

International Cultural Heritage Practice group

The International Practice SIG provides a forum for archaeologists, historic environment and cultural heritage professionals working on international projects and initiatives (or based outside the UK and the Republic of Ireland), and advises the CIfA Board of Directors on issues relevant to the international practice of archaeological and cultural heritage management. The group brings together international commercial, academic and public-sector practice on fieldwork and survey, research, heritage management and policy.

The committee elected at the AGM in April 2017 are Frank Meddens (Treasurer, MCIfA 1825); Jamie Quartermaine (Deputy Treasurer, MCIfA 504); Kathryn Price (Secretary) and ordinary members Kenneth Aitchison (MCIfA 1398), Peter Clark (MCIfA 370), Mike Dawson (MCIfA 20), Mark Dunkley, (MCIfA 1263), Rob Early (MCIfA 2727), Charles Le Quesne (MCIfA 5077) and Leonora O'Brien (MCIfA 2487). The Chair is currently vacant. The SIG also has a team of specialist advisers/liaison with other groups, including Evelyne Godfrey (ICOM-UK, PCIfA 1890), Zsolt Magyar (Central & Eastern Europe, PCIfA 5013), Kevin Wooldridge (Scandinavia, MCIfA 486) and John Sode Woodhead (Israel/Middle East, MCIfA 1978).

The group has 510 members in 23 countries. It continues to be accessible online at the CIfA website and the LinkedIn group had 137 members in September 2017.

External events in 2016-2017, including ongoing conflict and destruction in the Middle East and North Africa, highlight the continuing relevance of the International Practice SIG. The period saw a number of initiatives to protect endangered heritage, such as France and the UAE's Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage project and the UK Cultural Protection Fund. In February 2017 the UK Cultural Property (Armed Conflict) Act was passed, which will enable the UK Government to ratify the 1954 Hague Convention. In March 2017, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2347 condemning the destruction and smuggling of cultural heritage by terrorist groups, and the G7 Ministers of Culture signed the Florence Declaration condemning the destruction of cultural sites and calling on the international community to intensify their fight against the illegal trafficking of cultural goods.

In April 2016, the committee prepared a conference flyer, 'mobilising CIfA talents and capabilities to participate in the protection of world heritage sites and resources under threat'.

In July 2016, CIfA issued a post-Brexit Referendum statement emphasising that CIfA is an international-facing body committed to working with archaeologists from around the globe to promote professional standards and ethical behaviour, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society. In August 2016, following the Brexit Referendum and CIfA's July Brexit statement, the SIG prepared and circulated a Post-Brexit survey, led by Kevin Wooldridge with Jen Parker-Wooding.

In April 2017, IPSIG was strongly involved in the CIfA2017 conference, 'Archaeology: a global profession'. Members Gerry Wait (MCIfA 771) and Leo O'Brien contributed papers to a DCMS/CIfA Workshop on Archaeology and UK soft power. Kevin Wooldridge gave a paper from the perspective of an archaeologist working in both the UK and the EU, partly based on the August 2016 Post-Brexit

survey. Jamie Quartermaine, Mike Dawson and Leo O'Brien organised a session on 'Global Archaeology – Threats and Solutions', which brought together speakers from a range of groups including the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa project, the University of Durham, Building Conservation Services, Oxford Archaeology and the Curious Travellers/Visualising Heritage Project. A publication is in preparation, edited by Mike Dawson and Jamie Quartermaine.