ebbe will give examples of their work with *Bridging Ages* and how heritage and time travels can be used to take on difficult dialogues. The participants will have the opportunity to try the time travel method up close.

[Read more about Tina Lindström](#)

[Read more about Ebbe Westergren](#)

[Read more about Bridging Ages](#)

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## A dialogue with Postkodlotteriets *Kulturstiftelse*

Representatives of Postkodlotteriets *Kulturstiftelse* talk about the cultural heritage projects they have supported, inform about their funding opportunities and answer questions about the application process.

[Read more](#)

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## Kulturrådet informs about the EU-programme *Creative Europe*

Elin Rosenström from *Kulturrådet* informs about opportunities to apply for project funding in the framework of the EU-programme *Creative Europe* that is of particular interest for heritage institutions.

[Read more!](#)

Pictures: Linda Shamma, photographer: Patrick Miller. Nelly Laitinen, photographer: Janne Rentola. Other pictures: Adam Kliczek, commons.wikimedia.org, Alvaplus, commons.wikimedia.org, AnonMoos, commons.wikimedia.org, Association JS, commons.wikimedia.org, Власенко, commons.wikimedia.org, El Lissitzky, okänd källa, Fortepan, fortepan.hu, G. Eric and Edith Matson Photograph Collection, Library of Congress, USA, Global X, flickr.com, Hubert Berberich, commons.wikimedia.org, Ion Chibzii, commons.wikimedia.org, Isouxu, commons.wikimedia.org, Joseph Paris, josephparis.fr, Justin McIntosh, justincmcintosh.com, Jürgen Geuter, commons.wikimedia.org, LaneG, commons.wikimedia.org, Lars Plougmann, flickr.com, Leroy Allen Skalstad, commons.wikimedia.org, Marek Peters, marek-peters.com, Silar, commons.wikimedia.org, Tim Evanson, commons.wikimedia.org, Ulflarsen, commons.wikimedia.org, vidrio, flickr.com, vogler, commons.wikimedia.org, Wilhelm Commandeur, commons.wikimedia.org  
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