



International Council for Archaeozoology

ICAZ International Committee Meeting

Monday 7th - Wednesday 9th August 2023, Cairns, Australia

James Cook University, CCC-111

16.00-18.00

Attendees

In person participants: *Umberto Albarella, Virginia Butler, Joaquin Arroyo-Cabrales, Arati Deshpande-Mukherjee, Kitty Emery, Melanie Fillios, Roz Gillis, Christiana Giovas, Sarah Kansa, Richard Madgwick, Sebastián Muñoz, Suzie Pilaar Birch, Hitomi Hongo, Mariana Mondini*

Online participants: *Ariane Burke, Pam Crabtree, Eva Fairnell, Erika Gál, Christian Gates-St Pierre, Idoia Grau Sologestoa, Hans Christian Küchelman, Lembi Lougas, Iain Machechnie, Marjan Mashkour, Marta Moreno, David Orton, Eve Rannamae, Kalangi Rodrigo, Plan Shenjere-Nyabezi, Kat Szabo, Angela Trentacoste, Jean-Denis Vigne, Lizzie Wright, Reuven Yeshurun*

Apologies: *Richard Thomas, Alberico Nogueira de Queiroz*

Welcome to new IC members and some information on the functioning of the IC (Lizzie Wright, Sarah Kansa)

- Round of introductions – all in person and online people
- Introduction to IC - please familiarise yourselves with policies on website etc

• Bid for 2027 International Conference

Bid for Vancouver sent out in advance and presented by Christina and Iain.

Questions / discussion:

- What about hybrid options: The venue could facilitate that, but they haven't talked yet about to what extent they'd hybridize. Christina is supportive of it. Would like to engage with the membership on this.
- How does the partnership work (with Toronto being far away)? Equal balance at the moment. Melanie points out the issue of liability and insurance (one university has to assume that over the others) - event underwriting.
- Sponsorship can be controversial - be careful they're respectful of Indigenous rights
- Costs of convention center. The venue is discounted b/c of Christina's affiliation with SFU. The convention center will only be turned to if the capacity gets very large. Melanie cautions about knowing all the costs up front when working with the convention center.
- Capacity: Expecting 400-500, but will plan for various scenarios of attendance. Can also consult the membership.

- Accessibility - what is the plan for financial support for attendees? Potential to have graduated fees, e.g. student discount. potential scholarships etc. Hope to encourage to greater Asian participation due to location.

Vote: IC unanimously agrees that the next conference should be in Vancouver

- **Secretary report (Lizzie Wright)**

- Election results

244 votes - Mariana elected president and Hitomi Vice-president. The elected IC are:

Joaquin Arroyo-Cabrales (Mexico), Shaw Badenhorst (South Africa), László Bartosiewicz (Sweden), Laura Beovide (Uruguay), Diana Carvajal-Contreras (Colombia), Hossein Davoudi (Iran), Arati Deshpande-Mukherjee (India), Cleia Detry (Portugal), Kitty Emery (USA), Erika Gál (Hungary), Christian Gates St-Pierre (Canada), Roz Gillis (Germany/UK), Idoia Grau-Sologestoa (Switzerland/Spain), Angelos Hadjikoumis (Cyprus/UK), Hitomi Hongo (Japan), Hans Christian Küchelmann (Germany), Xiaolin Ma (China), Richard Madgwick (UK), Marjan Mashkour (Iran/France), Hanneke Meijer (Norway), Mariana Mondini (Argentina), Marta Moreno-Garcia (Spain), Sebastian Muñoz (Argentina), Alberico Nogueira de Queiroz (Brazil), David Orton (UK), Evangelia Ioannidou Pişkin (Turkey), Eve Rannamäe (Estonia), Kalangi Rodrigo (Sri Lanka), Lenny Salvagno (UK), Plan Shenjere-Nyabezi (Zimbabwe), Richard Thomas (UK), Angela Trentacoste (Germany/UK), Jean-Denis Vigne (France), Sarah Whitcher Kansa (USA) and Reuven Yeshurun (Israel).

Plus four ICAZ officers complete the IC: the Secretary (Lizzie Wright), Treasurer (Suzanne Pilaar Birch), the Immediate Past Conference Organiser (Melanie Fillios) and the Next Conference Organiser (to be confirmed at the International Conference this summer).

The results reflect the diversity of ICAZ, with 28 countries across 5 continents represented. This is an increase from the last time, when 23 countries were represented.

Some thoughts:

This time we had 49 candidates. This increased potential diversity but meant that ultimately a fair few candidates (14) missed out. These people included almost all of the student candidates and also some people working in the developer funded sector.

It doesn't look like students and developer funded colleagues were being considered as part of diversity.

If we are serious about wanting people from these areas to be represented on the IC we could consider ringfencing a few positions on the IC for different groups and voting for them separately. Some other organisations do have "student reps" and other similar posts to ensure that these people are represented on committees.

- It's great that ICAZ has such high involvement from women
- What was the total pool of potential members who could've voted? Are there ways to increase participation.
- Only c70% of e-mails from ICAZ actually get opened.
- A way that we could use social media to increase participation?
- Good idea to ringfence "student rep" positions on the IC. Laszlo - should we involve PZAF in this?
- PZAF more accessible to Europeans than other areas of the world.
- some other organisations have ringfenced positions for people working in other sectors than academia, but maybe this is less of an issue than the student situation.

In order to add positions we would need to amend the statutes slightly - Agreement that changes to the statutes can be voted on via e-mail by the general membership rather than at the general meeting -i.e., as if part of a virtual extension of the general meeting.

NOTE: Article 9: Amending the statutes

9.1 Amendments to statutes can only be proposed by being published in the agenda of a General Meeting. Amendments require a positive vote by at least two thirds of those voting who must be at least one third of those eligible to vote.

- Some of the discussion on diversifying the IC could be undertaken by the diversity committee.

Motion: of the allowed number of IC positions 2 will be dedicated to students - passed by majority

- What about balancing international representation with career stage representation? This isn't easy.
- Could student reps be from the next conference country? Various issues with this.
- Some countries will probably never have students in the IC.
- Anyway any students would help bring more students to ICAZ.

- Changes to the statutes

- change name of "treasurer" to "treasurer and membership coordinator"
- agreement by IC on the amendments
- push the vote to e-mail?

- **Nominations and election of EC members (Lizzie Wright)**

- M. Mondini and H. Hongo will now take up the roles of President and Vice-President respectively
- S. Pilaar Birch is standing down from treasurer position next September, which will be taken over by M. Fillios - later subjected to election
- P. Faulkner will take the place of Past conference organiser
- C. Küchelmann and S. Pilaar Birch will stand for at-large member positions
- Invitation for IC members to put themselves forward for these vacancies - Joaquin, Roz, Angela, Kalangi have put themselves forward. We can have up to 4.

- **Treasurer report (Suzie Pilaar Birch)**

Membership has been growing, finance is healthy. We should continue to encourage donations and sponsor students.

Fiscal Year 2022

- The 2022 fiscal year dated from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. We ended the year with a total of \$76,265 across our two accounts, which are TIAA Bank and PayPal.
- We received \$13,900 in membership fees and donations last fiscal year. We also earned \$101 in interest for a total of about \$14,000 income.
- Our main expenditures were the newsletter and conference support funds. We spent \$8,606.

Fiscal Year 2023 YTD

- At the time of writing this report in August 2023, we have a current balance of about \$70,000.

- In addition to income from membership renewals, our main expenditures have been the newsletter and \$10,000 in support for delegates to attend ICAZ 2023.

Other Matters

- A new treasurer will take over beginning FY 2024 (October 1st). This must be an American citizen with a US social security number and US permanent address which is necessary for the bank account. All banking and tax exemption filing is done online.
- Previous website glitches appear to have been resolved and membership renewals should now be automatic instead of having to be manually approved.
- Annual conference support fund has been going well, usually full amount of \$1000 granted. We have now supported 12 working group meetings over the last five years!
 - 2019: Animal Paleopathology, Fish Remains, and PZAF
 - 2020: Roman Period, Worked Bone
 - 2021: PZAF, Taphonomy
 - 2022: Neotropical Zooarchaeology, Microvertebrates, Medieval
 - 2023: Stable Isotopes, PZAF
- Upcoming research fund-beginning in FY24, an ad hoc committee of 4 people from IC plus Treasurer will review applications. There will be a \$5000 max available per year (up to \$1000 per award). Required to submit report afterwards for newsletter. Annual deadline TBD.
- Expenses, income, and net balance have remained roughly similar over the years.
- There has been an apparent increase in memberships, since combined income from memberships over 2022 (normally a conference year and a lot of 4-year membership renewals) along with 2023 was nearly \$24,000, as compared to \$17,000 prior to Ankara 2018, and this is with no increase in membership fees!
- We encourage people to join and renew with a four year membership! We'd also like to note that some people, upon gaining a permanent position, have recently purchased a "lifetime" membership using their start-up funding, and so that's something to keep in mind if people are interested.

We also welcome donations from members who would like to sponsor a "free" membership for others who may not be able to afford one.

- **Working groups report (Erika Gál)**
 - No new working groups in the last year
 - Each working group should report before the main IC meeting.
 - Camelids group haven't reported since 2020 - what is the situation here?
 - NABO - back online
 - All liaisons are the same except for WBRG, which had a change
- **Poster committee**
Richard Madgwick, Lenny Salvagno, and Roz Gillis
- **Website updates (Sarah Kansa)**

- Website includes the static website AND the ICAZ membership database.
- No major updates this year- some issues still pending from the previous meeting.
- We continue to pay \$20/mo for back-end maintenance and \$240 / year for hosting from SiteGround. So, about \$480/year. I pay for this and have not asked for reimbursement.
- Difficult to find time to keep up—would love help from a subcommittee on the IC to tackle various parts of the website to manage upkeep. (This includes the membership site, where people could help with feedback on navigability, functionality, features, etc.). Action item for IC meeting? subcommittee?

Kitty ,Christian Küchelmann and possibly Roz have volunteered to take this on - liaise with Sarah to move forward with this?

- **Newsletter report (Eva Fairnell/Idoia Grau)**

- Overview

- The ICAZ Newsletter is a biannual publication distributed to the ICAZ membership via an email notification with a permanent link to a pdf file that is downloadable from the ICAZ website. The Newsletter is the main vehicle for disseminating official ICAZ news, along with member updates and working group (WG) reports. The Newsletter is produced by the Editor (Eva Fairnell) and Assistant Editor (Idoia Grau Sologestoa), with regular contributions from the ICAZ Executive Committee (EC), WG liaisons, and others.

Regular content includes:

- a letter from the president
- committee news
- forthcoming conferences and events
- WG reports
- member news and notes
- laboratory updates
- publications and new books
- book reviews
- obituaries
- a calendar of forthcoming events.

The content is generated by a mass email request to the ICAZ member list, and some direct requests made by Eva and Idoia.

The deadlines for Newsletter copy are 15 May and 15 November, with a view to publishing the issues in June/July and January/February, respectively.

Points arising

- Many thanks to all those who have contributed copy to the Newsletter: clearly, without contributors, the Newsletter would not exist.
- Eva also thanks all those who have helped with proofreading. The proofreaders are called upon in a rather ad - hoc manner, dictated largely by the short turnaround time.
- Each issue tends to have its own unique set of problems and, by the stage at which proofs are ready, time is inevitably a challenge. If anyone is willing to be called upon as a proofreader, please let Eva

know. Eva has created a stylesheet for spelling and punctuation that can be disseminated to all proof-readers.

- In order to generate major articles and themes, more direct requests could be made. If anyone has ideas for topics, please let Eva or Idoia know.
- It is always nice to have copy for the section on ICAZ past and present, and non - ICAZ conference reviews, and any such contributions are encouraged. Any suggestions for cover images are welcomed too.

Summary of Newsletter content since October 2021

- The call for contributions for issue 22:1 was sent out in October 2021. The resulting 39 - page issue was emailed to members in January 2022.
- The call for contributions for issue 22:2 was sent out in April 2022. The resulting 25 - page issue was emailed to members in July 2022.
- The call for contributions for issue 23:1 was sent out in October 2022. The resulting 38 - page issue was emailed to members in January 2023.
- The call for contributions for issue 23:2 was sent out in April 2023. The resulting 37 - page issue was emailed to members in July 2023.

Year	Volume	Issue	Page extent	WG reports	Publications
2022	22	1	39	6	295 input, 7 featured, and 2 reviews
2022	22	2	25	4	*
2023	23	1	38	7	335 input, 11 featured, and 2 reviews
2023	23	2	37	1	312 input, 6 featured, and 1 review

*Idoia on maternity leave.

Zotero and bibliographic database

- The ICAZ website provides a bibliographic database of zooarchaeology - related publications, searchable alphabetically and by specific terms. These references are drawn from two sources in Zotero, a collaborative ICAZ Group Library and the ICAZ Library, managed by Idoia. Currently there are 4774 references in the database.

Items yet to action

- Apologies to those who volunteered some time ago to help with these.
 1. Create an index of all newsletter issues to date.
 2. Update the online search facility for the bibliographic database?

Costs

- The Editor is paid \$2000/issue, plus a \$30 payment per transaction to offset the bank costs incurred by the Editor when the payment is received.
- The Assistant Editor is paid \$500, plus a \$30 payment per transaction to offset the bank costs incurred by the Assistant Editor when the payment is received.

- **Social media report (Shyama Vermeersch)**

The Twitter account for ICAZ is doing well, although my activity has decreased these past few months due to some changes in my personal life (quitting my position, job hunting, getting a new position and having to organise an international move).

The follower count now is at 796 and I would like to get it at 900 by the end of the year. However, follower count is only a small part of social media and what we really want is more engagement with our account. Here are some issues the ICAZ Twitter account faces now:

- Low engagement
I asked the online community what they would like to see happening on this account but responses have been low. Prompts such as '#FaunaFriday' are successful, whereas '#WeirdBoneMonday' has not been doing well. Funny and casual tweets seem to be doing better.
- Poor communication
Right now, Lizzie emails me whenever something official needs to be tweeted on the account. However, I think we need a more direct line of communication between me and the various ICAZ working groups/ICAZ board as well so I can broadcast events, publications, and grants more easily. Also, the official ICAZ international meeting Twitter account is quite dead, which sends mixed signals.
- Twitter as a platform
Ever since Elon Musk took over Twitter, things in general have not been going as smoothly. My impression is that most users are staying on the app until the ship sinks but perhaps we should look out for alternative platforms.

To solve these issues, I want to make a new social media content strategy. Once I get settled at my new position, I will be able to spend some time researching the best options and implementing them. In the meantime, here are my temporary solutions:

- Low engagement
Continue with the #FaunaFriday prompt and keep doing what I have been. Perhaps adding more fun and casual tweets throughout the week.
- Poor communication
Perhaps the board can make the working groups aware of this Twitter account and have them contact me directly whenever they are organising things.
- Twitter as a platform
For now, I suggest staying on Twitter. Mastodon could be a good alternative. I am not sure whether visual platforms such as Instagram and TikTok would work for ICAZ since we produce no photographs or videos.

Meeting discussion

- Add Shyama to the IC email list when necessary to keep her up to date
- Make sure WG liaisons know she exists
- Shift to another platform? Facebook or Instagram
- Instagram for reaching younger zooarchs

- Maybe both FB and Instagram– they're integrated
- Ask Shyama what she prefers
- Establish Social media subcommittee

Action: Erika to contact WG coordinators about ICAZ social media

Sub-committee for social media: Shyama, Laura, Suzie, Xiaolin, Idoia

Goal: Meet periodically to review the changes in the landscape, make sure various ICAZ WGs are being contacted, etc.

Lizzie has now put these people in touch with Shyama to get things going.

- IC and general membership participation: subcommittees
- Suggestion to organize subcommittees so that everybody is involved in at least one
- They should report to the EC, who may ask the IC's opinion on some matters.
- They may include at-large members from general membership, who are not in the IC
- Make sure the sub-committees work after they were created (often they never take off)

Action: suggest possible subcommittees for IC members to add their names

- **Membership/widening participation scheme update (Sarah Kansa, Suzie Pilaar Birch)**
- Do the appeal again with the new IC (Mariana)
- We discussed continuing the waiver policy for new members, wondered whether to offer it or just apply it if requested, and voted to offer it openly and promote it in social media.

Action: membership waiver campaign

- **Report from current conference organiser (Melanie Fillios)**
- 254 delegates signed up, a few last-minute withdrawals
- How many countries? - will check
- They may have some money left over
- Durham had \$ left over that they gave back to ICAZ
- Suggestion to use the \$ to cover an open access publication
- Melanie asks for general feedback, as well
- **Update on 50th anniversary celebrations - ICAZ archives**
- Jean-Denis has been working with Christine to check what was missing in the ICAZ archives displayed on the web site. We listed what was missing and plan to complete within the next months.
- Need an IC ad hoc committee to manage this (likely 2 years)
- Suggestion for having a video production person work on the final versions of the long videos for the archive, as well (not just the final compilation video for the website).

Video sub-committee: Sarah, Cleia, Marjan

- **Nominations for Committee of Honour**

Virginia Butler - all in favor

Sarah Kansa

Suzie Birch

Cornelia Becker

Norbert Benecke

Terry O'Connor

- **Publication of the proceedings of the last International Conference in Ankara (2018) (Vicky Pişkin)**

- A few months after Ankara, Vicky sent an email to all the session organizers asking them if they want to publish, also with info about publishers to choose from
- Requested a small note to be included in the publication about it being an ICAZ session
- Also invited contributors to a general session edited volume
- She has a list of publication outcomes to date.

Action: **Vicky** will send the list of publication outcomes to Lizzie and to Sarah to post on the website

Action: **Melanie** will follow up with all of the sessions after the conference to keep track of who is planning to publish their sessions.

- **Potential venue for next IC meeting**

The IC has an in-person meeting mid-way between International Conferences. The next IC meeting will take place in 2025.

So far there have been expressions of interest from 6-7 countries.

Bidding process: Prepare a PDF with various elements covered. Especially try to figure out the finances. Bids by Nov 30 - extended to mid February 2024. After discussion on Zoom, a voting period will be set up.

- **Health and Safety**

I think we are still in need of someone to take on responsibility for these webpages - does it need to be someone on the IC?

Action: **Melanie** has volunteered to take over

- **Code of Conduct**

This went out in the July newsletter to be used by all conferences/working group meetings etc. Need to encourage WGs to use it.

May need update/expansion

Action: Add it to the form for when WGs ask for conference support (**Suzie**)

Action: Add it to the things that Erika asks WGs to do (**Erika**)

- **ICAZ Diversity Committee (Lizzie Wright and Kitty Emery)**

- Kitty/Lizzie will prepare a IDEA proposal

- Is this an ad hoc committee or a standing committee? – It can be permanent without having to be in the statutes.
- All committees report to the EC. The EC can choose to involve the IC in larger decisions.
- Kitty/Lizzie can reach out to other ICAZ members (not on the IC/EC) to participate on this committee.

Action: **Lizzie** can put out a call to ask people to join this committee - is this to the IC first or the general membership straight away?

Volunteers for the committee: **Pam** would like to be involved, even though she's not on the IC

- **ICAZ language**
- When spoken by native speakers, English can be very fast, which makes oral communication among international members rather difficult
- The official ICAZ language was discussed, and English was voted, but all members are free to speak in any language
- Durham 2002 was the first ICAZ conference with no official language

- **Environmental statement**

Richard Thomas put together a draft of this after our last meeting and it was opened up to comments from the rest of the IC. This needs to be finalised and a decision made on what to do with it. The statement can be found [here](#). Any further suggestions/comments very welcome.

Action: **Lizzie** will circulate one last call for comments.

- **Any other business**

Angelos -Doing research on zooarch and public engagement = ICAZ really doesn't have any wording on the website or in the statutes. This is very important!! Need to work on this!

- Plea for 2 IC meetings in the international conference – one at the beginning and one at the end
- Lizzie is having a baby – BEST WISHES from everyone!!

ICAZ online store?

Action: We'll also look into having an ICAZ online store - who is going to do this? Sarah?