

Conference – Engaging with diversity: Call for papers

Specific questions that might suggest topics for proposals

- How can heritage interpretation encourage or provoke people to reflect upon natural and cultural heritage from different stakeholders' perspectives?
- Is diversity always good *per se*? Or can there be elements that increase natural or cultural diversity but are considered negative? How could such contentious aspects of diversity be interpreted?
- Should species that spread to new areas and ecosystems be accepted as part of diversity, considering that some might alter current ecosystems?
- Biodiversity is seen as key – but on a global scale, ecosystems with low biodiversity can be equally important as those with high biodiversity. Does heritage interpretation consider this?
- Can heritage interpretation help to prevent 'diversity' turning into an over-used and meaningless buzzword?
- How are universal values related to the concept of 'unity in diversity'? And what follows for heritage interpretation from this?
- Some people are proud of cultural diversity while others fear that they could lose their cultural identity and therefore make a plea for a homogeneous lead culture. How can heritage interpretation create a healthy dialogue that engages both?
- Nation states and the issue of identity, hence diversity, developed greatly during the 19th century. Many challenges we must meet today are a result of that constitutional framework. How does this affect heritage interpretation within the 'European project'?
- The Habsburg or Ottoman Empires included vast territories with many ethnicities and cultures. What mechanisms allowed them to manage this diversity? Were their approaches different from those of nation states? If they were, how were minority groups involved in the political, economic and cultural life?
- Should heritage interpretation help to integrate different collective identities (ethnic, religious, national, local,...) in plural societies?
- To what degree do we frame heritage in ways that contribute to fostering either divisiveness or unity among people?
- Where is the place for diversity if we are promoting Europe's shared values? Is there an optimum way to balance between highlighting people's differences and their commonality?
- Can heritage interpretation embrace differences and celebrate unique communities at the same time?
- How can heritage interpretation deal with the diverse views of various community groups including minorities or marginalised people as well as other stakeholders such as heritage experts and tourism, businesses and conservation agencies?
- Should heritage organisations and site owners embrace diversity reflecting a plurality of views on heritage or, instead, should interpreters pursue a singular communication message prescribed by a mission statement?