



20x20 Vision for walking in 2040 from Maggie O'Neill - Transcript

Hello Andrew it's **Maggie O'Neill** What I'm working on at the moment is a project with colleagues Ger Mullally and Arpad Szokolczi at UCC (University College Cork) and the Dingle Creativity Innovation Space at Dingle in County Kerry. The project is called "Walking conversations" or "the art of paying attention". At the centre of the project is the idea that taking a walk with someone is a very powerful way of communicating. An experience in which you can become attuned and connect in an embodied way, with the feelings and experiences of another. Also walking is a great way of doing biographical research. Biographical research can be defined as collecting and interpreting the lives of others as part of human understanding. But also importantly walking in relation to space, place, time what Carl Rogers calls 'active listening' and Tim Ingold the 'art of paying attention', is essential to the project.

We invited participants: postgraduate students in social research and artists, transition year students, historians and environmentalists, to meet and we had two conversations about anti-disciplinary thinking, about theory and practice and method, about the landscape, pilgrimage, sustainability, time, the sense of ecology.

So first of all we had a roundtable discussion, we decided on new methods with walking. On Saturday, Tim Ingold gave a wonderful keynote called "How to walk in an uncertain world", and this was followed by parallel walks with artists, designers, social historians, followed by a gathering and feedback session to close the symposium, in 'World café' sessions, to see what might grow from there.

So we are really on the first stage of a journey having had a series of events which we hope will become an annual event. The wonderful walking artist Blake Morris joined us and walked with us in Dingle peninsula.

My vision for walking in 2040

So my vision for the future is definitely to think about this liminal space that we are all in as part of a transition to a new paradigm, to a new way of being connecting to freer, slower, fairer or sustainable less punitively controlled world. A world that anchors on social justice, where human dignity and human flourishing is at the centre and valued, not corrupted by fear, capitalism, inequalities and suffering.

Thank you Andrew