

Sensing Place Caribbean: Introducing working with your Sense of Place

- Dr Niall Finneran
- Niall.Finneran@winchester.ac.uk
- Dr Christina Welch
- Christina.Welch@winchester.ac.uk



Introduction

The stories of any area are based upon a number of themes that help define it and the people and activities that have made it what it is today.

However, for every story, there are probably another twenty or more waiting to be told and each community will have its own tales that will define its unique sense of place.

This is brief overview PowerPoint with PDF document, we think through with you how to work with the themes in the stories and adapt and enrich them with local knowledge to help both visitors and locals alike, to gain a better understanding and more ways to connect with an area of significance to them helping you connect with and interpret your sense of place.

'Top down' approaches to heritage:

Professionalised

Politicised

Authorised Heritage Discourse and metanarratives

Written for, not written by

Capitalist and colonialist in tone

Outsider vs insider

'Bottom up' approaches to heritage

Inclusive and participatory

De-colonised

Written by, not written for

Sustainable

Socially engaged

Insider and outsider together

Partnership

Defining a wider
Garifuna sense of place:
results of our survey
conducted at GHF 2019
in word clouds



Who could undertake this in each community?

This could be done by a tourism group, if one exists in the area or it could be done by groups such as local history societies, school groups or faith groups. Many stories will rest with older residents and taking time to listen whilst it is still possible can be very rewarding.

This approach offers potential for a great oral history project possibly between young people and older residents in a community. Local history archives can be an excellent resource that lends itself to interrogation in a different way.

The key thing is to remember whom and for what purpose the outputs are for and therefore what format they will be presented in. It is important to ensure that whilst accurate, the stories remain interesting and not get too bogged down in the detailed historical facts that can be hard to comprehend.

Whilst it is always interesting to hear the stories of an area, it is even more interesting if locals and visitors can then go on to experience the places and people that the stories are about – so do remember to relate the stories to experiences that others can enjoy.

These can be as diverse as a walk, an historic building, a burial site, a religious building or a place in the landscape. Modern technology can be a great aid in relating past to present and help people pinpoint locations of relevance.

How can we go about pinning down a Sense of Place?

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The components of a sense of place can be a myriad of different things. It could be a first impression, a feeling you get on going to a new place, the atmosphere, the people, distinctive sights, smells and noises that resonate with locals and visitors.

Being close to a place can mean that it is easy to forget that our ordinary can be somebody else's adventure. Take a moment to visualise yourself visiting a place you have never been before. It could be a different part of this country or a completely new cultural experience.

Imagine yourself being there and think about what you might anticipate experiencing. If you can get a sense of how that might translate into how your place impacts on others you are beginning to get onto the right track. Now onto Themes.

Themes

People – past and present

Modern culture

Buildings – interiors and exteriors

Faith

Industry

Language

Food and drink

Creativity and the arts

Landscape and wildlife – urban and rural

People – past and present



Bob Marley Museum, Kingston,
Jamaica

People – past and present

- Who are your local figures – what did they do and where did they do it?
- Are they individuals or a group – such as a different ethnic or religious group that settled and made an impact?
- Have national figures made an impact locally?
- Are there film locations nearby that can be visited? What films were they used in? What about plays, books and TV programmes?
- How and where are local figures commemorated?
- Are there any products/places named after them or activities visitors can enjoy associated with their stories?

Modern Culture - what can be experienced today?



National Art Gallery of the
Bahamas, Nassau

Modern Culture - what can be experienced today?

- Who lives here and where are they from?
- What languages can be heard?
- What are popular social activities?
- What makes up the local arts scene?
- Community celebrations and festivals
- Nightlife
- Where do locals go to hang out?
- Good places to eat with local food
- What are the main social challenges?

Buildings – interiors and exteriors



Two forms of Barbadian built heritage: Arlington House, Speightstown (l); Chattel House (r)

Buildings – interiors and exteriors

- The overall impression made by your built heritage
- Vernacular styles and materials
- Significant periods of development and the reasons for this
- Significant re-purposing of buildings and by whom, for what purpose
- Buildings that have a special emotional resonance in your area
- Any individual that has had a significant input to any aspect

Faith



Mikve Israel Synagogue,
Curacao

Faith

- Religious sites (include prayer times?)
- Religious communities – their stories and the reasons for their presence in your area
- Religious buildings and their dedications
- Current faith groups within a community and their places of worship
- Remains of religious buildings that can be visited
- Stories of the interaction between immigration and the establishment of the religious practices of the immigrant group in an area
- Any famous people buried in the churchyard
- Any stories of haunting or local myths and legends

Industry



Traditional boat building
in Carriacou celebrated
in film

Industry

- Built industrial heritage and its past and present uses
- Decline and re-use of industrial sites
- The community and world impact of loss of industry and products
- International connections generated through industrial practices

Language



PATOIS The Jamaican Language

Don't bother me.....	Nuh Badda Mi
It is mine.....	A Fi Mi
Good Looking Girl.....	Criss Ting
Just a little.....	Jus a toops
Con Artist.....	Ginnal
Look at that.....	Coo Deh
Can you please.....	A Beg Yuh
Leave me Alone.....	Lef Mi
Oh My Gosh.....	Jessum Peace
Excuse Me.....	Jus a word
Can I pass.....	Beg yuh pass
Take Care.....	Walk Good
Hey there.....	Pssst
Turn there.....	Tun deh so
Thank You.....	Tanks
Girlfriend.....	Dawta
Fantastic.....	Irie
Children.....	Pickney
Father.....	Fahda
Mother.....	Madda
Right here.....	Yahso
I am okay.....	Ya man
Serve you just right.....	Ah good
Wow.....	Blouse an skirt

Scan QR code
for more Patois



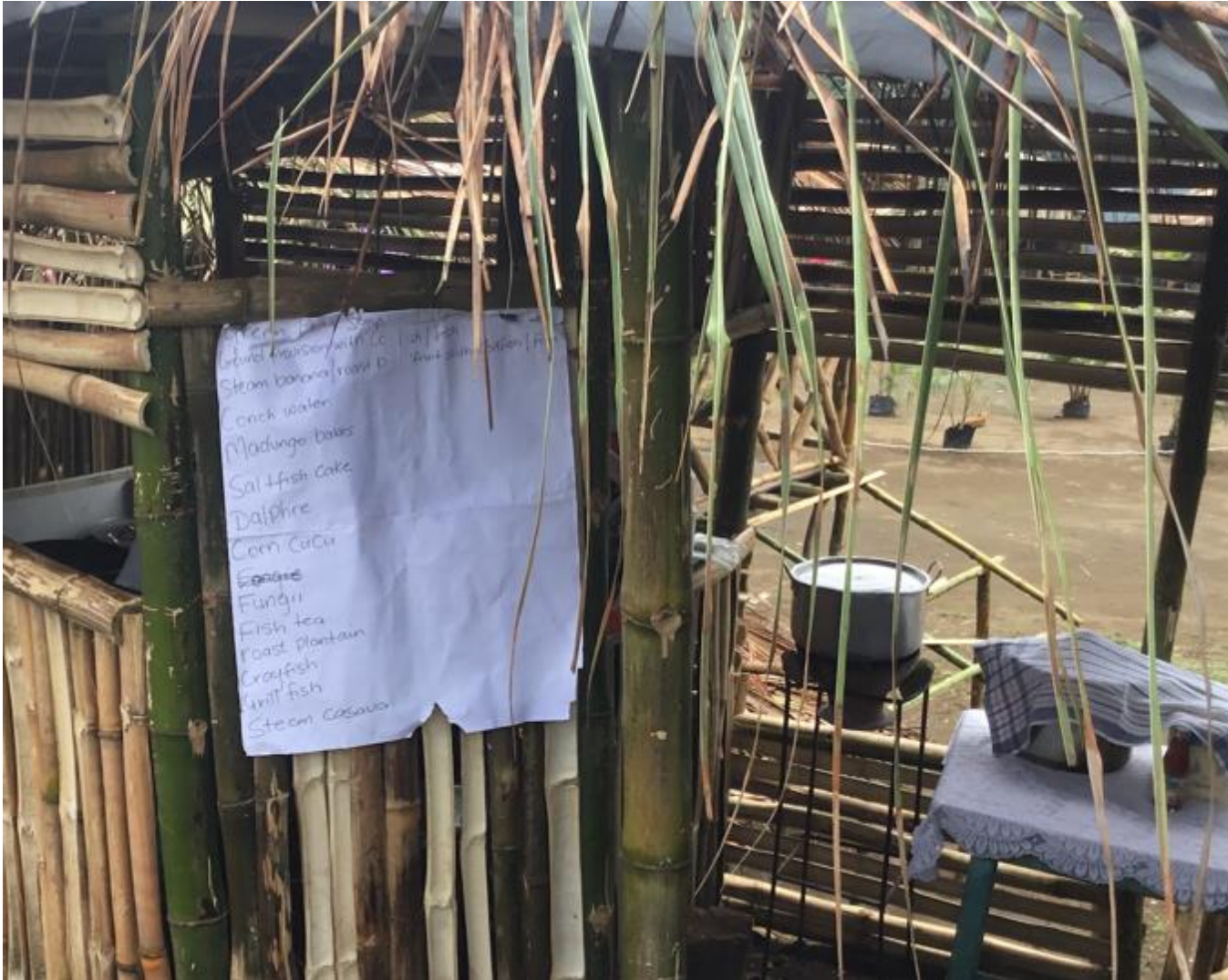
To Learn more Patois visit:
jamaicans.com/speakja

Jamaicans.com

Language

- What languages are commonly used on your island?
- The cultural origin of the people using the range of languages and the contribution these cultures make to the local community
- Language and cultural preferences of people of the first and subsequent generations
- Any hybrid language forms that are unique locally
- Language preference for communication between people with differing first languages
- Local dialects and vocabulary – history and origins
- Written language and how it is used in the community

Food and Drink



Greiggs Village, St Vincent,
National Heroes Day
Commemorations March 14
2020

Food and Drink

- Celebration/festival food or street food
- Local food and particular preparation methods or names.
- Local drinks
- How food and drink shared across cultures
- Good places to eat or buy locally distinct foods

Defining a wider
Garifuna sense of
place: word cloud
on food

arrowroot (1) arrowroot (1) authentic (1) **bam-bam** (4) banana (1)
callaloo (1) cassava-and-wild-meat-prepared-by-mature (1) **cassava-bread** (2)
cassava (20) cocoa (1) coconut (1) corn (1) darasa (1)
delicious (1) **different** (3) do-not-cook-that-more (1) do-not-know-how-to-cook-
garifuna-food (1) do-not-know-the-food (1) dough-boy (1) ducona (1) ducuna (1) eat-certain-
foods (1) farine (1) **fish** (11) flavoured (1) **fungi** (3) **healthy** (2)
herbs (1) how-food-was-prepared (1) how-prepared (1) how-they-prepared-food (1)
hudut (2) ingredients (1) interesting (1) **jack-fish** (2)
madungo (6) meat (1) milk (1) not-always-available (1) plantain (1)
pounded-plantain (1) religious (1) rice (1) **roast-fish** (2) seasonal (1) spices (1)
sustaining (1) **taste** (2) **tasty** (2) **unique** (2) what-they-eat (1) wildmeat (1)
women (1) yummy (1) zabucca (1)

Creativity and the arts



Creativity and the arts

- Local craft traditions – i.e. pottery or basketry making; painting
- Traditional musical instruments and their use
- Fusion of cultural traditions and their resultant outputs
- Traditional local craft origins
- Different forms of dance
- Annual local celebrations with elements of art
- Culture/Faith-based activities
- Any local visual art forms specific to the area

Defining a wider
Garifuna sense of
place: word cloud of
crafts that were
important to them

antique (1) artefacts (1) banana-craft (1) **baskets** (5) beads (2)
beautiful (1) bow-and-arrow (1) bows-and-arrows (2)
canoes (5) **carvings** (4) cassava-preparation (1)
clothing (2) coconut-art-and-banana-art (1) coloured-clothing (1) colourful (1) copper (1)
creative (5) **dance** (6) design (1) dress (2)
drums (4) fabrics (1) feathers (1) fishing-rods (1) garifuna-colours (1) historical (1)
history (1) housing (1) how-arts-and-crafts-created (1) impressive (1) instruments (1) jewellery (1)
knives (1) lack-material (1) lack-of-markets (1) little-known (1) local-materials (1) materials-used (1)
mats (2) meaning (1) mortar-pestle (1) musical-instruments (1) **original** (2)
paintings (3) petroglyph (2) pottery (1) products-of-the-land (1)
punta (2) quadrille (1) rattles (1) small (1) stone-tools (1) thatched-huts (1) unique (1)
utensils (1) weapons (1) woven-mats (1) writings (1)

Landscape and Wildlife



Emerald Pool waterfall and nature trail
Dominica

Landscape and Wildlife

- How the landscape creates a visual identity for an area
- Human occupations associated with the land or water
- Understanding how agricultural practices dictate cultural practices i.e. harvest festivals
- Particular species that might be associated with an area or iconic to an area
- How visitors interact with the landscape and wildlife – what do they come to experience and what opportunities does that create?
- What is the story of the land use – past and present?

Defining a wider
Garifuna sense of place:
word cloud on places
that were important to
them

argyle (2) arrowroot-factory (1) **balliceaux** (12)
blackpoint-tunnel (1) dorsetshire-hill (2) duvalle-mountain (1)
fancy (17) fort-charlotte (3)
gregg (17) honduras (2) kamacou (1) **layou** (5)
north-leeward (1) obelisk-dorsetshire-hill (1) obelisk (1) overland (1) owia-salt-pond (1)
owia (16) richland-park (1) roatan (1) rose-bank (2) rose-
hall (3) rosebank (1) rosehill (1) **sandy-bay** (18)
st-vincent (2) tourama (1) union-island (1)

Defining a wider
Garifuna sense of
place: overall word
cloud on what the
Garifuna felt defined
them



Overview

- Heritage is important! It has enormous social, economic and cultural benefits
- Tangible and intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage is the backdrop of our everyday lives, and heritage is created *in the present*
- Community-based initiatives are inclusive and participatory, and can help shape local economies
- The sensing place toolkit can help you understand what your heritage means to a cross section of people and allows you to set your narrative



Questions?