

**THERE'S NO TIME!**

**PLANNED SITE VISITS  
...AND WHAT REALLY HAPPENED**

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KARENANNA B. CREPS  
ADVANCED DOCTORAL STUDENT  
MSU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

# BACKGROUND

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- A high school/doctoral **student** on programs in France and Indonesia.
- **Assisted on/led** high school or undergraduate programs in Ireland, England, Spain, France, and Germany.
- **Spain 2017:** the first program I designed from the ground up, including the syllabus and itinerary.
  - Spain program was an overall success!
  - Unexpected = Learning Opportunity
  - Dissertation
  - The value of leaning into the unexpected when it comes to site visits.

# THE VISION

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## **Who Do They Think You Are? Exploring Global Citizenship through Culture and the Arts in Barcelona and Bilbao, Spain**

- 2017 Freshman Seminar Abroad
- Introduction to College
- Increase student awareness of their own cultural identities and impact of their presence on Spanish contexts.
- Become deeply familiar with certain aspects of Catalan, Basque, and Spanish cultures.
- Complicating ideas about:
  - Diversity
  - National Identity(ies)
  - Global Citizenship

# EXACTLY AS PLANNED: 13/23

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- On-Campus Orientation (MSU)
- ISA Orientation (BCN/Bilbao)
- Menú del Día – First Day (BCN)
- Barri Gòtic Tour (BCN)
- Las Arenas (BCN)
- Lunch at La Boqueria (BCN)
- Guest Lectures (BCN)
- Gaudí Tour (BCN)
- Pintxos Tour (Bilbao)
- Guggenheim Guided Tour (Bilbao)
- Farewell Dinner (Bilbao)

## DIFFERENCES: STUDENT RESPONSE (5/23)

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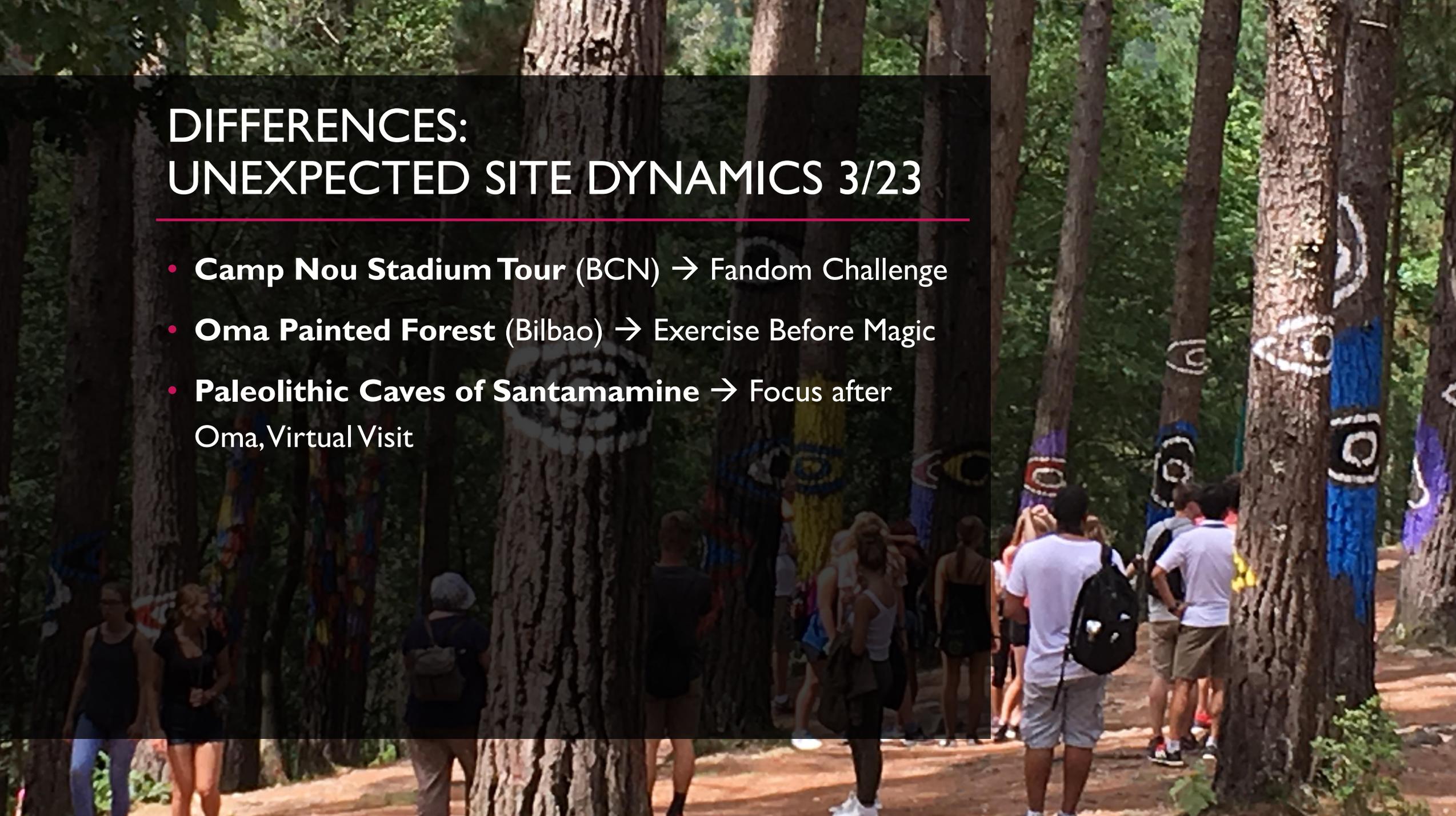
- Catalan Cooking Class (BCN)/Pintxos Tour (Bilbao) → Tentacle Challenge
- Flamenco Dance Class (BCN) → Aquarium Conundrum
- Castellars Workshop (BCN) → Aquarium/Comfort Zone Challenge
- Bilbao Estuary Cruise to Sea → Fatigue, Weather, Verve Problem



# DIFFERENCES: UNEXPECTED SITE DYNAMICS 3/23

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- **Camp Nou Stadium Tour (BCN) → Fandom Challenge**
- **Oma Painted Forest (Bilbao) → Exercise Before Magic**
- **Paleolithic Caves of Santamamine → Focus after Oma, Virtual Visit**



# THINGS THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN

3/23

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- **Sardana Performance** (BCN) – Event moved to a less crowded area for high tourist season. (More time for student-designed activities and free time)
- Teatre Grec Festival: **Rumberos, Pugin a l'Escenari! Performance** (BCN) – The show started, then the rain started and did not stop. (Bonding experience)
- **Museo Marítimo Ría de Bilbao** – TPP put it on the itinerary. We cancelled. (Created much-needed free time)



# SURPRISES

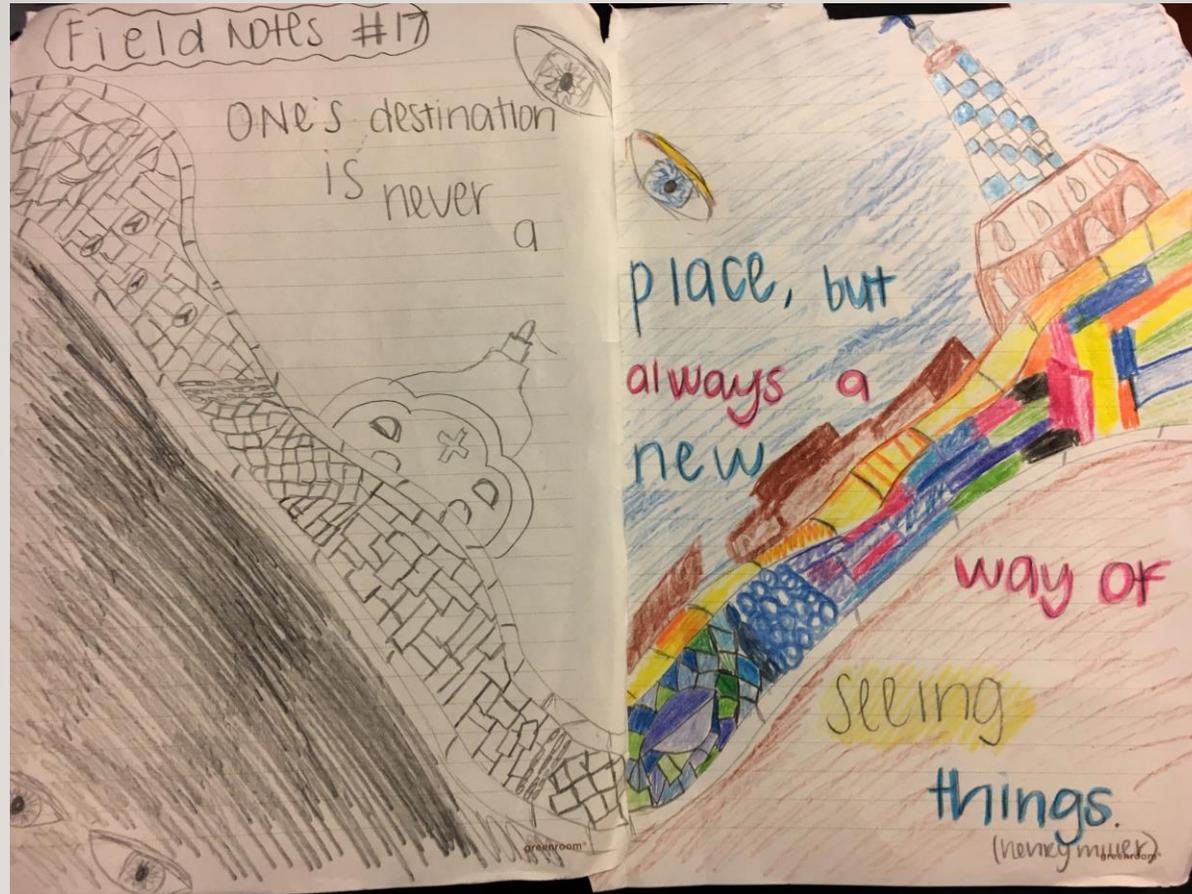
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- **TPP Guides** – Above and Beyond
- Able to cover an **extra meal**
- **Captivating Countryside** near Oma
- **Classroom space** in residencias/hotels.
- Impact of **student-generated itineraries**
- Added site visit to **Gernika** (Guernica)
  - Met a local survivor
  - Impromptu historical city tour
  - Assembly House of Gernika (Europe's Oldest Parliament)
  - Gernikako Arbola (Symbolic Oak)
  - Tile Mural of Picasso's Painting

# NEXT TIME: ITALY 2018

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- Expand Pre-Departure Comfort Zone Conversations (Tentacle Challenge, Fatigue, Weather, Not Loving Everything)
- Participate more with them (Aquarium Conundrum)
- Expect the Unexpected (Unanticipated Site Dynamics, Cancelled Visits, Positive Surprises)
- Scour proposed itineraries for unwanted additions
- Keep backup activities on hand (student-planned itineraries, etc.)
- Maintain positive dynamic with TPP
- Protect Free Time



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GRÀCIES! KAIXO! GRACIAS! THANK YOU!