

Call for Participants:

# Train-the-Trainer Workshop

**Digging deeper and relating wider:**

**Global Citizenship Education (GCE) – Otherwise**

**Gesturing towards decolonial futures**

with Prof. Vanessa Andreotti, Dr. Rene Suša and others at Gorca EarthCARE

4-9 August 2019 in Gorca (Podlehnik), Slovenia



## Overview

This is an intense and transformative training for GCE (Global Citizenship Education) multipliers, organized by Bridge 47 and Gorca EarthCARE. Over the course of five days, we offer an immersive learning and living experience that will challenge participants to look at the big picture of the world that we live in. We will explore how we work and how we have been conditioned and socialized to relate to the world and each other.

We will reflect on the roles and educational concepts that CSOs (civil society organisations) use for systemic change, as we unpack and fundamentally challenge our understanding of how we think change “should” happen. We will question theories of change, knowledge systems, yearnings as well as our assumptions of what it means to be human.

Critical analysis forms the intellectual backbone of our programme, but our educational perspective is inspired by indigenous analysis and practices. Ultimately, these lead us to understand that our current global problems are not related to a lack of knowledge but to an inherently violent modern-colonial way of being. This way of being is difficult to deconstruct because it represents the “normal” way that we inhabit and relate to the world. We will explore the three major constitutive denials that drive this violent, “normal”

way of being; denial of systemic violence and complicity in harm, denial of the limits of the planet and the denial of our inevitable entanglement in the whole living metabolism.

The program is designed to destabilise this way of being and to break the spell of how we think, act and relate to the world. Through a mix of intellectual, symbolic, embodied, sensory and dream work, we will activate such “exiled capacities” within ourselves that this violent normalcy has forced us to suppress and deny.

The training will engage participants using pedagogical practices that mobilise our ways of imagination, being and belonging. Meanwhile, it will take us beyond the language and habits that colonial modernity’s dominant frame has socialised and conditioned into us.

The process is often personally challenging and discomfiting as it weans us from our usual comforts, affective investments and perceived entitlements. Participants should understand that we are working to develop an educational space that is not only safe, but also brave. With that in mind, we will learn to work together through difficult questions without relationships falling apart.

The training will encourage us to go beyond what we think is conceivable and possible as it encourages to unlock “adjacent possibilities” in our own contexts and to transcend our own boundaries. We will engage with difficult questions as we learn to sit with uncertainty, paradoxes, tension and discomfort in light of complex global challenges that have no easy answers.

Due to the complexity and depth of the issues involved, we encourage participants to consider that we are offering a learning process and experience as opposed to a quick fix solution. In our consumption driven societies things like time, knowledge and education are increasingly seen as commodities. Education in particular is viewed as a transactional process where “you get what you pay for”. While many people may want candy, we only offer broccoli seeds that require sewing, watering and tending to in hopes of a possible harvest.

The training is structured on the pedagogical frameworks of the “Gesturing Towards Decolonial Futures” collective which is published on <https://decolonialfutures.net>. We encourage you to visit the website and explore the framework now, so that you can make a well-informed decision about joining us.

## About the trainers

The training will be led by Vanessa Andreotti, Rene Suša and other members of the collective:



**Prof. Dr. Vanessa Andreotti** is an internationally renowned post-colonial scholar and activist. She holds a *Canada Research Chair in Race, Inequalities and Global Change* at the University of British Columbia. She has extensive experience collaborating across sectors internationally in areas related to international development, global citizenship, indigenous knowledge, social responsibility and wellbeing. In her work on education and critical literacy she takes a radical stance, challenging the basic assumptions of knowledge production and learning, inviting neglected forms of wisdom and co-creation. Through her powerful use of metaphor, she is analysing our world in a manner that is fresh and creative, with mindful consideration of both its monstrosity and its beauty. Her work enables us to think and feel beyond dominant paradigms and to act for a wiser future in this planet.



**Dr. Rene Suša** is the educational coordinator of the Gorca EarthCARE NGO (<http://gorceearthcare.org>) in Slovenia and also a post-doctoral fellow at the University of British Columbia. For the past 10 years he has been involved in the areas of global education, fair trade, degrowth, internationalization and development cooperation. He works in collaboration with Vanessa Andreotti on projects that aim to open possibilities for deeper thinking and for new relationships and horizons of hope through experiential education.

## Practical Information

### Times and Locations

Participation requires attending the full programme, no late arrivals or early departures are possible.

- **Sunday, 4th Aug.:** self-organized arrival in Ljubljana. Check-in at Hotel (t.b.a.). Informal get-together in the evening.
- **Monday, 5th Aug.:** travel to Gorca by bus. Welcome and orientation at Gorca EarthCARE.
- **Tuesday, 6th to Thursday 8th Aug.:** programme at Gorca EarthCARE
- **Friday, 9th August:** departure after breakfast by bus. Optional excursion to Pachamama Center (<http://www.pachamama-center.si>) and lake Blaguško via Maribor: self-organised departure from Maribor train station either in the late morning (drop-off at 11h) or – if you join the excursion – in the evening (drop-off at 19h).

Activities will generally start quite early in the morning and finish in the evening, with a very long lunch break (during the heat of the day).

### Venue, Accommodation & Food

Simple accommodation and sharing responsibilities for the upkeep of the place is part of the immersive experience of Gorca EarthCARE's learning community space. Participants will camp outdoors and are required to bring their own camping equipment (some tents are available upon request). Most likely, it will be very warm during the day (30+ C), and it can be a little cold at night (below 15 C). Thunderstorms are also likely.

There are two dry toilets and external cold water showers for use (super basic).

The terrain is steep and unpaved, so good shoes and walking abilities are required. Please let us know if you have mobility difficulties. There are no nearby shops, and internet / electricity (European continental) are only available at the main house from 7-9 am and in the evening.

Training sessions will mostly be held outside.

Vegetarian Meals and non-alcoholic drinks are included. As conviviality is part of the methodology of the programme we will take turns cooking and cleaning together.

For some more impressions about the locality you can visit: <https://www.gorcaearthcare.org>.

### Participation Fee

Bridge 47 asks you to contribute a participation fee of 90-150€, based on the solidary self-assessment of your financial situation (participants with organisational support or high income should pay more so that participants with less financial means can pay less). The fee has to be paid by 9 July 2019 to the VENRO Bridge 47 bank account, based on an invoice that participants will receive after successful registration.

### Register!

Please, register [online](#) by **16 June 2019** if you would like to participate in this training.

The seminar will host 20 participants from different European countries. As we expect a higher number of applications **you will be notified by 26 June 2019 if your registration was successful.**

### Any Questions?

Please don't hesitate to contact us.

For questions related to the application process: [astrid.mueller@bridge47.org](mailto:astrid.mueller@bridge47.org) or [marjan.huc@bridge47.org](mailto:marjan.huc@bridge47.org).

For questions related to the content of the program and to the venue: [renesusa@gmail.com](mailto:renesusa@gmail.com).

### About the organisers

The workshop is co-organized by VENRO e.V. and SLOGA – as part of the Bridge 47 – Building Global Citizenship project. Bridge 47 is a network project of 13 European and two global partner organisations, co-funded by the European Union. The project aims at mobilising and strengthening civil society worldwide to contribute to a change towards global justice through Global Citizenship Education (GCE).

VENRO, as a German partner, and SLOGA as a Slovenian partner, implement activities on innovation and capacity building. More information can be found on [www.bridge47.org](http://www.bridge47.org) or [www.venro.org](http://www.venro.org) and <http://www.sloga-platform.org/about-us/>



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