Choosing to interpret sensitive subjects can be a difficult decision. Boards don't like them, guests can avoid them, resistant staff can hamstring them, and docents aren't prepared to discuss them. Difficult or controversial topics can make visitors irate and lead to staff meltdowns. But, subjects that elicit such strong responses must surely be striking a chord that is relevant, and without relevancy our sites will die. Prompted by the panelists' experiences interpreting slavery, race, human trafficking, immigration, and segregation, this session will emphasize a discussion on interpreting sensitive topics with the audience to help museums and historic sites anticipate reactions and consider how to move forward in a constructive manner. More importantly, we will encourage people to find the stories at their own sites that are relevant to today's audiences, and encourage them to interpret those stories even if the subjects are difficult to discuss.

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**Resources**

Ashworth, G. J. & Rami K. Isaac. “Have we Illuminated the Dark? Shifting Perspectives on ‘Dark’ Tourism.”  
