

Museum "Upper Silesian Ethnographic Park in Chorzów" would like to invite to a postponed the 4th international interdisciplinary conference of the **LOST VILLAGE** conference series **"Lost Village 4: Disasters and Their Consequences"**, which will be held in Chorzów, in the seat of the Museum on 3-4 November 2021

The inspiration for organizing the fourth rural historical conference (postponed due to COVID) of the "Lost Village" cycle is the reality of the pandemic around us, as well as the constant interests both in the topic of lost villages and in the papers presented during the previous three our meetings in the years 2014–2018. The willingness, declared by the Museum "Upper Silesian Ethnographic Park", is to organize regularly (every two years) conferences devoted to this issue. Still noticeable divergence between the state of knowledge on late medieval and modern villages in Poland and other central European countries, as well as the increasing interest in the history of the former settlements, assured the organizers to continue the discussion in this field. We would like also to focus on the interdisciplinary methods of analyzing the lost villages, run by archaeologists, historians, cultural anthropologists, geographers and other specialists of different fields of science.

Just as in previous editions, the first part of the conference will be devoted to the material traces of former rural settlements. Our aim is to present relics of discovered structures - this time with particular emphasis on historical disasters that affected them (either ending their existence or making survivors to undertake the efforts of reconstruction) and left traces of these tragic events in the layout of these settlements and the surrounding landscape.

The second module (generally well related to the first one) are topographic structures that are often still visible in the landscape and show the transformed or rebuilt rural settlements - we are most interested in traces of past epidemics, natural disasters, war damage and other calamities.

The third aspect is immaterial traces - traditions, narrative tales, songs, stories, toponyms - analyzed in terms of their socio-cultural functioning of the villages, customs and rituals of the rural populations, as well as their transformation and disappearing. The most interesting here will be the aspect of the settlements experiencing tragedies and related to them: the awareness and fears of residents, potentially perceptible in verbal folklore, cultivated customs or even preserved documents.

The program of the conference presumes 30-minute-long paper and 15-minute-long communicate. Everyone who wants to participate in the paper sessions, is asked to fill in and send the application until **30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021** to the following e-mail address: [dumin@muzeumgpe-chorzow.pl](mailto:dumin@muzeumgpe-chorzow.pl). The



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organizers of the conference reserve for themselves the right to choose among the received proposals. You will be informed about the decision of the organizing committee not later than on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.

The deadline for paying the conference fee, which is 200 PLN – if stationary (and embraces conference materials, two lunches, gala dinner, beverages, post-conference publication) or 100 PLN – if remote (post-conference publication), is 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 (account number: SWIFT: INGBPLPW; IBAN: PL 38 1050 1243 1000 0010 0000 4091, title: Conference – Lost village 4, Name and Surname of the participant).

The detailed program of the conference will be available in the second half of October 2021.

The text of those lectures, which would be reviewed positively, will be published in the Annals of the Museum "Upper Silesian Ethnographic Park in Chorzów" or as a monography (three previous editions of the Lost Village Conferences ended up with a monographic volumes). The deadline for sending articles is 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022. The authors of the published texts will not receive any remuneration, but they will obtain one copy each of the periodical, in which the text will be published.

