



International Council for Archaeozoology

ICAZ International Committee Meeting

2nd July 2025

School of Arts and Humanities, University of Lisbon

Time: 14.00

Voov Link: <https://voovmeeting.com/dm/MBzw8yEoQ8S0>

Meeting ID: 290-053-084

Agenda

Attendees

In person participants: Joaquin Arroyo-Cabrales, Shaw Badenhorst, László Bartosiewicz, Laura Beovide, Cleia Detry, Pat Faulkner, Christian Gates St-Pierre, Erika Gal, Roz Gillis, Angelos Hadjikoumis, Hitomi Hongo, Christian Küchelmann, Richard Madgwick, Mariana Mondini, Sebastián Muñoz, David Orton, Suzie Pilaar Birch, Diana Rocio Carvajal Contreras, Plan Shenjere-Nyabezi, Jean-Denis Vigne, Lizzie Wright

Online participants: Matteo Bormetti, Kitty Emery, Sarah Kansa, Xiaolin Ma, Hanneke Meijer, Eve Rannamäe

Apologies: Aleksa Alaica and Christina Giovas (represented by Iain Mckechnie), Marjan Mashkour, Lenny Salvagno, Idoia Grau Sologestoa, Angela Trentacoste, Hossein Davoudi, Arati Deshpande-Mukherjee, Vicky Piskin, Shyama Vermeersch, Jesse Wolfhagen, Marta Moreno Garcia, Melanie Fillios, Reuven Yeshurun

1. Welcome to Lisbon (Cleia Detry, Mariana Mondini)

The last-minute absence of Hossein Davoudi due to an attack on his country is informed and regretted.

2. Secretary report (Lizzie Wright) - see attached report

3. Treasurer report (Melanie Fillios) - see attached report

Discussion around way forward for banking situation - summary of discussion in EC meeting

Action point: Find new US-based treasurer

Action point: Establish a committee to look at longer term options - IC explore situations in their own countries - report to secretary e-mail - end of August deadline. Chris and Cleia volunteered to find out in Europe, and Sarah is checking how they do it in similar organisations.

Action point: once the account is established, see if other ICAZ officers can be authorised to access it.

4. Working groups report (Erika Gál) - see attached report

Discussion around whether WGs are drifting from ICAZ a bit - at the moment there is a feeling that at some meetings ICAZ is barely being mentioned at all, and it is unclear to attendees what ICAZ is contributing. Should we be encouraging WG meeting organisers to give ICAZ members a discount? PZAF is affiliated as it is the only WG defined by stage in career – thus membership changes rapidly.

Action point: write policies to encourage more mention of ICAZ at WG meetings and share with liaisons - Mariana, Erika and Jean Denis

Action point: Suggestion for IC members to talk about/promote ICAZ if they attend WG meetings

Action point: Survey WG liaisons asking how they could benefit more from ICAZ etc - Lizzie can set up

Action point: Sebastian to find out about GZC (not responding)

Action point from EC meeting: campaign to make sure WGs are using logo and acknowledging ICAZ properly - potentially suggest a discount for ICAZ members at WG meetings. Encourage ICAZ membership at WG meetings

5. Website updates (Sarah Kansa) - see attached report

Roz sent a report last year with a review of the website, but this may have got lost somewhere.

Discussion of whether to replace Kitty on committee - it was decided no.

Action point: committee to review ICAZ Remembers page - Roz can do this as part of website reviews (check obituaries in newsletters)

Action point: some people to review document for ICAZ workings - need some volunteers for this.

6. Newsletter report (Eva Fairnell/Idoia Grau/Jesse Wolfhagen/Matteo Bormetti) - see attached report

Welcome to the new newsletter editors!

We did not have a report

Action point: Lizzie to contact Eva and Idoia to ask for a final report

7. Social media report (Shyama Vermeersch) - see attached report

Ideas for increasing engagement - instagram account? Google form.

Angelos: Public engagement committee should feed into social media.

Matteo: better integration with newsletter

Lazslo: how can we use ZOOARCH mailing list better?

New person to have a trial period with a stipend of US\$500 after which stipend etc reviewed. There was some suggestion that this job should have a higher fee than the newsletter due to amount of work.

Matteo to join social media committee in Idoia's place.

Action point: Lizzie to launch process for new social media co-ordinator. Social media committee to help with recruitment

Action point: remind people on ZOOARCH that we have facebook page and other social media.

Action point: set up google form to collect info to be disseminated using social media - to be done by new SM manager.

Action point: ask Shyama about time investment (done)

8. Membership/widening participation scheme update (Sarah Kansa, Suzie Pilaar Birch)

- Reminder to IC to encourage people they might know to apply for free memberships
- Reduced-rate countries only

Vote: continue with the scheme

Action point: Ask Sarah to update working on reduced rate countries.

Action point: UK to be included separately in non-reduced country list as no longer in EU

9. Report from next conference organiser (Vancouver team) - see attached report

The Vancouver team were unable to attend the IC meeting, although they gave a presentation in the EC meeting. Any questions will be e-mailed to them.

David - could we have a better idea of how this is going to work? Will there be different price points for hybrid attendees? When will hybrid sessions be announced? What about time differences? Will the sessions be recorded?

Jean-Denis brought up carbon situation with flying versus hybrid. Some labs are now putting carbon restrictions on their members and won't pay for such long flights

Action point: Lizzie to contact organising committee to ask above questions - this has been done and they are aiming to send answers by the end of the summer (?)

Action point: potential for a meeting to discuss hybrid situation - Lizzie will ask IC now that we have some responses.

10. Publication of the proceedings of the last International Conference in Cairns (Pat Faulkner) and Ankara (Vicky Pişkin)

This was covered in the EC meeting, but Pat is going to do a call-out for publications stemming from the meeting in Cairns which can then be put on the website.

Update September - call out has been sent to members.

11. Partnerships

- ISBA
Richard explained discussions with Ester Oras - 1 prize at each major conference to be used at one of the next conferences in cycle

Vote passes - everyone in favour of this.

Action point: Rich will continue liaising with Ester about this.

- Bloomsbury Publishing (contract)
Hitomi explained the situation
What's the benefit to ICAZ? Promotion of organisation

Vote passes on principal of going forward with this. Hitomi will continue liaising with Bloomsbury

Action point: Hitomi to clarify situation with who gets copies of publications, check that it's definitely just the logo, include in contract the withdrawal terms

Action point: When we get the final version of the contract we can send it round to everyone to check.

- Instats

This was discussed - including pros and cons.

Vote - no to this

- Confirm current partnerships, including discounts by Archaeofauna and BAR (<https://alexandriaarchive.org/icaaz/membership-join>)

Action point: check status of these - ask Sarah first, if she doesn't know then come up with other option.

- Transmitting Science

Action point: explore what it would involve to be on the discount list - Lizzie

12. Health and Safety (Melanie Fillios)

Melanie was not able to attend.

13. Code of Conduct

We didn't discuss this in much detail - agreement to promote it more with WGs

14. Sub-Committee reports

50th anniversary committee - we now have quite a few videos but Sebastian hasn't yet managed to edit them. Still a few people who have offered to do videos but haven't recorded them. Possibility of creating youtube channel for the videos.

Update from Sebastian in September 2025: We have seven videos available of varying lengths and editing styles. An eighth video made by Sebastián Muñoz is still unedited. A ninth video made by Sarah Kansa is pending to be uploaded to the drive.

- Melinda Zeder has expressed interest in participating. The interview is pending. Can Suzanne Pilaar Birch conduct it?
- The interview with Simon Davis is also pending. Can Cleia Detry conduct it?
- Roz Gillis and Christian Küchelmann will try to make another one in the next six months. It was mentioned the name of Norbert Benecke regarding the latter.
- Sebastián proposes publishing two or three of these interviews in each newsletter with a short written introduction.

Public engagement committee - initiated discussion and start brainstorming - join forces with social media and webpage.

Action point: Possibility of creating youtube channel for the videos - job for new social media person.

Action point: Public engagement committee - join forces with social media and webpage

Action point: Pending videos to be recorded and edited.

15. Environmental statement

Action point: Lizzie to check situation with this and let the IC know

16. Committee of Honour

John Driver - Shaw will prepare some text and a picture? - Addenda: After the meeting, Jon Driver declined the nomination.

Other CofH members were proposed: Leif Jonsson and Christine Lefevre. Leif has accepted. Mariana is contacting Christine.

Action point: update new CofH members in webpage

17. Kitty Emery stepping down from IC

Thank you Kitty!

Action point: Gift for Kitty to travel home with Suzie for posting within the US.

18. Sheffield situation - and broader context of threats to zooarch in general (Lizzie Wright)

Lizzie described the latest situation at Sheffield.

ICAZ will always show solidarity to colleagues in danger - we can write letters etc.

We should also think forward to impacts of AI.

Laszlo talked about his experience in Stockholm with movements against the lab.

We discussed the broader situation where we are losing positions across the world in favour of biomolecular posts - Basel, Cambridge mentioned. Although since the meeting Cambridge has now readvertised their position.

Action point: monitor where we are losing zooarchs in different places.

Action point: collect together things that have been written on this - Christian to get started on this.

Action point: write an academic paper as a group highlighting these issues - Roz to contact journalist that writes for Nature and float idea.

19. ECR engagement with ICAZ (Lizzie Wright)

It was agreed that most of the issues related to this were discussed as part of point 4 above on working groups, so we didn't have any further discussion on this.

20. Any other business

AI considerations - for the future

Mariana: Should we make a statement about Palestine?

We had a long discussion on this issue. There were suggestions that as a heritage organisation perhaps we should just be commenting on loss of heritage and cultural vandalism - but it was also felt that we can't ignore the humanitarian situation in Gaza. It was commented that it was a shame that none of our Israeli colleague was not able to attend and contribute to the discussion.

Action point: Hitomi said she would send around the statement on Gaza by The Japanese Society for West Asian Archaeology as an example

Vote on whether to make a statement - No

Addenda: This issue is further developing via email (in progress).

ICAZ meetings Lisbon 2025

Secretary Report

1. Statutes poll

From December 2024-January 2025 we asked ICAZ members to vote on some edits to the statutes that we had previously discussed in Cairns – the changes are mainly related to providing more information about which officers report to which committees.

We registered 154 votes, of which 150 were valid

141= yes and 9 = no (94%)

The ICAZ statutes state that "Amendments [to the statutes] require a positive vote by at least two thirds of those voting who must be at least one third of those eligible to vote".

Currently there are 627 registered ICAZ members in good-standing, and therefore we have not reached the threshold of one third of eligible voters (209). However the vote was so overwhelmingly in favour of accepting the amendments that we feel that we can tentatively accept them for now, and then hold a final confirmation vote at the General Meeting in Vancouver.

In the meantime the new version of the statutes will be uploaded to the website – these are now online.

2. Selection of new Newsletter editors

In September 2024 Eva and Idoia expressed a wish to step down as the newsletter editors, with their last issue to be the one in January 2025 – thank you to them both for their hard work on this over the years!

We therefore put out a call for a new Newsletter editor and Assistant editor in October, with a deadline of 30th November.

We had 2 applicants for editor and 3 for Assistant editor. A committee was formed to decide on a replacement consisting of the Lizzie, Mariana, Hitomi, Idoia, Eva and Angela and we decided to appoint Jess Wolfhagen as Editor and Matteo Bormetti as Assistant editor – welcome!

Their first issue will be the one this summer, with the release date pushed back by a couple of weeks in order to accommodate reports from this meeting.

Issue with the stipends advertised

During the process of recruiting new newsletter editors we realised that there was a mistake in the stipends advertised. I think this may be my fault as I think I copied and pasted information from the previous advert.

The stipends were advertised as \$500 per issue for the Editor and \$250 per issue for the Assistant Editor when it should have been \$1000 and \$500 respectively. Jesse and Matteo have been informed that they should receive this larger amount.

3. Calendar of secretary/ICAZ admin activities for the next two years

Due to the next International Conference taking place in the spring of 2027 rather than the summer we need to bring forward the elections by a few months. The calendar below lays out the different months in which activities will take place during this cycle. I will send out an e-mail asking for volunteers to be on the nominating committee this November.

Month	2025	2026	2027
Jan			
Feb			
March			
April			
May		All IC candidates submitted/ Call for hosting next international conference	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
June			
July		Ballot sent out to members	
Aug			
Sept		Ballot closes	
Oct		Results Announced	
Nov	Nominating committee formed		
Dec			

ICAZ Treasurer's Report- Fiscal Year 2024 and estimated FY 2025

Melanie Fillios, Treasurer 02 July 2025

The reports summarized below are for the Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024) and an estimated FY 2025. Both are preliminary, pending verification of membership receipts and final TIAA bank statements.

ICAZ ended the FY 2024 with a total of \$62,064.94 split between two accounts – TIAA bank and PayPal. The current estimated balance is \$68,859.03, thanks in large part to funds from the ICAZ Cairns conference.

Many thanks to those who renewed their memberships, and/or became new members this year. Thanks also to those who donated to cover memberships for those who could not afford them. ICAZ received an estimated \$3920.51 in membership fees and donations last fiscal year. At the time of this report, membership income has been estimated based on PayPal balances and will be verified with membership prior to IRS filing. ICAZ also earned an estimated \$991.18 in interest.

The main expenditures in 2023-4 were the newsletter and conference support funds. The working groups that received funding last year include MVWG, NTWG, BWG, RPWG, MPWG, FWG. ICAZ spent \$6000 supporting working groups, and \$5500 on the newsletter and social media.

As at 2 July, 2025, the ICAZ estimated balance is \$68,859.03 – close to the running average of c.\$70,000 of the past few years. The 2025 fiscal year commenced on October 1, 2024 and will end on September 30, 2025. Thanks to a surplus from ICAZ Cairns of \$14,439.89, the bank balance has remained stable, enabling ICAZ to provide further conference support. Of note, however, is the recent trend of expenditures exceeding income – a trend that is masked by the surplus from the Cairns conference. The below tables summarize ICAZ's financial position in detail.

2024 Fiscal Year Summary	USD
Starting Balance (October 1 2023) – Everbank / TIAA	TBA
Paypal	9802.49
Total	TBA
Income	
TIAA Interest (missing Oct-Dec 2023); Jan-Sep	831.18 (+160 est) = 991.18 estimated
Net Membership	\$3920.51 Estimated
Net Donations	TBA
Total Net Income	4911.69 estimated

Expenditures	
Newsletter Production Costs	-5000
Social Media	-500
Conference Support MVWG, NTWG, BWG, RPWG, MPWG, FWG	-6000
Bank fees	-54.89
Total Disbursements	-11,554.89
FY Year End Total (Sept 30, 2024) – Everbank / TIAA	48,341.94
FY Year End Total (Sept 30, 2024) – PayPal	13,723
Total	62,064.94

2025 Estimated Fiscal Year Summary to date (FY ends 30 Sept 2025)	USD
Starting Balance (October 1 2024) – TIAA	48,341.94
Starting Balance (October 1, 2024) – PayPal	13,723
Total	62,064.94
Income	
TIAA Interest YTD	637.24 YTD
Membership	2176.09 estimated YTD
ICAZ Cairns	14,439.89
Total Income	17,253.22 estimated YTD
Expenditures	
Newsletter Production Costs	-2500
Conference Support - Lisbon	-6934.13
Working Groups - SIWG, APWG	-2000
Bank fees	-14.97

Total Disbursements	-11.449.10
Current estimated balance	15899.09 + 52959.94 (est.) = 68,859.03 (estimate)

Discussion Items

- MF took over as treasurer following the ICAZ Cairns meeting, beginning FY 2024 (October 2023). The transition from Suzanne Birch to myself has been fraught with complications arising from successive changes to the US banking system, which have resulted in tighter rules and regulations around bank accounts. At the time of writing, I have still not been able to gain access to the US ICAZ bank account in Georgia with TIAA. This is despite repeated phone calls by both the former treasurer, SPB and MF, as well as paperwork signed by ICAZ officers (and is the reason for the estimated totals). The difficulty arises from the need for the ICAZ treasurer to be a US citizen (with a social security number), and the inability of the US banking system to recognize the signatures of any office holders who are not US citizens. In practice, this has two main consequences: 1. The ICAZ treasurer's account will always be linked to a personal social security number (not ideal), and 2. Given ICAZ is a US non-profit and so tied to a person who must hold the the bank account , the account will need to change with each treasurer AND necessitate a US citizen be the office bearer. This is not ideal, and I suggest this is something we need to discuss ways of remedying for the future.
- Website and transactions: The Treasurer does not oversee the website and so has not traditionally dealt with memberships. Sarah Kansa has been the main contact for these. Given the significant amount of time taken up by the Treasurer's role, I do not believe the two should be mixed, but that said, it does add another layer to a transaction if there are difficulties. It also means it is difficult to quickly calculate funds received from membership fees, however this is too large a job for the treasurer to also undertake.

A note on fiscal year reporting - USA

In the United States, nonprofit organizations are required to use a fiscal year for accounting and tax reporting purposes. A fiscal year is a consecutive 12-month period that a nonprofit uses for financial planning, budgeting, and reporting. This period may differ from the standard calendar year (January 1st to December 31st).

Nonprofits have the flexibility to choose a fiscal year that aligns best with their operations, funding cycles, activities, or compliance requirements. ICAZ's cycle is Oct 1 – Sept 30. Once a nonprofit chooses a fiscal year, they must file an annual information return with the IRS.

Report on ICAZ Working Groups 2024–2025

BASED ON REPORTS SUBMITTED
TO THE IC AND ICAZ NEWSLETTER

Erika Gál



ICAZ Working Groups in 2025

1. Archaeozoology of the Baltic Region and Adjacent Areas (ABRA)
2. Archaeozoology, Genetics, Proteomics and Morphometrics (AGPM)
3. Archaeomalacology (AMWG)
4. Animal Paleopathology (APWG)
5. Archaeozoology of Southwest Asia (ASWA)
6. Bird Working Group (BWG)
7. Fish Remains (FRWG)
8. Grupo de Zooarqueología de Camelidos (GZC)
9. Marine Mammals (MMWG)
10. Medieval Working Group (MWG)
11. Microvertebrate (MVWG)
12. North Atlantic Bioarchaeological Organization (NABO)
13. Neotropical Zooarchaeology (NZWG)
14. Zooarchaeology of the Roman Period (RPWG)
15. Stable Isotopes in Zooarchaeology (SIZWG)
16. Taphonomy (TWG)
17. Worked Bone Research Group (WBRG)
18. Zooarchaeology of the Modern Era (ZME)

+ AFFILIATED GROUP: Postgraduate ZooArchaeology Forum (PZAF)

Statutes of ICAZ

Article 7: Working Groups

- (...)
- 7.3. Reports of Working Group activities should be made in writing to the IC and presented on the occasion of each IC Meeting
- 7.4. Working Groups that have not reported on their activities for two successive IC Meetings lose their IC recognition and ICAZ affiliation

Working Group reports to the IC

Working Group	IC 2023	IC 2025
ABRA	+	+
AGPM	+	+
AMWG	+	+
APWG	+	+
ASWA	+	+
BWG	-	+
FRWG	+	-
GZC	-	-
MMWG	+	+
MVWG	+	+
MWG	+	+

Working Group	IC 2023	IC 2023
NABO	+	+
NZWG	+	+
RPWG	+	+
SIZWG	+	+
TWG	+	-
WBRG	+	+
ZME	+	+

Affiliated group:

PZAF	+	+
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Authors of WG reports for IC 2025

Eve Rannamäe (ABRA)

Thomas Cucchi (AGPM)

Matt Law (AMWG)

Maike Groot (APWG)

Hitomi Hongo (ASWA)

Julia Best (BWG)

Veronica Aniceti and Idoia Grau-Sologestoa (MWG)

Aikaterini Glykou (MMWG)

Angel Blanco-Lapaz, Sara E. Rhodes (MVWG)

Authors of WG reports for IC 2025

George Hambrecht (NABO)

Sebastián Muñoz (NZWG)

Sonia Vuković and Sabine Deschler-Erb (RPWG)

Juliette Waterman and Gaia Mortier (SIZWG)

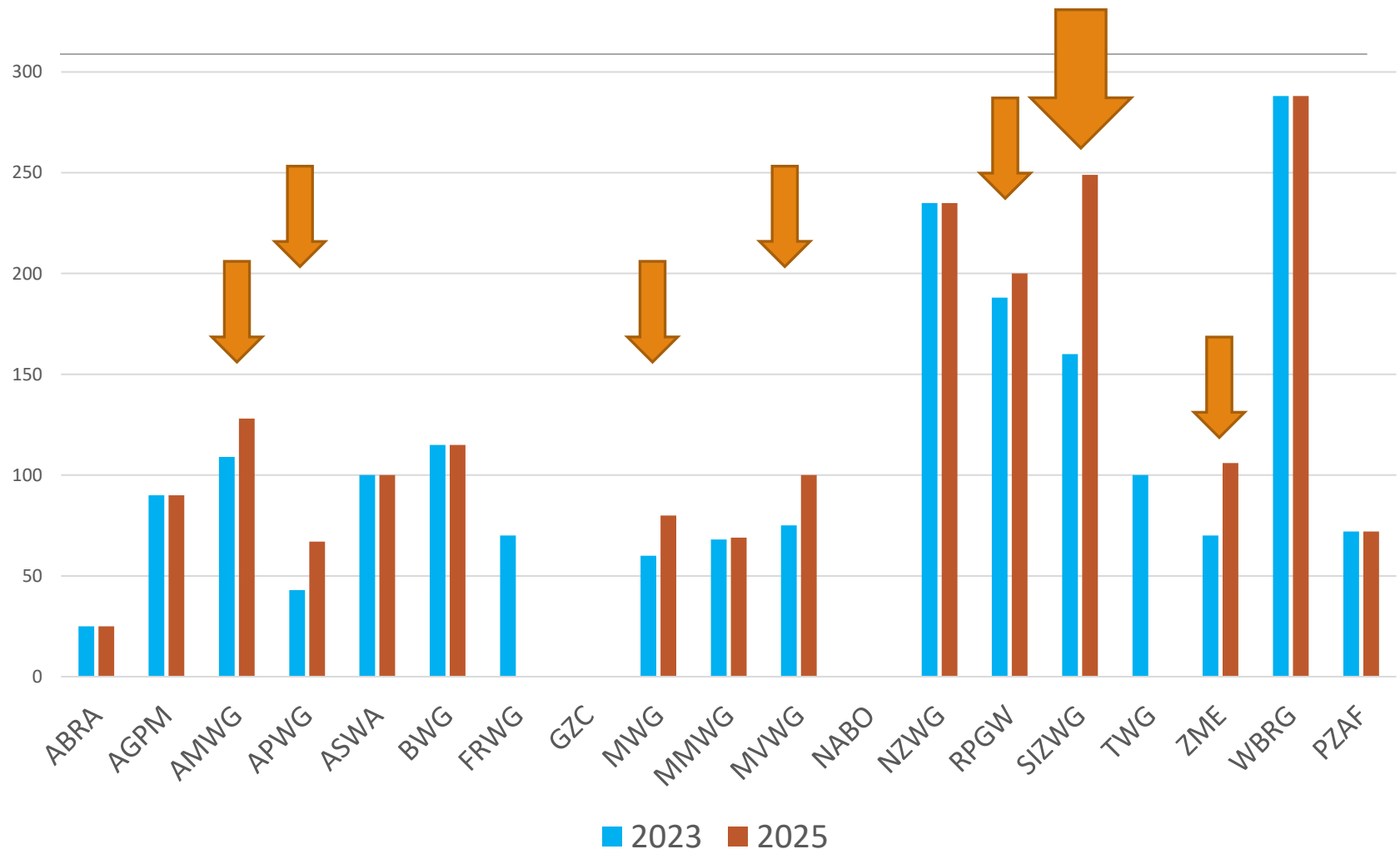
Marianne Christensen (WBRG)

Rebecca Gordon and Eric Tourigny (ZME)

Affiliated group:

Patrícia Aleixo and Miguel Rodrigues (PZAF)

The approximate number of members per WG and affiliated groups



Contributions to ICAZ Newsletter

WG	2024 (1)	2024 (2)	2025 (1)
ABRA	-	-	-
AGPM	-	-	-
AMWG	-	-	+
APWG	-	+	-
ASWA	-	-	+
BWG	-	+	-
FRWG	-	-	+
GZC	-	-	-
MMWG	-	-	-
MWG	-	-	-
MVWG	-	-	-

WG	2024 (1)	2024 (2)	2025 (1)
NABO	-	-	-
NZWG	+	+	+
RPWG	+	+	-
SIWG	-	-	-
TWG	-	-	-
WBRG	+	+	-
ZME	-	-	-

Affiliated group:

PZAF	-	-	-
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Working Group meetings

Working Group	Last meeting	Next meeting
ABRA	Hungary (EAA), 2022	Estonia and Sweden (online), 2025
AGPM	Germany, 2023	Denmark, 2025
AMWG	India, 2021 (online)	?Belgium, 2026?
APWG	Germany, 2025	The Netherlands, 2026 or 2027
ASWA	Germany, 2025	?Serbia, 2027?
BWG	Denmark, 2024	UK, 2027?
FRWG	Canada, 2024	?France, 2026?
GZC	Argentina, 2019 (NCA)	No news since 2020
MMWG	The Netherlands (online), 2021	Sweden, 2026
MWG	Bulgaria, 2024	Belgium, 2026

Working Group meetings

Working Group	Last meeting	Next meeting
MVWG	Poland, 2024	Malta, 2026
NABO	Iceland, 2024	Iceland, 2026
NZWG	Chile, 2024	Colombia, 2026
RPWG	Serbia, 2024	Portugal, 2026
SIZWG	Germany, 2023	UK, 2025
TWG	Spain, 2022	?
WBRG	France, 2024	Turkey, 2026
ZME	Australia (at the ICAZ General Meeting), 2023	Australia (at the World Archaeology Congress), 2025
PZAF	Croatia, 2023	Portugal, 2026

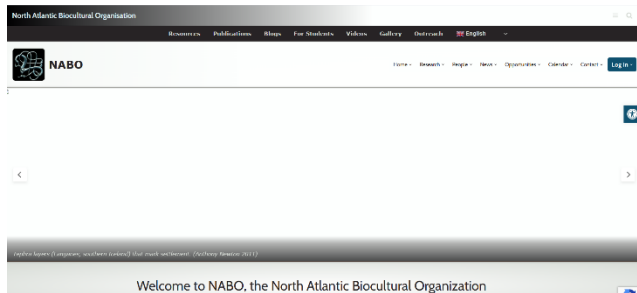
Websites

AMWG



Archaeomalacology Working Group ICAZ Working Group

HOME MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS AMWG MEETINGS LINKS & PUBLICATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTACT US



NABO

APWG



MVWG



TWG



Stable Isotopes in Zooarchaeology International Council for Archaeozoology

Welcome / About / Back to the Future 2023 / Role / Faunal Isotopes Database / News / Links / Bibliography



Welcome



SIWG

WBRG



Social media



2021 – MWG
2023 – PZAF



2023 – SIZWG
2023 – PZAF



2023 – SIZWG

2021 – MWG

2020 – GZC

2018 – APWG

2018 – PZAF

2017 – FRWG

2016 – MVWG

2014 – WBRG

2012 – AMWG



2024 – AMWG



PUBLICATIONS 2024-2025

APWG

International
Journal of Osteoarchaeology

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AUTHORS ▾

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Function Creates Shape, Shape Creates Function: Cases of Pathology as a Scientific Bridge between Disciplines and Species

First published: 11 February 2025 | Last updated: 12 February 2025

Guest Editors:

Kamilla Pawłowska, Dominik Poradowski, Aleksander Chrószcz



PALAEO 3

Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology

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Special issue

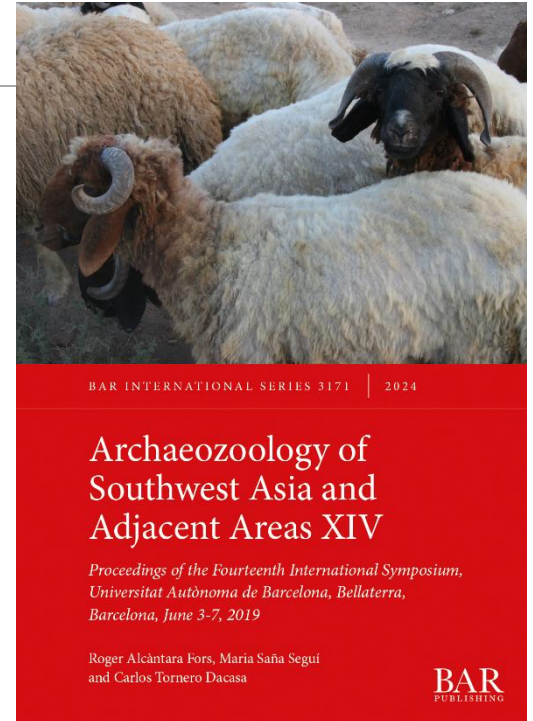
Palaeoecology and taphonomy of small mammals: implication for Quaternary human occupations and environmental reconstruction

Last update 17 February 2025

The proposed Special Issue is the culmination of the IV Microvertebrate Working Group Meeting which took place between the 8th to 10th of September 2022 in Tübingen (Germany).

The papers included will cover a range of research approaches including but not limited to biochronology, paleobiogeography, and paleoecology, and will present original research with a focus on Quaternary small mammals. Providing relevant contributions to the field of paleontology, archaeology, and taphonomy.

ASWA



Guest Editors:

Iván Rey-Rodríguez

Iván Rey-Rodríguez

Iván Rey-Rodríguez

Elisa Luzi

Angel Blanco Lapaz

Sara Rhodes

MVWG

Many Working Groups publish proceedings after their meetings.

The proceedings from the last meetings are in various stages of preparation depending on the WG and year of the meeting (announced, submitted, edited, etc.) _____

- ☐ AMWG: Proceedings of the 2020 meeting In press
- ☐ BWG: Proceedings of the 2024 meeting In preparation (*International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*)
- ☐ NZWG: Proceedings of the 2024 meeting In preparation (*Comechingonia*)
- ☐ RPWG: Proceedings of the 2024 meeting In preparation (*Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*)
- ☐ WBRG: Proceedings of the 2024 meeting In progress (*Société Préhistorique Française*)
- ☐ PZAF: Proceedings of the meetings in 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2023 in progress
- ☐ MWG, SIZWG, and PZAF: announced

Individual news

ABRA (Eve Rannamäe) and MMWG (Aikaterini Glykou): low activity and interest in organising a meeting over the past couple of years; the coordinators are working on the change.

Conclusions

Most of WGs are in very good condition and are active:

- regular and informal meetings
- publication of proceedings
- sending information for the NL
- using the social media
- own websites and newsletters

Two WGs did not send a report for this IC, while the Grupo Zooarqueología de Camélidos (GZC) has been inactive since 2020 (they have not reported for the last three IC meetings).

ICAZ Website Report

July 1, 2025

Reported by: Sarah W. Kansa (ICAZ Web Administrator)

Note: The Web Administrator position has these three primary tasks:

- **Updating the ICAZ informational website**
- **Keeping the online Membership database up to date**
- **Sending ICAZ emails via MailChimp**

1. ICAZ's Informational Website

<https://alexandriaarchive.org/icaaz/>

The ICAZ website is mostly “static” and requires infrequent updates. The elements that SK updates every 6-12 months are:

1. The List of Current Members (available on the [About ICAZ – Who We Are](#) page)
2. The [working group pages](#), as requested by working group liaisons (by email to SK and Erika Gal)
3. Any updates to the EC and IC members, as needed (bios, photos)
4. Occasional news updates (such as “save the date” for meetings), as requested to SK by email [Should we point to the newsletter instead of having a “news” page?]

Less frequent updates (every 2 or 4 years) include adding EC and IC meeting minutes to the Meetings page; updating the EC and IC members, CoH members, and ICAZ Remembers; and posting information about the International Conference as well as the winners of the various awards at the International Conference.

ICAZ Remembers

<https://alexandriaarchive.org/icaaz/about-icaaz-remembers>

We started this page about 10 years ago. Mariana helped collect many of the photos and memorials. It has not been updated in some time.

Request: *A committee to review this page and provide information for updates. This information can probably be pulled from the ICAZ newsletters from the past few years but we may want to reach out to all members with a request?*

2. ICAZ's Membership Registration Site

<https://alexandriaarchive.org/icaз-wp/>

Background: SK oversaw a complete rebuild of this site in 2016. The ICAZ website is developed in WordPress. We use the WordPress admin console to access the membership database via a plug-in called MemberPress. We use the website hosting service SiteGround to access the ICAZ webpage files and make updates in HTML.

The membership database is working smoothly. We had one issue in December of 2023 with a plug-in that hadn't automatically updated but Carleigh Rochon (our WordPress consultant) fixed it at no charge.

The Treasurer uses the membership database to check on members and manually approve those that don't automatically update via PayPal.

SK updates the "first year free" members manually (about 70 members). The latest update was this year, when we gave all of them 4 more years for free, so they won't need to be updated again until 2029.

REQUEST: *SK will make a document for ICAZ's internal files with details about how to access and update the website and membership database, as well as how to send ICAZ emails using MailChimp (see below). Should this be a PDF with screenshots? A video walkthrough? Can someone offer to be a tester?*

3. ICAZ Emails

- Email is done using MailChimp (free account, grandfathered in = up to 2,000 contacts and up to 12,000 emails per month, resetting on the 22nd of each month)
- Official ICAZ emails are sent to Sarah, who sends them out via MailChimp. The "replyto" email is icaзnewsletter@gmail.com. (Is this working ok or is the newsletter editor getting a lot of responses that he must pass along?)

4. Website Cost

Basic maintenance costs ICAZ \$339 per year. Beyond basic maintenance, WordPress consultant Carleigh Rochon charges \$75/hour. However, we haven't needed her consulting for several years beyond the monthly \$20 maintenance fee we pay her.

Details:

- WordPress back-ups and tune-ups (to Carleigh Rochon): \$20/month
- MemberPress license fee: \$99/year (charged in Feb annually)

SK pays for these personally and requests reimbursement from ICAZ. However, the last reimbursement request was in 2017 after the membership site rebuild.

Request: SK would like to request payment for the basic recurring maintenance costs from 2018-2025 ($\$339 \times 8 \text{ years} = \$2,712$). [The website had up to \$1400/year approved by the EC many years ago. We have not spent any money on it since 2016.]

In Cairns 2023, the IC decided that a subcommittee of Kitty, Christian and possibly Roz would help SK with occasional review of the website and membership database and suggest updates. SK hasn't followed up on this. Can we set a date to check in about this annually?

ICAZ *Newsletter* Executive Committee Report, September 2025

By Jesse Wolfhagen (*Newsletter Editor*), Matteo Bormetti (*Assistant Newsletter Editor*), Eva Fairnell, Idoia Grau Sologestoa

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 (Jesse Wolfhagen, previously Eva Fairnell) and Assistant Editor (Matteo Bormetti, previously 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 the Editor and Assistant Editor.

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.

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 the Editor know.

In order to generate major articles and themes, more direct requests could be made. If anyone has ideas for topics, please let the Editor or Assistant Editor 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 July 2023

The call for contributions for issue 24:1 was sent out in October 2023. The resulting 39-page issue was emailed to members in January 2024.

The call for contributions for issue 24:2 was sent out in April 2024. The resulting 25-page issue was emailed to members in July 2024.

The call for contributions for issue 25:1 was sent out in October 2024. The resulting 38-page issue was emailed to members in March 2025.

The call for contributions for issue 25:2 was sent out in April 2025. The resulting 37-page issue was emailed to members in August 2025.

Year	Volume	Issue	Page extent	WG reports	Publications
2024	24	1	36	2	354 inputs, 12 featured (3 books, 9 special issues), and 1 review
2024	24	2	30	4	300 inputs, 4 featured (books), and 2 reviews
2025	25	1	23	4	130 inputs, 2 featured (1 book, 1 special issue), and 2 reviews
2025	25	2	29	4	163 input, 11 featured (4 books, 7 special issues), and 1 review

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 the Assistant Editor.

Currently there are 5673 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 currently paid \$1000/issue.

The Assistant Editor is paid \$500/issue.

ICAZ Social Media Report 2025

Shyama Vermeersch, June 2025

ACTIVE ACCOUNTS

- Bluesky (active):
Link: <https://bsky.app/profile/icaz-news.bsky.social>
Followers: 385
- Facebook (passive):
Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/707579984676184>
Members: 90

MEMBERS

- Social media coordinator:
 - Shyama Vermeersch
- Social media sub-committee:
 - Laura Beovide
 - Suzanne Pilaar Birch (ICAZ Executive Committee member)
 - Lizzie Wright (ICAZ Secretary)
 - Idoia Grau Sologestoa → taking a step back but wants to be kept in the loop

SUBCOMMITTEE ROLE:

- Needs to be small
- Geographically and culturally varied
- Function as a think tank
- Right now, the subcommittee is passive. Shyama has not been very successful at setting up meetings (due to her schedule) and subcommittee members are also very busy and lack time to be a think tank.

POTENTIAL SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY

- Provide varied regional/cultural themes in posts
- Provide themed posts (e.g., International Archaeology Day, International Women's Day, World Wildlife Day)
- Highlight researchers and their work
- Use Buffer to line up post to make workflow more efficiently

CHALLENGES

- It has been harder to grow a following on Bluesky, things on Twitter happened faster and more naturally. There is not a lot of engagement on Bluesky, despite using the same strategy as on Twitter. This means something needs to change, but I am unsure what. Asking for feedback on Bluesy has been ineffective.
- Facebook has a similar issue, but Shyama is finding it hard to create a community there due to lack of experience on Facebook. There is also the question of whether there is a need for a Facebook community, since there are other, more well-

established groups.

- I think the solution, especially for Bluesky, would be to try out informative posts similar to threads on Twitter. These threads could highlight ICAZ's work and history, explore osteological curiosities, present exciting zooarchaeology work, etc. However, Shyama does not have the time for this.

QUESTIONS:

- What benefits does ICAZ give to ECR/students? Are there funds for research support? Right now there is a discount for the big ICAZ conference, the newsletter, but the working groups function largely independently.
- Shyama has been doing this for 3 years in March 2025. While it has been a good run, after the demise of Twitter and facing new challenges in Bluesky/Facebook, Shyama has to acknowledge facing a bit of burn-out. Seeing all the work I put in to grow a successful Twitter account burn down, has been demotivating. Perhaps it is time to pass the torch on to someone else. Shyama will be happy to continue work as social media coordinator until someone new is found and will prepare handover documents.

Report of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2027 ICAZ International Conference

Planned conference date: May 17-21, 2027

Conference venue and location: [Harbour Centre, Simon Fraser University](#), Vancouver, Canada

Organizing Committee Members

Aleksa Alaica (EC representative; University of British Columbia)

Christina Giovias (EC representative; Simon Fraser University)

Max Friesen (University of Toronto)

Iain McKechnie (University of Victoria)

Camilla Speller (University of British Columbia)

Update On Planning Progress

Overview of major milestones

- Budget models in development for scenarios of 200, 300, 400 and 500 participants
- Right of first refusal established with Harbour Centre conference venue
- Institutional accounts have been established to support revenue flow and payments
- Timeline for grant applications developed; next step is to assign application leads.
- Scientific Committee chairs are in place; recruitment of prospective SC members underway
- Hybrid scenario survey of EC and IC completed, and hybrid format chosen
- Secured contract for budget friendly accommodations at the University of British Columbia

Current organizing committee activity is focussed on developing conference budget models, fine-tuning the hybrid in-person/online presentation approach, and negotiating venue and accommodation contracts.

Budget modelling is informed by the financial reports of past ICAZ international conferences (e.g. Cairns 2023, Paris 2010). We are drafting five budget scenarios based on projected attendance of 200, 300, 400 and 500 registrants. These models provide guidance for our contract negotiations with the conference venue, the SFU Harbour Centre, by establishing the space and support services that will be required. We hold a right of first refusal with the Harbour Centre for the planned meeting dates of May 17-21, 2027. Institutional accounts have been established by the organizing team at Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia to support revenue flow and payments. We have identified potential sources of grant revenue (e.g. SSHRC Connection, SSHRC Exchange, Wenner-Gren Workshop Grant; Archaeology Centre, University of Toronto) and developed a timeline for applications.

In 2024, Arianne Boileau (Mount Royal University) and Christian Gates St. Pierre (Université de Montréal) accepted invitations to chair the Scientific Committee. The SC chairs are in the process of recruiting members to serve on the committee. In addition to the SC's traditional role of abstract review, for the 2027 conference the SC will establish guidelines for selecting hybrid sessions and presenters. The guidelines will be developed in consultation with the Executive Committee and will be clearly communicated to the ICAZ membership at the time of session and abstract calls.

The Vancouver 2027 organizing committee is excited to offer an online hybrid attendance option for the first time at an ICAZ international conference. We recognize the capacity of hybrid attendance to enhance participation and accessibility and have been working with the conference venue to map hybrid attendance options at various price points. Our approach seeks to ensure financial viability and establish a scalable model of hybrid participation for future meetings. We aim to prioritize access and diverse participation in balance with the resource commitments necessary for a high-quality in-person experience. To that end, in March 2025, the organizing committee surveyed the International Committee to identify preferred hybrid formats. A follow up meeting was held with the Executive Committee in April to discuss survey results and next steps, the outcomes of which are summarized below.

- Aleksa Alaica and Christina Giovas reviewed the survey results (see Appendix A) with the EC.
- Based on the results, the EC was supportive of moving forward with Plan C (see Appendix B) as a general model for hybrid sessions. Plan C leverages savings on labour fees by running multiple hybrid sessions simultaneously to minimize the overall cost per session. The plan is flexible and can be scaled as needed by adding/deleting days designated for hybrid presentations.
- The EC supported tasking the SC to make the decisions on which sessions will be hybrid; session organizers will indicate on their session proposal forms their interest in mounting a hybrid session
- It was suggested that the organizing committee cost out the registration fees based on Plan C at low, medium and high levels of registration to determine the relative expense to registrants. This budget modelling is underway.
- It was suggested by the EC that the organizing committee begin securing private sponsorships at this stage, being sensitive to the start and end of the sponsors' fiscal years.

In addition to the above activities, the organizing committee has secured accommodations at the [University of British Columbia - Point Grey Campus](#) for the duration of the conference. This option is located ~20 minutes by car from the conference venue and ~50 minutes by public transit. These accommodations include 100 Gage Premium Single Private bedroom. Each accommodation encompasses a single bed in a four-bedroom shared apartment. Guests share a washroom, lounge with flat-panel TV, breakfast bar and equipped kitchen. Each Gage Premium Single Private

bedroom costs \$65.00 CAD per night before taxes and fees and this rate will be available 3 days before and after the conference dates if attendees would like to come earlier or stay later to visit Vancouver. There are several notable visitor attractions on the UBC campus that are within a few-minutes walk, including the [Museum of Anthropology](#) and the [Beaty Biodiversity Museum](#).

Attendees will need to book this option by April 16, 2027, and the estimated accommodation cost is subject to annual increases of no more than 5% depending on rates.

Significant next steps in the Vancouver 2027 planning process include formalizing contracts with the Harbour Centre and downtown Vancouver hotels, securing private sponsors, and preparing the first circular (early 2026). We continue to look forward to working with the ICAZ Executive and International Committees on conference planning and will provide updates on key milestones as these are reached.

Report Prepared by the ICAZ 2027 Organizing Committee, May 2025