

BEARView Conference: Communicating Values And Developing Audiences

On Wednesday 13th June 2015 the video conference room in the European Research Institute hosted a Digital Workshop on Communicating Values and Developing Audiences, organised by Jamie Davies, a AHRC CDA Researcher from the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage, University of Birmingham.

The workshop was part of a cultural exchange part funded through the University of Birmingham India Travel Fund, in which Jamie Davies visited India for a week and Ajay Reddy, founder of GoUNESCO visited the UK to attend the workshop in person and present the keynote Ironbridge Lecture. The digital workshop was focussed on digital and youth engagement with World Heritage Sites with speakers from India, providing the Indian perspective. The speakers were identified by Jamie as part of his visit to India.

The afternoon workshop included 6 speakers- 5 virtual presenters presenting through the VisiMeet software and Ajay presenting in the room.

There were 4 speakers from India (Delhi and Mumbai) and 1 from Florence, Italy. In the room were 16 participants which included Ironbridge Institute staff and researcher, as well as staff from other university departments and external guests including heritage professionals from South Wales and a delegate from the Indian Consulate in Birmingham.

IT support was obtained months in advance, and Paul and Earl were able to easily guide me through the process, from advice on what software to use, how the video-conferencing room works (and booking it) to creating a guide for the virtual speakers so they could download the software and it could be tested. A test meeting was arranged a week prior to the event, and it was essential to smooth out problems including displaying slideshows, testing connections and ensuring that all participants had and used headphones.

The speakers who were unable to test the software then, were tested by myself in the days leading up to the event, illustrative of the ease of the technology.

On the day of the event, Paul and Earl, were there early to get the room set up and were present throughout the workshop, controlling the feeds and sounds.

They were essential given the unforeseen problems including speakers dropping out due to network failure at their end, with one unable to attend at the last minute due to an earthquake aftershock. The problem of mobile phone disturbance was immediately identified and resolved, and was a credit to the expertise of Paul and Earl. Despite the challenges, the event was a success with positive feedback from all delegate and speakers.

I cannot strongly recommend both the resource and service enough. It is a shame that it is not used more often, let alone by my institute who are based on the same corridor as the room. I hope to use it again for research events in the future.

Thank You

Case study



Client Profile

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Funding

University of Birmingham India Travel
Fund

Product Used

BEARView Video Conferencing
Facility