



CALL FOR PAPERS:

Join ARCH in Belfast on August 30, 2023 as a Speaker

First Step: Submit an abstract* to us before February 3
we will then let you know the easy next steps

**max. 300 words long.*

Session #681:

**From Combat to Friendship around a Historic Alpine Lodge.
Heritage and Peace-Building on the Border of Italy, Slovenia and Austria**

Session Abstract:

Since Roman times and even before that the mountain regions of the Alps were a place of conflict and border disputes. Since the end of World War II and the creation of the EU, historic places and traditions have formed the basis of peaceful relationships in former conflict zones. One example is the alpine lodge “Annahütte” where for the past 30 years, civil society groups and ordinary people from the three bordering countries (Austria, Slovenia, Italy) have been using the site for remembrance and joint festivities. In an annual “peace walk” pilgrimage, groups from the three countries meet at the pinnacle. They also organize an annual festival with music, food, dancing and a hiking and bike tour that follows the Alpe-Adria Trail. This is an example of grass-roots, self-organized socio-political activism on a border that has seen much bloodshed and now symbolizes unity.

The site now symbolizes friendship and shared values, with many new traditions arising. We propose to explore this phenomenon of actively repurposing historic sites and traditions to overcome long-standing animosities. Other examples include the Alpe-Adria Trail which emphasizes a shared experience of nature and of precarious Alpine ecology, and the Walk of Peace, a UNESCO-nominated 320 km long course that connects structures associated with the Isonzo Front, one of the bloodiest battle lines of World War I.

The ability of heritage and common values around nature, similar shared customs and joint new challenges such as protecting a shared environment, can unite people across borders in organic and lasting ways. In the socio-political landscapes around the border regions of the Alps, the past, the present and the future are becoming a platform for the message of peace and tolerance.

We invite papers on the phenomenon of purposing historic and archaeological sites related to conflict, to overcome long-standing animosities.

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<https://www.e-a-a.org/aaa2023>



SHORT VERSION

Session #681: Contested Pasts: Heritage and Peace-Building – From Combat to Friendship around a Historic Site

The Role of Heritage in acting as a Medium for Reconciliation and Peace

- Ever since the nationalist movements of the 18th century, the mountain regions of the Alps were a place of conflict and border disputes.
- One example is the alpine lodge “Annahütte” in the tri-border region of the Alpe-Adria Trail, which was burnt down twice, in WWI and WWII.
- For the past 30 years, ordinary people from the three bordering countries (Austria, Slovenia, Italy) have been using the site for remembrance, joint festivities and an annual “peace walk.”
- A border that has seen much bloodshed and civil war, now symbolizes unity.
- Heritage that represents common values, similar shared customs and joint new challenges such as protecting a shared environment, can unite people across borders in organic and lasting ways.
- **We invite papers on the phenomenon of repurposing historic and archaeological sites related to conflict, to overcome long-standing animosities.**

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