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TELLING STORIES OF PAIN AND HOPE

MUSEUMS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IRELAND

Mary Elizabeth Lange and Ruth Teer-Tomaselli

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Ireland

MARY ELIZABETH LANGE

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RUTH TEER-TOMASELLI

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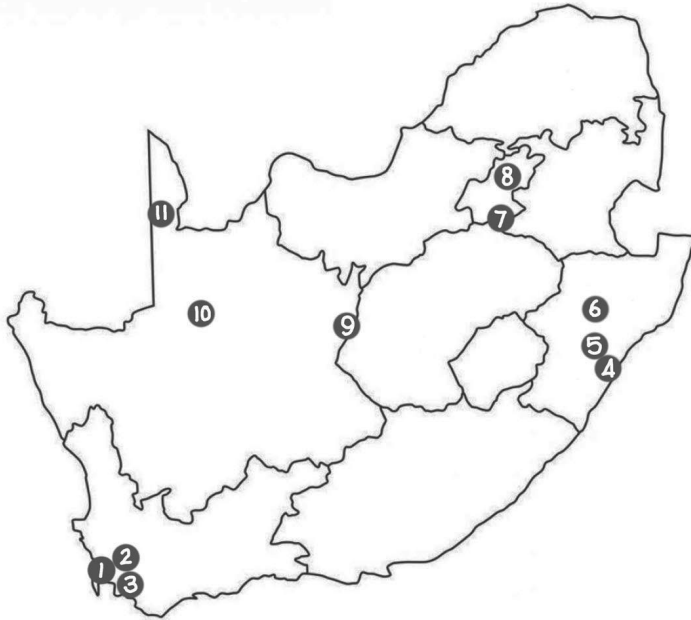
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South African Museums



South Africa

1 Cape Town	Western Cape	Voortrekker Complex Church of the Vow KwaZulu-Natal Museum	
District Six Museum + Home Coming Centre Slave Lodge Museum Robben Island Museum Holocaust + Genocide Centre !Khwa ttu Heritage Centre			
2 Worcester	Western Cape		
Kleinplasië Museum			
3 Swellendam	Western Cape		
Drostdy Museum			
4 Durban/eThekweni	KwaZulu-Natal		
Bergtheil Museum Westville Pinetown Museum KwaMuhle Museum University of KwaZulu-Natal			
5 Pietermaritzburg	KwaZulu-Natal		
Msunduzi Museum +			
		6 Dundee	KwaZulu-Natal
		Ncome Museum Blood River Museum Talana Museum	
		7 Johannesburg	Gauteng
		Constitution Hill Precinct Apartheid Museum Hector Pieterse Museum	
		8 Tshwane/Pretoria	Gauteng
		9 Kimberley	Northern Cape
		McGregor Museum	
		10 Upington, Kalahari	Northern Cape
		11 !Xaus Lodge, Kalahari	Northern Cape
		Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park	

Ireland Museums



Ireland

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Derry - Londonderry | County Londonderry |
| Museum of Free Derry | |
| Tower Museum | |
| Siege Museum | |
| Guild Hall | |
| 2 Giant's Causeway | County Antrim |
| 3 Belfast | County Antrim |
| Ulster Museum | |
| Crumlin Road Gaol Museum | |
| Ulster Folk Museum | |
| 4 Dublin | County Dublin |
| Kilmainham Gaol Museum | |
| National Museum Ireland | |
| Collins Barracks | |
| 5 Avoca | County Wicklow |
| 6 Kilkerrin | County Galway |
| 7 Dingle | County Kerry |

TIMELINE

Fig 1.1:

Southern Africa		Ireland
2,6 million years ago to 11 700 years ago - most recent Ice Age		
Hunter-gatherers 40 000 to 2 000 year ago	2,5 million years ago to 800 years ago	Hunter-gatherers ± 10 000 and 4 500 year ago
Herders 2 300 years ago Introduction of domestic animals and pottery		Farmers 5 700 years ago Introduction of agriculture
Farmers 2 000 years ago Introduction of metallurgy		Farmers 4 300 years ago Introduction of metallurgy
	12th to 16th Centuries	1169–1171 Norman invasion and rule over parts of Ireland
		1356 Statute of Kilkenny
		1539-1681 British Reformation Henry VIII establishes himself as head of the English church
		1556 First English occupation of Derry
		1593-1603 Irish rebellion against the English nine-year war
	17th Century	1607 Flight of the Earls
ca 1627-1709 amaZulu clan leader (Nkonsinkulu),		1609-1690 Plantations of Ulster

<p>1652 Jan van Riebeeck at the Cape</p>		<p>1688 Three-year civil war in England between Catholic, James 11 and Protestant Mary and Dutch Prince William of Orange The Siege of Derry</p>
<p>1779-1878 Eastern Cape border wars</p>	<p>18th Century</p>	<p>1690 King William 111 travels along Sandy Row, Belfast, to the Battle of the Boyne (1 July)</p>
<p>1795-1803 British colonisation of the Cape</p>		<p>1765-1783 American Revolution influence on Republican Irish.</p>
<p>1795-1803 British colonisation parts of South Africa</p>	<p>19th Century</p>	<p>1789-1799 French Revolution influence on Republican Irish such as The Society of United Irishman</p>
		<p>1796 Kilmainham Gaol opens Henry Joy McCracken incarcerated at Kilmainham Gaol Museum – first political prisoner</p>
		<p>1798 Irish Rebellion</p>
		<p>1800-1850 Ireland to Australia transportation of convicts</p>
		<p>1803 Rising Anne Devlin and Robert Emmet of the Protestant Ascendancy, incarcerated at Kilmainham Gaol Museum for treason</p>

1820 British settlers arrive in Eastern Cape		1814 Apprenticeship Boys founded
1833 British Slavery Abolition Act		
1835-1846 Great Trek Battle of Vegkop, Free State (16 October 1836) Piet Retief death by Dingane ka Senzangakhona (6 February 1838) Battle of Blood-Ncome River (16 December 1838)	19th Century contin.	1839-1912 Ireland to Australia government assisted transportation
By 1852 Transvaal and the Oranje Vrystaat Boer Republics established		1845-1850 Great Irish Famine
		1858 Mary Ann McCracken, at 88 years of age, hands out anti-slavery pamphlets at Belfast docks
1865 Abolition of slavery in United States		
1877 British annex Transvaal Republic	19th Century contin.	1867 Fenian uprising
1879 Anglo-Zulu wars		1881-1882 Charles Stewart Parnell leader of the Home Rule League and Irish Parliamentary Party imprisoned in Kilmainham Gaol
1880-81 First Anglo-Boer War		1882-1883 The Invincibles incarcerated and hanged in Kilmainham Gaol

1885-1951 Pass system introduced into South Africa		
1899-1902 South African War Battle of Talana Hill, Dundee - 20 October 1899 British infantry battalions included the 1st Irish and 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers Schanskop Fort occupied by 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers - 7 June 1900		
1901 Evictions of “Blacks” from District Six area	20th Century	
1910 Union of South Africa, including the Boer Republics (31 May) and administration of South West Africa		
1912 Black and “Coloured” Women from the Orange Free State send a petition to government against the pass laws - 1914 pass laws for women relaxed 1918 onwards Black women, including the African National Congress Women’s League increase resistance against pass laws		
1913 South African Land Act Miner’s Strike		
1914-1918 First World War		
	20th Century contin.	1916 Easter Rising, Dublin - 24-29 April

<p>1938 Ox-wagon recreation trek and laying of foundation stone at the Blood River Site, Blood-Ncome River, Dundee - 16 December</p>	<p>20th Century contin.</p>	<p>14 leaders executed in Kilmainham Gaol Stone breaker's yard</p>
		<p>1918 Sinn Féin win election but refuse to join Westminster</p>
		<p>1919-1921 Irish War of Independence between Irish Republican Army and the British Forces Partition of Ireland (3 May 1921) British Government uses Kilmainham for Irish Republican Army prisoners</p>
		<p>1922-1923 Irish Civil War The Anglo-Irish treaty that split south and north Ireland and oath of allegiance to the British crown splits Sinn Féin into the Republicans led by Eamon de Valera and the National (Free State) army. Republican male and female prisoners held in Kilmainham Gaol by the Free State army. Prisoners included Maud Gonne McBride, Nora Connolly, and Eamon de Valera.</p>

1939-1945 Second World War		
1948 - 1994 Apartheid implemented	20th Century contin	
1949 Mixed Marriage's Act Inauguration of the Voortrekker Monument - 16 December		
1950, 1957, 1966 Group Areas Act 1952 Natives (Abolition of Passes and Co-ordination of Documents) Act of 1952. Pass documents must be carried by the black population – movement is restricted further.		
1955 The Freedom Charter, Kliptown, Johannesburg - 25-26 June		
1960 Sharpeville Massacre - 21 March Mass anti-pass action led by the Pan African Congress.		
1961 Republic of South Africa declared - 31 May - and South Africa withdrew from the Commonwealth of Nations		
1963-1964 Rivonia Trial		
1968 District Six forced removals begin		

<p>1976 Soweto Youth Uprising</p>		<p>1968 - 1998 <i>The Troubles</i></p> <p>1969 Battle of the Bogside, Derry-Londonderry - 12-14 August</p> <p>1970 Mural painted in the Bogside <i>You are Now Entering Free Derry</i> - January</p> <p>Approx. 1969-1972 Mural painted in Belfast <i>You are Now Entering Loyalist Sandy Row.</i></p> <p>1972 Bloody Sunday - 30 January Widgery Report - 19 April Operation Motorman - 31 July</p> <p>1973 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland joined European Economic Community</p>
<p>1986 Pass laws are repealed</p>		
<p>1989 Foundation of District Six Museum - Came into being 1998</p>		

1990		
Release of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela from prison - 11 February Namibia independence from South Africa - 21 March		
		1993 European Communities known as the European Union
1994		
South African First Democratic Election - 26-29 April		
		1998 Belfast Peace Agreement - signed 10 April
1999		
Opening of Ncome Museum, Dundee - 26 November		
2002		
Homecoming Centre bought by District Six Museum		
		2007 Museum of Free Derry established and opened
		2010 Saville Inquiry report - 15 June
		2016 Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty is triggered for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union
2012		
Marikana Massacre (16 August)		2017 New Museum of Free Derry opened in the Bogside

2020 Global pandemic closure of museums	
<p>2020</p> <p>Reopening of museums in South Africa start for example District Six Museum opens to staff – 1 September – opens to the public – 1 October – an appeal is made to the public for financial support to keep the doors open</p>	
	<p>2021</p> <p>Reopening of Museums in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland for example in Northern Ireland, The Museum of Free Derry opens on 27 May</p>
<p>2022</p> <p>South African museum school programmes are put on hold and some cultural and heritage spaces are closed due to impact of Covid-19 for example the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg closes in June.</p> <p>Museum spaces are reimagined for example the District Six Homecoming Centre reabsorbs the Fugard Theatre into the Centre and opens the Centre to give life to the arts in the city</p>	

THE PEOPLE

We are living museums. Our memories are intangible artefacts, stored in the archive of our brain. Our names, adornment and physical features are our curated tangible artefacts. Our stories are the display of our beliefs, morals and values. We are living museums, organisms that inosculate with other living museums to form living community museums so that we may evolve and grow and hope

Introduction to the storytellers

In South African and Irish cultural history museums, we, Mary and Ruth, met storyteller guides who spend day after day educating visitors as to the horrors of yesteryear. Yet we found that these storytellers manage to find healing, purpose and hope within their work. South Africa and Northern Ireland still engage in the complexities of remembering a traumatic past whilst looking to the future. There are both similarities and differences in our pasts and our transitions to a tenuous present peace. South Africa differs from the north of Ireland in respect of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, even if contentious, and the amnesty that it provided. Despite the initiation of peace in the north, with the Good Friday Agreement on 10 April 1998, unlike that which took place in 1996 in South Africa, a work in progress, there was no initiation of a formal reconciliation process.

Here we share our stories while reflecting on the stories of others. Our stories of how we became interested in the social impact of storytelling, how we became interested in museums and how we became interested in the impact of storytelling in museums in South Africa and Ireland. Museums that remember the conflict. We reflect on the museums we visited in these two traumatised countries and people that we spoke to and what we observed in the museums and how they impacted us. We reflect on the experiences of people in those museums who share their stories and the stories of their ancestors and the stories of other people's ancestors who were caught up in the conflict. Stories of individuals that intertwine and move away from other individual stories to create and communicate the nuances of how the conflict impacted everyday people. We reflect on how these stories are told. How the skilled museum storyteller, like griots of old and present, may carry themselves and us into a world that transcends time and place. A world that offers healing and hope.

Through sharing all of this, we provide a communal autoethnography of post-conflict museums in South Africa and Ireland. We also share how communities

apply storytelling to communicate these communal autoethnographies and how this communication promotes personal and communal spiritual well-being.

From 2014 to 2021, we were formally researching several museums in South Africa and Ireland (including Northern Ireland) and visiting many more museums in these countries and beyond as tourists - sometimes on our own and sometimes together. The museums that we formally researched we chose for cerebral reasons. These reasons included ensuring representation of the diverse cultures impacted by the history of conflict over the past centuries in both countries and their comparative significance whether of content, approach or status in South Africa or Ireland. We also chose the museums because of personal connections to them, or the area, whether biographic or academic and sometimes just because they were our favourite museums. We share more on these choices, the dates when these museums were built and within what context, in the chapters that follow.

We visited and interviewed storyteller guides and staff at museums such as the District Six Museum in Cape Town, South Africa and the Museum of Free Derry in Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland. These museums, like other sites of conscience, commemorate and communicate the memory of community injustices committed by the state in recent memory. This is told by storytellers who personally, or whose families, experienced the event themselves. Both museum sites symbolise struggles against injustices but also include in their aims to be part of the reconciliatory processes of the present and future.



Photo 1.1: Mary Lange at Free Derry wall and Civil Rights Association mural in the Bogside, Derry 2018
Photo by: Frik Lange