

Interpret Europe online symposium 26-27 February 2026: Programme

CET*	Thursday, 26 February	Friday, 27 February
09:00	Helena Vičič (Slovenia) and Matteo Rosati (Italy): Opening the symposium	Vanessa Vaio (Italy): Opening the day Host for this day
	Valya Stergioti (Greece): Opening the day Host for this day	Andrea Berettera (Italy): Stories in stone: The role of heritage interpretation in shaping the Mont'e Prama giants narrative in 21st century Italy
09:30	Thorsten Ludwig (Germany): Introduction to the symposium	Nilüfer Baturayoğlu Yöney et al. (Turkey): A new narrative for the interpretation of archaeological heritage: Family histories through digital photo archives at Tell Tayinat in Antakya, Turkey
10:00	Colourful mosaic or infinite maze? – Co-creating interpretive strategies from multiple narratives Panel discussion with interpretive agents from the Learning Landscapes initiative moderated by Valya Stergioti (Greece)	Brunilda Licaj and Arjana Isaku (Albania): Peeping tourist: Revealing hidden narratives of surveillance and tourism under communism in Albania
10:30	Panel: Dimitris Ioannidis and Kalliopi Stara (Greece), Jelena Čečur and Mileva Mršić (Montenegro), Iulia Balint and Constantin Zainea (Romania), Renate de Backere and Sander van Dijk (Netherlands)	Giles Keating (UK): Broadening interpretation of Athelhampton, a 500-year-old house, beyond the rich male property-owners, to the lives of women and the broader community.
11:00	Alicia Castillo Mena (Spain): The potential of networking for heritage interpretation Thematic table	Nikolai Shpilkov (Russia/ Italy): Weaponizing the past: Mnemonic populism and the erasure of 'Multiple Voices' in Belarusian history education
11:30	Javier Roig-López (Spain): Narrating the Writer's House: Literary mediation as a strategy for linguistic identity and critical literacy	Aleksandra Kumala (Poland): Interpreting difficult heritage through sound narratives: 'In this place' sound walk at the former KL Plaszow site
	Ilze Vanaga (Latvia): Values-based heritage re-imagination and interpretation: The case of the Beļava Manor House	Open forum A dynamic space for reflection and perspectives
12:00	Lunch break and digital content Lucia Leca, Iulia Balint and Constantin Zainea (Romania): From mining to culture: Heritage interpretation and community voices	Lunch break and digital content Vasiliki Denaxa, Giannis Prevedouros, Valya Stergioti, Magdalini Theochari and Spyros Kotomatas (Greece): Combining natural and historical heritage: Co-creating interpretive narratives for the Gyaros Marine Protected Area
12:30	Valya Stergioti (Greece): Welcome back at 12:55	Vanessa Vaio (Italy): Welcome back at 12:55
13:00	Steve Slack (UK): Asking visitors what makes a 'good' idea	Cassie Anderson (USA): Continuous acts of beginning: Descendant healing, a U.S. Confederate Memorial, and lessons learned from collaborating on interpretation
13:30	Max Dubravko Fijacko (Croatia): Press play on the past: A live remix lab	Tamara van Dyk, Aarin Crawford and Elizabeth Pilon (Canada): A place for conversation: Interpreting complex narratives through dialogue Bellevue House National Historic Site, Parks Canada
14:00	Kenneth Wong See Huat (Malaysia): Cartographies of community: Food memory, local knowledge, and participatory narratives in 21st-century heritage interpretation	Erica Wheeler (USA): Narratives in place: From telling stories to inviting relationship
14:30	Linda Norris and Braden Paynter (USA): Anti-oppression learning for heritage interpreters	Philipp P. Thapa (Germany): Interpretation as mental modelling: A vocabulary
15:00	Rigas Zafeiriou and Natalia Roumelioti (Greece): Narratives of vanishing landscapes and collective loss – from mourning to community empowerment	How does the symposium influence our thinking about interpretive themes? Panel discussion with experts from the field moderated by Thorsten Ludwig (Germany)
15:30	Norma Fressel (Croatia) and Gentiane Désveaux (France): Altervia Multivox in Croatia: Heritage interpretation through multiple narratives and performative practice	Panel: Lisa Keys (UK) Patrick Lehnes (Germany) Madeleine Theochari (Greece)
16:00	Sabina Viezzoli (Italy): Reading the Invisible: The Bora as narrative framework in urban heritage interpretation	Nigel Mills (UK): Conclusions of the symposium
	Jon Kohl (Costa Rica): Beyond competing narratives: Vertical storytelling in heritage interpretation	Helena Vičič (Slovenia): Closing the symposium
	Valya Stergioti (Greece): Closing the day	

* All times refer to Central European Time (CET).

Presentations Workshops Discussions Plenary