

PiMDi

A Pedagogy of Imaginative Dialogues

Funded by the
Erasmus+ Program
of the European Uni



Preparation PIMDI intensive study week in Iceland, 19 – 23 September 2022

This intensive study week is part of the Erasmus Program Strategic Partnership of four European master programs of Arts Education:

- the Master of Education in Arts at the Hanze University of Applied Sciences in Groningen, a joint degree with NHL Stenden University at Leeuwarden;
- the Master Arts Education at the Iceland Academy of the Arts in Reykjavik;
- the Master Fine Arts at the University of Agder/Norway;
- the Master Theatre pedagogy and Dance pedagogy at Uniarts Helsinki

Introduction

The starting point of the PIMDI project was the idea that in Europe there is something that we call ‘the paradox of democratization’. The European Union is a democratic government which means that it is based on principles of equality among European citizens. But as it now encompasses 27-member states, we are challenged to bring all these different voices together in the enactment of values that people recognize as more or less their own or as interestingly different.

In the PIMDI project we experiment with the arts as a way of creating dialogues without trying to eliminate differences. These dialogues are about the act of valuing. We think that through the arts, we can create a dialogue among different groups in society, to experience processes of value-making. Artists are educators in their own right; they can instigate new perceptions and experiences through imaginative dialogues.

During the PIMDI project we elaborate the idea of imaginative dialogues in four intensive study weeks; each held in another country and with other local partners. In Helsinki we cooperated with the Tempest Group and senior homes. Students designed imaginative dialogues as a present they brought to the elderly. The encounter with the elderly in the senior homes was the first physical encounter after a long time of lockdown due to Covid. In Kristiansand we cooperated with the local arts museum and arts school. This time, the students designed imaginative dialogues inspired by the arts works for children from the arts school. The overarching PIMDI-question of the week in Kristiansand was:

How can we experiment with the arts as a dialogical way of exploring acts of valuing without trying to overcome differences?

During both weeks students worked in mixed groups with students from each country and master program. In this mixed groups, the first PIMDI experiments were done and differences in culture, professionalism, and personality became apparent. However, there was little time to

explore these differences. A program for the workshop (imaginative dialogue) with the children had to be developed quickly.

What did we learn from the first two PIMD weeks:

- the week's program of imaginative dialogues between the students and developing and elaborating imaginative dialogues with other participants is very demanding.
- The framework of the program is devised by the teachers. It is not always clear what is mandatory and what is voluntary. This lack of clarity makes it difficult for students to maintain agency
- the differences between students and the master's programs are fascinating. There is a great desire to have more time to explore them. Time to listen and look.
- If we take differences seriously and want to let them exist and also explore them, we need a save space with clear agreements. However, a place can be safe for some and obstructive for others.

From what we have learned, the focal points for the week in Iceland are:

- more input from the students in the preparation
- more time for the exploration of mutual differences

For more information about the first years of PIMDI look at the PIMDI newsletter:

PIMDI Newsletter 1; March website: <https://pimdi.lhi.is/2022/01/25/news-2/>

Iceland's special landscape and the great connection between people and nature will give a new perspective to our questions about PIMDI and imaginative dialogues.

In Iceland we will start by investigating the following questions:

- How to lead aesthetic sensing of nature (in non-urban and urban environment)
- When and how does one experience nature? What is necessary in order to experience this?
- What does this experience of space say to our sense of security? How does the ownership of space affect the sense of safety?
- If you own a space, how would your response to it? What kind of workshop/ activity could we do to respond to it?
- How does a sense of belonging/non-belonging contribute to possibility of creating an imaginative dialogue with nature?
- What does this kind of holistic sensing do to our thinking and connecting? And to your valuing?

As Icelandic students fully participated in preparation of the Intensive week in Iceland, we hope to see different approaches to finding PIMDI pedagogy during the intensive week.

Skálholt

During the week we will travel together to the south of the island to a place called Skálholt, about two-hour drive from Reykjavík, and will stay there for three nights.

Skálholt is one of the most important historical places in Iceland. The country's first official school was founded there in 1056. It was a seat of learning and administration for more than 700 years, a church site from the beginning of Christianity in Iceland, a monastery, and a place of pilgrimage in medieval times.

Today Skálholt is a place of culture, spirituality and music, and open for all. It is the site of a deputy bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and a local parish pastor. Besides weekly services in the church, there are frequent cultural, educational and artistic events and retreats taking place at the site.

The present Cathedral was consecrated in 1963 and is the 10th church standing on the same site. It is decorated with art, both old and new. In the crypt there is a small exhibition from the National Museum with items found in Skálholt.

The Cathedral is also renowned for its Summer Music Festival, Sumartónleikar í Skálholti, which was founded in 1975 and still attracts musicians and lots of music lovers from Iceland and abroad, who enjoy the excellent acoustics and artistic surroundings.

During our stay we will have access to Skálholtsbúðir where we have 10 double rooms, big kitchen, dining room, a large hall and some sitting area. We also will use the easy access to the nature around Skálholt.

Menntaskólinn að Laugarvatni is an upper secondary school in the village of Laugarvatn which is approx. 80 km from Reykjavik and about 25 from Skálholt. Laugarvatn (population c.a. 800) is the center of the region of Árnessýsla with the population of approx. 13000 inhabitants. The region is a rural agricultural area with a few other villages similar to Laugarvatn. Menntaskólinn að Laugarvatni is a boarding school in which almost all students stay during the week. Menntaskólinn að Laugarvatni offers two three-year study lines both ending with a matriculation diploma; one which focuses on the natural sciences and the other on humanities and social sciences.

Imaginative dialogues in the upper secondary school

In Menntaskólinn at Laugarvatn we will have a short encounter with approximately 40 pupils from the age of 16 years old. They would normally be attending a class in environmental studies and ecology but will have a different schedule on Thursday the 22nd and will meet up with us. We will work in small groups where we will focus on imaginative dialogue as a pedagogical exercise and there will be an opportunity for us to experiment with some of the exercises we have been working on during the week. This will be an encounter between PIMDI group and the

pupils, and a way for an open conversation and reflection. We will have time on Wednesday to figure out how we want to approach this encounter.

Imagine PIMDI: From PIMDI cycle to Icelandic turf

To visualize the idea of ‘imaginative dialogues’ – encounters through the arts that brings to light different voices and acts of valuing – we initially made a so called PIMDI-cycle, which appeared as a sequence of clearly defined steps. During the process and following the experiments that we did both online and live in Helsinki we found that we needed to look for a symbol which would be multifaceted metaphor which could work as a reference to polyphony, paradoxes, and simultaneity. Multi-faceted crystal was chosen for the Intensive week in Kristiansand but as our search for the PIMDI metaphor continues, we suggest the Icelandic turf as a starting point for the Intensive week in Iceland. While the many aspects of the turf are very different from the crystalline structure of a diamond (soft / hard; irregular / regular; alive / rock; abundant / rare; organic / inorganic; etc.) both elements share the same molecular elements: **Carbon**. We invite you to imagine the lifecycle of becoming and decaying of the turf. Layering of natural materials like wet soil, bog plant roots, stones is something more than a mere pile of accumulation and becomes a construction block, turf on its own that used as a construction block in Iceland and provided great insulation for its inhabitants.



Sigurður Guðmundsson, *Mountain*, 1980-1982



Icelandic turf

Preparation for the week

To prepare yourself for this week, we would like to ask you the following:

Each country will organize one breakfast over the coming week. All materials will be provided (see below) it is up to each country to put their own touch to the breakfast experience.

Please bring with you some typical sweets from your culture to share in the afternoon with coffee or tea, it can be for example biscuits, fruits, candy etc.

Tuesday - Finland

Wednesday – The Netherlands

Thursday - Norway

Breakfast materials will be as follows:

- Oatmeal, cinnamon, bread, butter/vegan butter, yogurt/vegan yogurt, cheese, cucumber, jam, milk/oat milk, coffee and tea, sugar, fruit, juice and maybe some more.

To bring with you

Please travel lightly as we will be sharing cars and rooms at Skálholt

Clothing

- Thermals – this includes a base layer, leggings and sock
- Hiking Boots – waterproof if possible
- Waterproofs – this includes jacket and trousers

- Warm jumper and/or jacket
- Hat/ scarf/ gloves

Travel accessories

- Swimsuit
- Towel (you can rent a towel at the Hostel for 500 ISK)
- Reusable water bottle
- Duvet and pillow cover (you can rent these with a towel at Skálholt for 2.500 ISK)
- Notebook and pen

Optional things

- Hiking poles
- Binoculars
- Headlight or flashlight

Locations and how to get there

Student accommodation

Dalur HI Hostel & Café

Address: Sundlaugavegi 34, 105 Reykjavík

Phone number: 00354 553 8110

Teachers' accommodation

Guesthouse BB44

Address: Borgarholtsbraut 44, 200 Kópavogur

Phone number: 00354 554 4228

Email: info@bb44.is

Iceland University of the Arts, Laugarnes campus

Address: Laugarnesvegi 91, 105 Reykjavík

Phone number: 00354 545 2240

Email: lhi@lhi.is

Skálholtsbúðir

Address: Skálholt, 806 Selfoss

Phone number: 00354 486 8870

Email: hotelskalaholt@hotelskalaholt.is

How to get there

- From the airport to Dalur Hostel
 1. [Route 55 bus](#) from the airport: 90 min., 2.000 kr.

- Bus Stop is named: 'Dalur Hostel / Campsite – Sundlaugavegur 34'.
 - You can buy bus ticket either with the cash or through the [KLAPPIÐ-app](#).
2. Reykjavík Excursion [Fly bus](#)- 45min., 3.500 ISK to the BSÍ bus terminal, + 1000 ISK for a hotel connection
3. [Airport direct](#) – 45min., 2900 ISK to the Bus Terminal, +1000 ISK for a hotel connection
- From the Dalur Hostel to Laugarnes campus at the Icelandic University of the Arts.
Best way to go to the university is simple by walking since it is only 10 minute walk.
 - From the University to Skálholt
We will go to Skálholt by private cars, it's one and a half hour away.

Program intensive week in Iceland 19-23 September 2022

Monday 19th of September

We meet at 8:30 at the Iceland University of the Arts, Laugarnesvegi 91

There we start by having breakfast and there will be welcoming and introduction to the intensive week. Following that Guðbjörg R. Jóhannesdóttir will give a talk related to her writing about the inner landscape of the body.

Lunch

After lunch we travel together to Skálholt, about 2-hour drive. On the way everyone will have a chance to visit a supermarket.

In Skálholt we settle in and start our Skálholt/PIMDI rituals and program.

Dinner

Informal program

Tuesday 20th of September

Morning ritual and breakfast prepared by team Finland

Skálholt-PIMDI program

Lunch at Skálholt hotel

Dinner and informal program

Wednesday 21st of September

Morning ritual and breakfast prepared by team Netherlands

Skálholt-PIMDI program

Lunch at Friðheimar

Dinner and informal program

Thursday 22nd of September

Morning ritual and breakfast prepared by team Norway

Skálholt-PIMDI program

Lunch at Efstidalur

Encounter with pupils at the upper secondary school Menntaskólinn við Laugarvatn
Travel to Reykjavík
Dinner and free evening

Friday 23rd of September

Self-organized breakfast

We meet at 9:00 at the Iceland University of the Arts in Skipholt 31, in Dynjandi.

There we have student presentations of the work of the week and the encounter with the pupils.

Lunch at Bókasamlagið

Celebration and goodbyes

Self-organized dinner

Lunches are paid by participants and range from ISK 1400 - 2500, dinners at Skálholt will be paid for by the program and cooked by team Iceland.

The Skálholt-PIMDI program consists of introducing exercises and developing new ones, encountering nature through walking, mindfulness moments and reflective practices.

Informal program means free time for doing what you need but also there will be optional activities like swimming, walking, movie night and more.

Reader and digital toolkit

You can find the texts in the PIMDI Attic, see below.

<https://pimdi.lhi.is/leynisvaedid/>

PIMDI examples

In the toolbox <https://pimdi.lhi.is> you can find different examples of PIMDI experiments/exercises we did earlier in this project

Pimdi Digital Tool Kit - <https://pimdi.lhi.is/>

Documentation folder

Here you can share images, videos and other materials from the week here in Iceland
[Intensive week Iceland 2022](#)