IDEA Conference Report

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD?
Building Global Justice Perspectives in Challenging Times
IDEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013 | Friday 14 June
A Message from IDEA

IDEA is the Irish Development Education Association of Ireland. We are a dynamic and growing network of organisations and individuals engaged in the provision, promotion and advancement of development education throughout the island of Ireland.

IDEA’s vision is of a world based on global justice, solidarity, equality and sustainability. We see development education as an essential process that empowers people to create this world.

Our members come from different regions of the island of Ireland and work in different sectors of society to engage the Irish public in development education. All IDEA members share the vision that our work will contribute to transforming the social, cultural, economic and political structures of the world and the fabric of our society in order to create a more just and equal future for all.

IDEA’s work includes:

- Advancing and promoting good practice in development education
- Building the capacity and professional development of the sector
- Coordinating and supporting development education in Ireland
- Developing policy positions and undertaking advocacy to support our members and make the case for development education
- Providing links with development educators and policy at an international level
- Organising development education events throughout Ireland

www.ideaonline.ie
Tweet @IDEAIreland
Facebook http://www.facebook.com/idea.ireland
E: info@ideaonline.ie
Agenda for the Day

9:30 am  Registration
10:00 am  Welcome
10:15 am  Keynote Address 1: Maureen Freely
          Keynote Address 2: Bahia Shehab: “Global Citizen, Active Citizen”
11:15 am  Coffee Break
11:45 am  Panel discussion, chaired by Patsy Toland, with speakers, Liam Wegimont (Mount Temple Comprehensive School / GENE) Meliosa Bracken (The Debate Project), Su-ming Khoo (NUIG)
1:00pm    Lunch
2:00pm    Presentation on the ‘Challenging the Crisis’ EU Project: Elaine Mahon
2:15pm    Workshops:
          1) Challenging the Crisis and Youth Engagement – Elaine Mahon (IDEA)
          2) Public Space as an Arena for Creative Active Citizenship – Jessica Carson and Áine Crowley (Mayfield Arts)
3:45pm    Closing comments
Summary of Conference Report

The 2013 IDEA Annual Conference focused on the theme of “Global Citizenship” and considered how we can harness the energy of new social movements and individual activists as they respond to the global crisis, in our development education practice. Key questions explored during the day included:

- In the European Year of Citizens, is global inequality part of the conversation?
- In teaching about global citizenship issues, what progress have we made in moving from a charity mindset to a justice perspective?
- How can the Development Education community bring the energy and passion about local and global crises into learning spaces to make citizenship education a more engaging and dynamic process?

The opening session with keynote speakers Bahia Shehab and Maureen Freely, proved an inspirational start to the day, with Bahia sharing her personal journey to becoming an active citizen in Egypt and Maureen contributing an insightful and interesting overview of the current situation in Turkey, while situating this within the historical context. Their inputs highlighted the role of individuals in stepping beyond their usual roles and comfort zone and overcoming the barrier of fear to take a stand as active citizens in protecting human rights and creating the space for a vibrant democracy. A common thread was the need to learn from the past and other examples from across the globe in order to develop new leadership and a critical citizenship. The significant role of social media in spreading messages about crises as they unfold was also to the fore, enabling people to become ‘citizen reporters’ and share their perspectives and experiences with a global audience. Creativity, the use of humour and the power of storytelling were shared as examples of ways in which activists can convey a message in a non-threatening and peaceful way, while capturing the imagination of the broader public and contributing to a viral effect.

The panel discussion built on these themes and considered ways in which the energy described above can be channeled into educational spaces and learners supported to take action on issues of concern. The need for educators to overcome their own fears of moving beyond a comfort zone and safe parameters for discussion with learners and to embrace creativity was also acknowledged. The space and support for individual versus collective action and critical debate was also raised as an issue in Irish education, with significant scope to improve the centrality of global education to the curriculum and to broaden the conception of what it means to be an active citizen, beyond that of voting in elections.

The conference also introduced IDEA’s new EU project, Challenging the Crisis, which aims to engage young EU citizens from highly indebted countries to become informed and active advocates on global justice. A second workshop encouraged participants to unleash their own imagination in considering the use of the public space around Wood Quay as a vibrant place for active citizenship. Overall the day was highly engaging and challenged us to step beyond our comfort zones and be active!
Keynote Speakers

**Maureen Freely** was born in the US but grew up in Turkey, where her family still lives. She was educated at Radcliffe College (Harvard University) and has spent most of her adult life in England. A professor at the University of Warwick, and currently the chair of the Translators Association, she is perhaps best known for her translations of five books by the Turkish novelist and Nobel Laureate, Orhan Pamuk, and for her campaigning journalism after he and many other writers, scholars and activists were prosecuted for insulting Turkishness or the memory of Ataturk. Her sixth novel, *Enlightenment* (2007), covers some of the same ground. Her seventh, *Sailing through Byzantium*, takes place in Istanbul during the Cuban Missile Crisis and will be published later this year. She works closely with English PEN on freedom of expression in Turkey.

Watch the video of [Maureen’s presentation](http://www.ideaonline.ie).

**Bahia Shehab** is Associate Professor at the American University in Cairo. She has developed and launched the new Graphic Design program for the department of the Arts with courses mainly focused on the visual culture of the Arab world. She is currently a PhD candidate at Leiden University in Holland. Her research is focused on Fatimid Kufic inscriptions on portable items in the Mediterranean basin and beyond. She is also Executive Creative Director with Mi7-Cairo working on projects relevant to cultural heritage.

Bahia’s artwork has been on display in galleries worldwide including China, Germany, Italy, Lebanon and the UAE. Her graffiti art remains a part of Cairo’s cityscape. Her book "A Thousand Times NO: The Visual History of Lam-Alif" was published in 2010. She is a 2012 TED Global Fellow.

Download an [interview with Bahia Shehab](http://www.ideaonline.ie) in the Irish Times, following the conference.

View Bahia’s TED Talk here: [http://www.ted.com/talks/bahia_shehab_a_thousand_times_no.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/bahia_shehab_a_thousand_times_no.html)
Participant Comments

“I felt the keynote speakers were fantastic- they framed the conference in the reality of the current global crisis and did so in such a way that made you feel like you could touch the issues. They were both informative and inspirational, giving us as development education practitioners ideas and energy on how to engage others on potentially difficult global justice issues”

“People use the word inspiring to describe speakers at conferences all the time, sometimes without warrant, but the speakers really were very inspirational, particularly Bahia Shehab.”

“The keynote speakers were excellent; engaging, inspiring and providing new and exciting perspectives on issues that have been discussed at length in the media”
Panel Speakers

Panel Moderator: **Patsy Toland**, WorldWise Global Schools Coordinator and member of IDEA’s National Council. Patsy was previously coordinator of the development education programme at Self Help Africa.

**Liam Wegimont** is the Principal of Mount Temple Comprehensive School, Dublin and Advisor to GENE - Global Education Network Europe. Involved in global learning practice, policy, networking and research for over 20 years, he initiated GENE, facilitated the Maastricht Congress and continues to co-facilitate the European Peer Review Process. "Global Education in Europe: Policy, Practice and Theoretical Challenges", his latest co-edited volume, is published by Waxmann.

Download **Liam’s presentation** and view the video of his presentation. See: [http://www.gene.eu/](http://www.gene.eu/)

**Meliosa Bracken** currently works as the Development Education Coordinator for the County Dublin VEC Adult Education Service in Blanchardstown where she is responsible for developing a global dimension in education programmes for over 2,000 adult learners. She also works as a consultant researcher, specialising in evaluating and monitoring adult education programmes in the formal and non-formal sectors. Meliosa previously worked as a researcher in the School of Education, University College Dublin and is co-author with Dr Audrey Bryan of ‘Learning to Read the World: Teaching and Learning about Global Citizenship Education in post-primary schools’.

View the video of **Meliosa Bracken’s presentation**
See: [http://adulteducationservice.info/wp/the-debate-project/](http://adulteducationservice.info/wp/the-debate-project/)

**Su-ming Khoo** is a Lecturer in the School of Political Science and Sociology, the National University of Ireland, Galway. Her teaching and research focus on rights-based approaches to development, decolonization, democratization, ecology and human development, with a particular interest in activism, participation and popular mobilization. Her current research is on public goods and the three immediate action areas of the Right to Development - food, health and education. Recent publications include articles and book chapters on rights, development, alternative consumer activism, the Millennium Development Goals, citizenship, development education, education for human rights and higher education policy.

View the video of **Su-Ming Khoo’s presentation**
See [http://nuigalway.academia.edu/SumingKhoo](http://nuigalway.academia.edu/SumingKhoo)

What Participants Said...

“There was a good mix of knowledge and background in the panelists, which was very beneficial”

“Participants got really involved and it was interesting to see the variety of points of reference people in the room were coming from”
Key questions the panel was invited to discuss:

- How can the development education community bring the energy and passion described by Bahia and Maureen into learning spaces?
- What are the key competencies of global citizens, and how do we build them in formal and non-formal education?
- What frames and/or values do we need to use in citizenship, global justice education?
- Does our citizenship education focus too much on local, national, EU contexts at the expense of global contexts? Or is all good citizenship inherently global citizenship?

Key points arising from the presentations

**Liam Wegimont** - Policy and practice needs to be more strategic, theory more grounded and storytelling more creative and imaginative. A paradigm shift is required to put global education at the heart of educational systems. If we as a DE community want this shift to happen, educational systems need to be considered as partners, not ‘targets’.

As a sector, we need to press for recognition that global education is a necessary component of good education. Some progress has been made in Ireland, for example through the Junior Cycle reform, but a lot more needs to be done to bring about system wide change. Finland and Poland offer interesting models that we can learn from.

**Meliosa Bracken** - Citizenship in adult and community education contexts in Ireland today is often oriented towards nurturing ‘obedient citizens’ who will be good workers, rather than active and critically engaged citizens.

The challenge we face is to bring some more passion into adult learning spaces, to make a convincing case that critical thinking is a key competency.

**Su-ming Khoo** - Is there a crisis in citizenship education? We need to articulate what citizenship is about—the right to have rights, the right to claim spaces - and consider how we can develop competencies to be active citizens. Universities need to become learning spaces where ethical values are integrated across subject areas and where students and staff can work together to deconstruct and analyse the world.
Workshops

Public Space as an Arena for Creative Active Citizenship

Jessica Carson coordinates the programme at Mayfield Arts, Newbury house where young people engage in programmes exploring creative citizenship through their education programme. She also co-ordinates CIT Crawford College of Art and Design's 'Arts Participation and Development programme' providing accredited training in creative approaches to development education. Jessica also practices as an artist engaging groups in creative processes.

Áine Crowley is also an artist engaging with a wide range of groups both in Mayfield Arts and across the Cork city. She was a guest artist in a recent residency with an intercultural Woman's programme in Australia.

This creative and interactive workshop invited participants to explore the local surroundings at Wood Quay and consider ways in which the public spaces could be used as opportunities for creative active citizenship.

Download the workshop presentation

See: http://www.mayfieldarts.org/

Challenging the Crisis

Elaine Mahon is Project Coordinator of the Challenging the Crisis Project at IDEA. She brings a wealth of experience of working with youth organisations and in development education, both in Ireland and across Europe.

This participatory workshop introduced IDEA’s new project “Challenging the Crisis”, which aims to engage young EU citizens from highly indebted countries to become informed and active advocates on global justice issues. The workshop provided an opportunity for IDEA members to explore ways in which they can be directly involved with the project, including via a project advisory group.

Download the workshop presentation

See: www.ideaonline.ie

“This was the highlight of the day for me. This experiential workshop really took active citizenship from the comfort of discussion in the conference room to the discomfort of what it means to actually engage and take action on a street level in a creative way. I think this was absolutely fantastic – it really made us explore the value of creativity in educating and inspiring active citizenship”
Photographs of the Day

Photo captions in a clockwise direction, starting top left:
1) Speakers at the IDEA Annual Conference: Patsy Toland (Panel moderator), Meliosa Bracken, Su-ming Khoo, Liam Wegimont, Maureen Freely and Frank Geary (IDEA, Director).
2) Participants at the IDEA Annual Conference, 2013 at Wood Quay Venue
3) Eimear McNally graphic harvesting the conference proceedings
4) Participants at the IDEA Annual Conference, 2013 at Wood Quay Venue
5 & 6) Conference participants discuss the panel contributions as part of the Q&A session
Graphic Harvest
My most significant piece of learning from the Conference was...

There is a place for passion and emotion in the classroom alongside rational analysis.

My belief in the power of arts for change has been affirmed, and my confidence in using the arts for development has really increased.

That we can and should connect street activism to 'classroom' learning.

It helped me think of more ways to empower the young people I work with to take action particularly when it comes to standing up to injustice.

Ways in which I can apply the learning to my development education practice...

“I will use Bahia and her example of using one’s own interests and passions to create change”

“I am going to organise some sessions for students to support them in the areas of advocacy, activism and campaigns in a formal education context”
## Delegates List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ORGANISATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adrienne Boyle</td>
<td>IDEA Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aine Crowley</td>
<td>Mayfield Community Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aoife Mc Ternan</td>
<td>Trócaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aoife Rush</td>
<td>CEIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aoife Titley</td>
<td>DICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Bisikwa</td>
<td>IDEA Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Murphy</td>
<td>Children in Crossfire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Mc Andrew</td>
<td>Suas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciara Passmore</td>
<td>Plan Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciara Regan</td>
<td>Developmenteducation.ie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Jacob</td>
<td>Self-Help Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Madouesi</td>
<td>WOWC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eva Creely</td>
<td>Leargas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geraldine Carroll</td>
<td>Concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Carson</td>
<td>Mayfield Community Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joanne Kavanagh</td>
<td>EIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joanne Malone</td>
<td>Suas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Cahill</td>
<td>Eco-Unesco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liam Barnard</td>
<td>Concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liam Wegimont</td>
<td>Mount Temple Community School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lianne Murphy</td>
<td>Age Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lizzie Downes</td>
<td>DICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maeve Seery</td>
<td>GOAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Ryan</td>
<td>Irish Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbemba Jabbi</td>
<td>Africa Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Noah</td>
<td>Eco-Unesco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meliosa Bracken</td>
<td>The Debate Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meredith Lenz</td>
<td>Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miren-Mailen Samper</td>
<td>IDEA Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natasha Ariff</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Coleman</td>
<td>Irish Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patsy Toland</td>
<td>WorldWise Global Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosalind Duke</td>
<td>CICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannette Budhai</td>
<td>Comhlámh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Su-Ming Khoo</td>
<td>NUIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Roche</td>
<td>Just Forests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Duffy</td>
<td>NYCI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Killeen</td>
<td>Amnesty International</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You...

IDEA would like to thank everyone who contributes to making our Annual Conference a success. In particular we would like to thank our keynote speakers, panellists and workshop facilitators. We are also grateful to:

Video: Mia Mullarkey

Graphic Harvesting: Eimear McNally [www.makehandstands.com](http://www.makehandstands.com)

Catering: Mary Farrell Fresh Café [http://www.cafe-fresh.com/](http://www.cafe-fresh.com/)

**IDEA Staff Team:**

Frank Geary, Director - [frank@ideaonline.ie](mailto:frank@ideaonline.ie)

Susan Gallwey, Capacity Building Officer - [susan@ideaonline.ie](mailto:susan@ideaonline.ie)

Siobhán Sleeman, Communications and Outreach Officer – [Siobhan@ideaonline.ie](mailto:Siobhan@ideaonline.ie)

Heidi Holden, Administrator - [heidi@ideaonline.ie](mailto:heidi@ideaonline.ie)

Elaine Mahon, Project Coordinator - [elaine@ideaonline.ie](mailto:elaine@ideaonline.ie)

**Funders:**

IDEA gratefully acknowledges funding received from the Civil Society and Development Education Unit of Irish Aid, the European Union and Trócaire. The ideas, opinions and comments herein, are entirely the responsibility of IDEA and do not necessarily represent or reflect Irish Aid or European Policy.