



interpret europe
European Association for
Heritage Interpretation

Interpret Europe conference 2015

Saturday 06 to Tuesday 09 June 2015 in Kraków, Poland



In partnership with



Sensitive heritage – sensitive interpretation

Welcome to Poland

Kraków and the Małopolska region are distinguished especially for their cultural heritage with a great variety of historic sites and museums. The historic centre of Kraków and the nearby Wieliczka Salt Mine were among the first twelve sites selected in 1978 as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Despite the fact that Kraków has such well-preserved heritage, the region has suffered a great deal from wars and occupation by foreign powers during its history. For that reason, the Małopolska region hosts many differing sites of what could be called 'sensitive heritage' – and so it is an ideal place to discuss the challenges of 'sensitive interpretation'.

Setting the scene

'Handle with care'

During our 2015 conference researchers and interpretation practitioners will investigate this 'sensitive heritage', heritage that has the potential to trouble or even distress people and that, therefore, deserves 'sensitive interpretation'.

This is obviously the case, for example, at sites where atrocities and crimes against humanity were committed or at places that have conflicting or controversial meanings for different people. But it can also be more subtle:

How do we interpret minorities – or majorities?

Can interpreting national heroes or enemies feed nationalistic ideologies and foster tendencies of exclusion?

How can interpreters avoid unintentionally embarrassing or upsetting visitors when explaining aspects of history that involve the homelands of host and visitor?

Can interpretation help to overcome stereotypes?

Can it present what is true without sometimes causing offence?

Then there is the whole field of sensitive and controversial themes when interpreting nature and the natural environment, for example in relation to predators, where often there exists strong opinion and prejudice, or the controversies over wind power installation or protected areas and local needs for housing, jobs and communications?

Sensitive heritage has a lot to do with people's identities, beliefs, values and opinions. What are the implications of this in the context of 'mission-based' interpretation and where is interpretation in danger of merging into 'interpretation'? Reflecting on the interpretation of sensitive heritage from different academic and practitioners perspectives can help us to think about the ethics of our profession. Can we enhance 'listening skills' through interpretation? Can we help people to 'appreciate' a past loaded with connotations, of 'our side' and 'the other side'; can we learn from the past in order to prepare for the future?



interpret europe

European Association for
Heritage Interpretation

Call for papers

We want to take advantage of these burning questions by discussing them among interpreters and others who are involved in academic research as well as tourism development and managing heritage sites, museums and protected areas. We want delegates to be challenging, thought provoking and even controversial in what they present and what they debate. We want to share what we can learn from best practice, success factors, research results and innovative approaches.

Other interesting developments in the field of heritage interpretation

If you would like to make a presentation that is not directly related to the conference theme but could fit well into our sessions about interesting developments in the field of heritage interpretation please put forward a proposal.

If you want to share ideas or findings that are significant for the profession, for example new approaches, research findings or innovative practice about interpretation in your country or internationally, your proposal is welcome, too.

Programme arrangements

The formal sessions of the conference will include the following:

- Invited keynote speakers
- Parallel presentations of either 25 minutes or 55 minutes, including questions
- Workshops of either 55 minutes or 1 hour 25 minutes

Abstract requirements

If you are interested in presenting a paper or workshop, either related to the conference theme or on another topic, please submit an abstract

by **15 February 2015** using the on-line form at www.interpret-europe.net.

Late submissions will be acceptable only if there is space left in the programme.

Abstracts should include the following:

- Length and type of contribution requested: presentation or interactive workshop
- Working title of the paper (max. 100 characters)
- Summary for the conference programme (max. 1000 characters strictly)
- Aim of the presentation / workshop – how it will contribute to the theme of the conference or to the wider study of interpretation (max. 500 characters)
- Author's full name, email address and phone number(s)
- Current job title / course and organisation where the author is working / studying
- Résumé of your experience in working with or studying interpretation (max. 400 characters).

Additional information for interactive workshops:

- Activities planned and materials needed (max. 800 characters; for example group work with flip charts, individual work with hand outs etc.)

Please note that for fairness, and for programme scheduling, each accepted paper / workshop must have at least one author who is registered on the conference by **31 March 2015** and has paid the conference fee. (Registration will be open from early December).

Any presenter may co-author up to two presented papers or workshops (or one of each), but there must be at least two registered delegates to present them.



interpret europe

European Association for
Heritage Interpretation

Call for papers

Process of selection

First selection round

Papers for the first selection round are currently under review. We still accept papers for the second selection round.

Second selection round

Deadline for submission: 15 February 2015

Proposals, including abstracts, will be reviewed by a programme committee who may ask for modifications of approach or length to be made. Modifications may be requested if, for example, they fail to support the conference theme or to present new insights into heritage interpretation or indicate a misunderstanding of Interpret Europe's definition of heritage interpretation (see www.interpret-europe.net), or if the programme is already full.

The decision of the programme committee will be final.

If your submission has been selected provisionally, you will be informed by **28 February 2015** at the latest.

Your presentation or workshop will be accepted unconditionally, and scheduled in the programme, only after your complete registration and payment of the conference fee which will be due by **31 March February 2015**.

Late submissions

Depending on the number and quality of proposals that meet the deadline, we may or may not be able to accept late proposals. Details will be published on our website.

Post-conference publication

There will be an opportunity to publish presentations and the results of the workshops on-line in our journal Bridging the gap.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Lehnes at Interpret Europe:

patrick.lehnes@interpret-europe.net
+49-7681 4979 003