For Everyone: The Role of Living Culture in Identities and Sustainable Community Development

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Ananya Bhattacharya is a social entrepreneur with 25 years of global work experience. Ananya is an electrical engineer from Jadavpur University, Kolkata and a Commonwealth Scholar with Masters in Sustainable Development from Staffordshire University. She is Director and Secretary of Contact Base - a social enterprise working across India which is in consultative status with UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee and in Special Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. Working under the trading style of banglanatak dot com, the organisation works for fostering sustainable and equitable development using culture based approaches and their flagship initiative Art for Life has led to the revival and revitalisation of various art and craft forms of West Bengal and Bihar and covered more than 10,000 families. The organisation has supported the artist communities in developing living museums which have become seats of practice and promotion of local culture and art. The organisation works in partnership with UNESCO, New Delhi for rolling out AFL model across the country. Ananya is also a member of the Executive Committee of ICOMOS, India, and member of ICH NGO Forum.

Dr Janet Blake is an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Shahid Beheshti where she teaches International, Environmental and Human Rights Law and is a member of the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Peace and Democracy and the Centre for Excellence in Education for Sustainable Development, both based at the university. She is also a member of the Cultural Heritage Law Committee of the International Law Association and has worked as an International Consultant to UNESCO since 1999, mostly in the field of intangible cultural heritage and implementing the 2003 Convention. She has published on intangible cultural heritage, human and cultural rights, cultural diversity, environmental protection, environmental justice and sustainable development. Her research monograph on International Cultural Heritage Law has recently been published by Oxford University Press.

Harriet Deacon is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Ferguson Centre for African and Asian Studies, Open University, and works as an independent consultant. She is a historian with interests in tangible and intangible heritage management, public policy on heritage, intellectual property and the intersection between culture and health. She was research co-ordinator at Robben Island Museum, and Director of the Archival Platform, an archives and heritage NGO in South Africa. Since 2010 she has worked as a consultant on the preparation of materials for the capacity-building programme under the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, facilitating workshops in twelve different countries under this programme. She has also taught on academic programmes in South Africa, Mauritius and Japan, and is widely published, including co-authoring Authenticity, Value and Community Involvement in Heritage Management under the World Heritage and Intangible Heritage Conventions (Heritage and Society, 2013) and The Subtle Power of Intangible Heritage: Legal and Financial Instruments for Safeguarding Intangible Heritage (Human Sciences Research Council, Cape Town, 2004).

Simon Hayhow is Director of the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther and has worked there for almost nine years. The Museum has its entire collection designated as a Recognised Collection of National Significance and this includes twenty full-sized wooden boats, two of which are regularly sea-going. Before that he spent seventeen years as Curator of Natural Sciences for Lancashire County Museum Service, based mainly at Fleetwood Museum, which he managed, but with a county-wide remit for natural science collections and related advice. Simon has an MSc in Museum Studies from Leicester University and other museum posts have included work in Rotherham, Oldham and Plymouth as well as work for conservation organisations like English Nature, the University of Hull, UWIST and the RSPB.

Rita-Mae Hyde has served as Assistant Programme Specialist in the Capacity Building and Heritage Policies Unit of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section (UNESCO) since 2011. She has contributed to the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at national and international levels, in particular, through the development and implementation of capacity-building activities and regional training in the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa. She has contributed to the development and dissemination of pedagogic materials on the implementation of the Convention, community-based inventorying, intangible cultural heritage, and gender and policy support. Ms Hyde is also a writer, poet and musician.

Tam McGarvey is a graduate of Glasgow School of Art and a semi-professional musician. Over the years he has created a variety of permanently-sited metalwork in schools and hospitals involving pupils and patients. After a spell volunteering with the GalGael Trust, he became a member of staff in 2005 where one of his roles has been setting up opportunities for long-term unemployed people to engage with the cultural and natural heritage within and outwith the Glasgow area. Tam also volunteers with Govan's Hidden Histories and was a member of Glasgow Museums Community Forum.

Jorijn Neyrinck is Comparative Anthropologist and Director of NGO tapis plein, Centre of Expertise for ICH & Participation. She develops activities in cultural and interdisciplinary forums with a focus on Intangible Cultural Heritage and public participation. Jorijn is a member of the Flemish UNESCO Commission and engages internationally as a co-organiser of the ICH NGO Forum. Tapis plein is recognised as a Centre for Cultural Heritage Expertise - focusing on the implementation of the ICH safeguarding policy in Flanders (Belgium). Tapis plein has been accredited since 2010 by UNESCO as an expert organisation within the framework of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Máiread Nic Craith is Professor of Culture and Heritage at Heriot-Watt University. She previously held a Chair in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Ulster. Máiread has held an honorary professorship at the University of Exeter as well as a DAAD guest professorship at the University of Göttingen. Her research has focused on different aspects of living heritage including literary heritage (from the Great Blasket Island), intercultural heritage (Cork), World Heritage sites (Skellig Michael), heritage and conflict (Northern Ireland) and heritage and law in a European context. Her recent publications include an exploration of the role of heritage in Derry-Londonderry. Máiread has published a number of edited volumes on heritage including Cultural Heritages as Reflexive Traditions (2007 with Ullrich Kockel) and Cultural Diversity, Heritage and Human Rights (2010 with William Logan and Michele Langfeld). Her co-edited Companion to Heritage (with Wiley-Blackwell) was published in September 2015. In 2011, Máiread was invited by the United Nations as an expert on access to heritage as a human right.