

# IfA Annual Conference 2014 - International Cultural Heritage Practice Group

Session D4: IPSIG - Research without boundaries

Wednesday 9 April 1400-1530 & 1600-1730



## Session timetable

### Part 1: European collaborative networks

1400-1420 Welcome & introduction to IPSIG and speakers. Format of session, H&S (Leonora O'Brien, Principal Cultural Heritage Consultant, URS Infrastructure & Environment)

1425-1445 World Heritage Sites: global opportunity, national challenge (Lesley Macinnes, Head of World Heritage Site Co-ordination, Historic Scotland)

1450-1510 Navigating Collaborative European Projects in Archaeology (Dr Holly Wright, Archaeology Data Service, University of York)

1510-1530 Questions

*1530-1600 Tea break*

### Part 2: International projects

1600-1620 Discovering the Archaeologists of the World (Kenneth Aitchison & Doug Rocks-Macqueen, Landward Research Ltd)

1625-1645 Hummingbird (Dugbe I) Gold Project, Liberia: boundaries of perception (Ken Whittaker, Associate Director, Historic Environment, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited)

1650-1710 The Qatar National Historic Environment Project 2009-2014 an example of international collaboration (Peter Spencer, QNHER Project Field Officer; Richard Cuttler, Senior Research Fellow, University of Birmingham; Faisal Al Naimi, Head of Antiquities, Qatar Museums Authority)

1710-1730 Questions

### 1730-1815 IPSIG AGM

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of founding AGM & matters arising
3. Chair's welcome and opening remarks
4. Officers' Reports: Hon Chair, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer
5. Business plan 2014-17
6. AOB

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## Session D4: IPSIG - Research without boundaries

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### Welcome

#### Introduction – Developing links: the International Cultural Heritage Practice Group

Leonora O'Brien, Principal Cultural Heritage Consultant, URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd  
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Overview of the International Cultural Heritage Practice Group, which aims to provide a forum for archaeologists, historic environment and cultural heritage professionals working on international projects and initiatives. The group brings together international academic, public and private sector practice on fieldwork and survey, research, heritage management and policy.

Introduction to the session, in which speakers will explore the challenges and opportunities of international cultural heritage projects. The session aims to discuss research, practice and capacity building in the wider context of international and cross-disciplinary collaboration between political, institutional, academic, commercial and community partners.

#### World Heritage Sites: global opportunity, national challenge

Lesley Macinnes, Head of World Heritage Site Co-ordination, Historic Scotland  
[Lesley.Macinnes@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.Macinnes@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

This paper will explore the issues, opportunities and benefits of international collaboration in the context of the Scottish World Heritage Sites. As an international accolade, inscription of World Heritage Sites acknowledges their outstanding universal value. This global recognition transcends national boundaries and has the potential to promote international collaboration and partnerships. However, management regimes are embedded in national systems of heritage protection and this presents challenges in agreeing common approaches to key issues. The opportunities and dilemmas this situation presents will be explored in the context of Scotland's five World Heritage Sites, with particular emphasis on the serial transnational World Heritage Site, the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (FRE). (The FRE is an international partnership currently comprising the Antonine Wall, Hadrian's Wall and the German Limes but with the potential for extension to countries from Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa – the extent of the second century Roman frontier).

#### Navigating Collaborative European Projects in Archaeology

Dr Holly Wright, Archaeology Data Service, University of York [holly.wright@york.ac.uk](mailto:holly.wright@york.ac.uk)

The academic research landscape in the UK has been transformed, for good or ill, by the European research agenda and funding priorities. In most cases, this funding is contingent on the creation of transnational collaborative networks, the success of which relies upon a willingness to truly share ideas and responsibilities in new ways. The Archaeology Data Service (ADS) has been a partner in

many collaborative, EC funded projects, and this paper will discuss some of our experiences, explore the benefits, lessons learned, and thoughts about the future. In particular, it will feature projects charged with expanding the range of content in Europeana, the recently completed Archaeology in Contemporary Europe (ACE) project, and its successor, New scenarios for a community-involved archaeology (NEARCH). It will also highlight the Advanced Research Infrastructure for Archaeological Dataset Networking (ARIADNE) project, for which the ADS serves as both partner and deputy coordinator. This ambitious, four-year project is made of up 24 partners across 16 European countries, and will require every bit of our experience and expertise to ensure the result we are working hard to realise. Please come along and hear how it's all going, and how a non-European is coping!

### **Discovering the Archaeologists of the World**

Kenneth Aitchison & Doug Rocks-Macqueen, Landward Research Ltd

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Archaeologists have only recently begun to explore their own professional field in terms of who is working in it and what are they doing. The UK has led this field with the Profiling the Profession Labour Market Intelligence reports. However, after this work was begun it quickly spread across borders and now is part of larger research projects involving multiple countries like Discovering the Archaeologists of Europe or the proposed Discovering the Archaeologists of the Americas projects. Finding out who archaeologists are now involves working with dozens of teams across many countries.

This paper explores the International Discovering Archaeologists programmes. Specifically, it looks at the practical experiences of assembling teams in multiple countries, building capacity, and ensuring research quality. The paper will also look at the dissemination strategies of this work.

### **Hummingbird (Dugbe I) Gold Project, Liberia: boundaries of perception**

Ken Whittaker, Associate Director, Historic Environment, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd

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Engagement with international projects is characterised by the need to constantly negotiate boundaries of all forms, be they geographical, social, regulatory, theoretical/methodological or cultural.

This paper will explore boundaries, personal and professional, negotiated in advance of and during a cultural heritage field study, to be undertaken in collaboration with the project socio-economic team, for an EIA at the site of a proposed gold mine in the forested interior of south east Liberia. It will share, warts and all, the experience of testing field instruments designed from the perspective of a UK based consultant, and their veracity once exposed to a short encounter with local communities. One of the first boundaries to negotiate is that defined by IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability. Guidance on the cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples, weighted towards intangible cultural assets, as detailed in Performance Standard 7, is distinguished from the more tangible heritage considerations of other forms of Affected Communities, set out in Performance Standard 8. Ambiguity regarding historical patterns of ethnicity, the absence of

documented or recorded data on the material heritage and limited means of ground surveying within the forested region, factors far from unique to this particular project, all contribute to a decision to regard this boundary as permeable. An approach based on qualitative research, with a focus on understanding the knowledge and cosmology expressed through traditional practices, is proposed as an ethically acceptable means of interpreting embedded cultural value within the natural environment, whatever its ethnic origins, and for speculating on archaeological signatures that can be developed into a predictive tool for managing development impact.

### **The Qatar National Historic Environment Project 2009-2014 an example of international collaboration**

Peter Spencer, QNHER Project field officer; Richard Cuttler, Senior Research Fellow, University of Birmingham; Faisal Al Naimi, Head of Antiquities, Qatar Museums Authority  
[peterspencer@qnher.com](mailto:peterspencer@qnher.com)

The development of the QNHER project in Qatar over the past 5 years, has involved the creation of the first national HER in the Middle East, combining practical aspects of developing high profile research teams with sustainable capacity building and infrastructure. The challenges of rapid regional development presented significant challenges, in particular the need for a re-evaluation of Eurocentric approaches to the management of heritage. The simple transplanting of heritage management concepts from one region to another is often inappropriate and does not account for a wide range of issues from cultural sensitivity to an understanding of regional taphonomy or alternative conservation approaches in differing environments.

Comprehensive legislation for the protection of heritage in Qatar was first introduced in 1980 (revised 2010), and includes moveable and immovable cultural heritage in both the terrestrial and marine environment. However, such detailed statutory legislation alone is insufficient to provide adequate protection. Over the course of the QNHER project these objectives have been achieved through appropriate dissemination strategies and the customisation of concepts and data standards to regional needs. These concepts have formed the basis for sustainable capacity building, infrastructure and co-operative practice between government departments, academic missions and the private and public sectors.



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If you would like to join the SIG, please contact us by email [groups@archaeologists.net](mailto:groups@archaeologists.net). Membership is free to IfA members (£10 for non-members).