

A GENERATIONAL VIEW OF ANCESTRY

Course Description

Overview

One out of three Americans can trace their ancestry to Ellis Island! Resilient and courageous, Ellis Island immigrants faced harsh treatment, and slowly made their way into and up the economic ladder. Americans with lived experience of the Ellis Island immigrants are now active seniors, primarily baby boomers born after WWII, deeply concerned about the loss of heritage, family connections, and legacy building.

The popularity of ancestry research confirms the hunger for meaning and connection. In all the ancestry programs I have delivered, I have heard the following questions: Why didn't we ask Momma? Why didn't we spend more time with the immigrants? How come my children don't feel the same way? Ancestry & the Ellis Island immigrants: A Generational View, builds on a decade of ancestry research, writing, and public ancestry programs I conducted, explores these questions from the perspective of Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, and Boomers.

Goals

1. Place Ellis Island immigration [1892-24] to the United States in historical context by tracing 150 years of history with the aid of a timeline. This will illustrate how and why from 1820-1924 35 million of the 55 million who left Europe fled to the US in the decades after 1865 and the Civil War.
2. Discuss the significance of ancestry and its relationship to Ellis Island Americans' ancestry.
3. Illustrate differences in attachment to ancestry with an overview of generational issues.
4. Discuss ways to identify, share, preserve, and celebrate cultural inheritances.

Weekly Layout:

Program overview; introduction to generational groups and attachment to ancestry/cultural heritage; top ancestry groups

Megatrends: Transformative disruptive change: Impact of industrialization, immigration, and World War 1 [Significance of Ellis Island; Immigration before Ellis Island, from 1892-1924, and 1924-1965]

Megatrends: Transformative disruptive change: Impact of industrialization, immigration, and World War 1 [Significance of Ellis Island; Immigration before Ellis Island, from 1892-1924, and 1924-1965]

6 generations alive today

Mapping, celebrating and passing on cultural traditions