



Danish storytelling

Danmark fortæller

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Dänemark erzählt

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Dinamarca cuenta historias



Background and purpose

Background

- Lock down of many physical meeting places (evening classes, social gatherings, debates, cultural activities...)
- The Danish tradition for informal spaces for socialising, learning, meeting new people is very strong → the lock down hit hard and there was a strong need to find alternative ways of meeting up

Purpose

To prevent potential loneliness by creating a space for coherence and sense-of-belonging in a time where most people were more or less tied to their homes.



Concept

- Online storytelling communities
- Every community meet once a week for five consecutive weeks for 1 ½ hours each time
- Each week a new topic is introduced (eg: corona, hope, courage, childhood memory, love, sorrow, etcetra)
- 20 participants, one main host and four story telling hosts
- They start together, then split up in smaller virtual groups and finish the sessions together



Methodology // inspiration

- The approach to story telling is inspired by indigenous people from North America:
 - Stories are used to respond to other peoples' stories
 - Common to use physical objects as the point of departure of a story
 - No judgement of other peoples' stories – instead the stories are witnessed by the listeners
- Hannah Arendt:
 - Developing stories together make us ethical human beings and democratic citizens → counteracts loneliness and populism
- Narrative theory:
 - We are formed as human beings through telling our stories (Grundtvig: You cannot make rules for the perfect life – you see it whilst it develops)
 - The participants learn how to tell stories on basis of a narrative approach to storytelling (telling stories with much focus on details and seemingly unimportant issues)
 - Instead of interpreting og valuating the story, the participants learn to *witness* the story and respond with resonance and non-judgement



Unexpected perspectives...

- A big theater in Copenhagen is using the concept of virtual story telling communities to prepare for a new play focusing on Danish citizens' corona stories
- The National Museum will include some of the stories to their collection

