2014

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

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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