

# International training week on Stories, book talk and intercultural learning

March 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

Programme for International training week on

Stories, book talk and intercultural learning: using literature and storytelling in language classrooms.

**Where:** Thomas More, Campus Kruidtuin, Lange Ridderstraat 44, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium

**Participants:** Teacher educators and 3 beginning teachers from each university participating.

Teachers and students of foreign languages and additional languages (English or other modern foreign languages), and teachers and students of mother tongue teaching (language and literature). Beginning teachers for Primary and Lower Secondary school (ages : 5-6 years up to 12-13 years of age).

**Aims for the training week are:**

- To share knowledge and ideas on how to work with stories and books to promote intercultural learning and awareness
- For the student teachers/beginning teachers to develop their confidence in using stories, to plan a teaching session and try it out in a school
- To bring stories/books for this week and for the development of research work after the training week
- For the lecturers to lead workshops where they share their ideas for working with stories and storytelling in speech and reading and writing. Students can also lead workshops if they wish.
- That there will be input through workshops, discussions and time for the students to reflect and work together across cultures to plan teaching?
- That participants are also invited to plan the research that will follow on from this week

**Accommodation:**

Students participating: (recommended) : <http://www.jeugdherbergen.be/en/youth-hostels/city-hostels/mechelen-de-zandpoort>

(Coordination of booking by Werner Stijnen ?) (appr. 18-23 Euros per night incl. breakfast)

Further costs for students – for meals : lunch and evening meals

Lecturers participating: (suggestions by Niomi: hotels, B&B used by the university)

### Partners:

Kingston University, UK (Valerie Coultas – and also Stuart Scott as an associate) (confirmed)

Thomas More, Belgium (Werner Stijnen, Kempen) (+ Niomi Kelly, Mechelen) (confirmed, both?)

Winchester, UK (Jon Rooke) (Lisa Martin, + a colleague)

HENALUX, Belgium (Chantal Müller, Namur) (confirmed)

HELMO, Belgium (repr. Martine Wilmots, Liege: Sophie Motter)

UCV, Valencia, Spain (Raquel Blave) (not possible as it looks now)

Vacs , Hungary (Agnes Streitman, ) (confirmed)

UC Syd , Denmark (Jette Laursen, Haderslev) (confirmed)

University of Stavanger, Deborah Larssen

**Arrivals: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> – programme starts in the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup>**

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March

**9-10.00pm** Welcome. About the project and the programme for the week.

First workshops:

#### **10.30 -13.00: Narrative, Autobiography and Creative Writing**

This workshop will be led by Dr Valerie Coultas author of *Constructive Talk in Challenging Classrooms* (2007). Though the use of cascade autobiographies of early memories, participants will explore their own personal life experiences as a source for creative writing. They will have the opportunity to write their own stories and read them aloud to others. The different cultural contexts and settings of the stories will be considered in the telling of these stories.

Lunch Break

**14.00-15.30: Empowering storytellers through collaborative approaches**

This workshop will be led by Stuart Scott, Director of the Collaborative Learning project. The workshop will explore ways of encouraging children to engage with stories through role play while working together in small groups. This will assist children in finding their own voices.

Short break

**16.00 – 17.30: Opening reception** with the other international students and lecturers in Mechelen

**Evening: at hostel and together with other international students and teachers in Mechelen**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**9.00-9.30:**

Morning assembly: About the teaching in school and the project work together – first ideas among shared among students. Form groups across nationalities.

Ideas for which books and stories to use for the project?

**Suggestion: reflection after each workshop – on how the input could be used in teaching stories, etc.**

**From 9.30 – 15.00**

**Further workshops** led by lecturers or students that focus on intercultural learning through stories in English and native language teaching. Each workshop lasts between 1-1½ hours

Remember lunch at?

Headlines: Suggest am A/B/C pm D/E/F so participants can go to two of these?

**A) Education for intercultural dialogue – Conveying values through folktales.**

Agnes Streitmann PhD, College Associate Professor, Apur Vilmos Catholic College  
Department of Foreign Language and Literature

**B) Stories and mirror images...** Werner Stijnen, Thomas More University, Antwerpen

How can we help our learners to 'write' or 'talk back' to stories? Well, the use of visuals may help. In our Snapchat, Instagram, Emoji and selfie times, images and extended caption texts can be a first way for learners to engage with stories and train their reading satnavs. This can then inspire them to 'write' or 'talk back' to stories. The immediacy of images and the code-switching involved may just be what the story doctor ordered.

**C) Presentation of a project:** Screening of Motherland; a drama based project in Vauxhall Manor School, London, UK where female Caribbean students re-enacted their mothers'

arrival in England in the 1950s. Dr V. Coultas and Stuart Scott

**D) Storytelling and customs** Chantal Muller, HENALLUX, Namur

- either linked with festivals (Saint Nicholas / Saint Martin)
- or linked with "universal" character : dragon (festival in Mons / Belgium - world heritage)

**E)** Kingston University students to lead a workshop on questioning? Using *Tell Me* approach by Aiden Chambers

**F)** Intercultural learning through Picture Books.  
Jette Laursen

**15.00-16.00: Based on input from workshops, etc.:**

Groups of student teachers discuss and share ideas for their story talks in school. 2<sup>nd</sup> round of brain-storming.

**16.00-17.00 Teachers as writers (or offered as evening event)**

Stuart and Valerie will introduce the National Writing Project and describe the impact of this project on teaching and attitudes towards writing and how it helps to empower teachers to become writers. The participants will have an opportunity to reflect on their own experience of participating in writing their own stories in the Monday session.

**Evening: event together linked to our topic (where??) "Story night" (sharing various stories, telling stories, etc.)**

**Wednesday 29th March**

**9.00-9.30:** Morning assembly: About the teaching in school and the project work together – ideas shared among students. **Making choices of stories?** Choosing a story to use with Primary school pupils or another with lower secondary school students to work on.

**From 9.30- 12:** more workshops? – or start the planning?

**Rest of Morning: and afternoon until 17.00:**

Students work on preparation of storytelling and story reading in schools. Lecturers as guides.

**Is this enough time???**

**Evening: at hostel and together with other international students and teachers in**

## **Mechelen.**

### **Thursday : 30<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **9.00-13.00 (ca.): Visit at schools in Mechelen.**

Teach lessons in groups based on chosen story or approach. Schools will be primary and lower secondary. Teacher educators follow student groups into schools

**14.00-16.00:** Evaluations of teaching the stories and dimensions of storytelling and interculturality.

Lecturers discuss the possibilities

Planning work ahead. Day 5: choosing the stories for further development + establishing research group and working on follow up project (or Friday)

**Evening:** cultural night together: teachers and students (where and when?)

(Or students at hostel and together with other international students and teachers in Mechelen.)

### **Friday: 31<sup>st</sup> March:**

9-10.30: Evaluations of projects in school and key learning over the week possibly using intercultural learning frame? (Pilot study?) (Students to have time to write up an evaluation?)

11- 1pm Teacher Educators discuss research project and I/C learning frame.

Review project and discuss grant possibilities etc.

a) Close review of

Intercultural learning frame

b) Adding a prompt sheet for interviews with children.

#### **Lunch together**

14.00-15.00: Farewell event together with other international students in Mechelen.

### **Organising Committee:**

Jette Laursen, University College South Denmark, Haderslev. [jlau@ucsyd.dk](mailto:jlau@ucsyd.dk)

Werner Stijnen, Thomas More, Antwerp, Belgium, [werner.stijnen@thomasmore.be](mailto:werner.stijnen@thomasmore.be)

Valerie Coultas, School of Education, Kingston University, UK. [V.Coultas@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:V.Coultas@kingston.ac.uk)

