



International Council for Archaeozoology

ICAZ International Committee Meeting

Tuesday 26th May 2026

Time: 17.00-19.00 UTC (GMT)

Zoom link:

<https://york-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/94790155622?pwd=bA8lEqwryBHCLh6jzKx6GPqaMlFqaP.1>

Agenda

Attendees: *Aleksa Alaica, Shaw Badenhorst, Joaquín Arroyo-Cabral, Diana Carvajal Contreras, László Bartosiewicz, Hossein Davoudi, Cleia Detry, Pat Faulkner, Christian Gates St-Pierre, Erika Gál, Roz Gillis, Christina Giovas, Angelos Hadjikoumis, Hitomi Hongo, Emily Jones, Christian Küchelmann, Heather Lapham, Richard Madgwick, Marjan Mashkour, Hanneke Meijer, Mariana Mondini, Marta Moreno, Sebastián Muñoz, Vicky Piskin, Eve Rannamäe, Kalangi Rodrigo, Lenny Salvagno, Angela Trentacoste, Jesse Wolfhagen, Lizzie Wright, Reuven Yeshurun*

Apologies: *Suzie Pilaar Birch, Melanie Fillios, Xiaolin Ma, David Orton, Plan Shenjere-Nyabezi, Jean-Denis Vigne*

1. President welcome

Mariana welcomes everyone and thanks them for coming

2. International Conference organisers update (Organising committee)

Christina Giovas provides an update:

- The session call is now closed and Christian Gates St-Pierre and Arianne Boileau will review sessions over next few weeks. c27 sessions were submitted. This is broadly in line with what was expected.
- Funding applied for - Wenner Gren and one other (sorry didn't catch what it was called), Results will be announced in the boreal autumn.
- Contract with venue made. Five sessions at a time are possible (2 of which can be hybrid) plus posters.
- Session organisers were asked what kind of session they would prefer (hybrid/in-person etc) and the scientific committee will make a decision on how these should be assigned. Criteria for this will be based on things such as: where people are travelling from; visa considerations. László suggested that this decision could be made at a later date, once we see registrations.

3. Conversation around affiliations/rules of participation for the International Conference

Lizzie spoke about the need to decide what our policy on affiliations for conference is going to be, in order to avoid a situation similar to what happened at the EAA. There has been a suggestion that we do away with affiliations for Vancouver as this would send a strong message that we are united as an international community and work together as individuals rather than necessarily representatives of our institutions, who often are involved in terrible things/linked to governments doing terrible things. It has been suggested that if people need proof of conference attendance that ICAZ could write a letter.

A number of people expressed a concern that this would mean that it would be difficult for some people to attend, as institutions and visa requirements are increasingly strict about what is needed in order to get funding for conferences. Many institutions require you to submit the programme, or insist on a specific slide design with their logo

László suggested that we have it as an optional thing, so people can opt out of declaring their affiliation if they don't want/need it, but Mariana and Lizzie highlighted that the ethos of this proposal was that no one should have one, to avoid needing to select institutions that shouldn't be allowed to participate.

Angela suggested that we leave institutions off name badges - this could be a potential compromise. This idea received a positive response from people involved in the meeting.

Action point: This discussion should be continued in the next EC meeting with the conference organisers, then could be brought back to the IC through a poll.

4. Secretary report (Lizzie Wright)

IC Elections

- We have 45 people on the ballot for the IC elections.
- Idoia Grau-Sologestoa and Richard Thomas in addition to Kitty Emery have decided to step down - we thank them for their service.
- Elections would normally have taken place this summer, but Lizzie is changing institutions this summer so it's easier from a technical perspective to wait until the boreal autumn. We should still have the results by Christmas.
- Lizzie will now contact all of the candidates to ask for a short bio.

President/ Vice-President elections

- Roz Gillis confirmed that the Nominating Committee has found two candidates willing to stand but they need one more as there is a minimum of three. Quite a few people who were approached said no.
- There has been a suggestion that the presidency should alternate between different continents, in order to increase diversity, although this might be tricky if we're struggling to find candidates from anywhere.
- If anyone has any suggestions of names then please let the nominating committee know.

- Mariana suggested that next time the first part of the process could be for the IC to suggest names, and then the nominating committee could work from that.
- The current nominating committee also had contact with the last one in order to get advice.
- The process for finding a vice-president was clarified - this is just the person who comes second in the vote. What if they don't get on? Is this something we should rethink in future?

Protocols for inclusion of different officers in e-mails to the [EC](#) and [IC](#)

- We have clarified these protocols after some confusion of whether ex-officio members of the different committees should be included in e-mails to those committees when Lizzie was on leave. There were no objections to this.

Recruitment of new treasurer

- After two calls and eventually approaching some people we now have a team of two new treasurers - Emily Jones and Heather Lapham - thank you so much for taking on this job!
- First steps are to arrange a meeting with Melanie and Suzie to do a hand-over. They are thanked for this and their previous service.

Bids for International conference 2031 - call this boreal summer

- This boreal summer we will be launching a call for bids for the next International conference in 2031. The call should be open until the end of the year and bids will be voted on in Vancouver.
- Jesse has agreed to put the call in the next newsletter - last time the deadline was in December.
- In the past there has been a push to alternate hemispheres but this isn't a rule and László confirmed that it is really about making sure we have it in a diversity of places so that different people have a chance to go. Mariana agreed that it is more a guide and that probably it's not something that should be more official (e.g. in the statutes) because it would make it more tricky to find hosts.
- Cleia said that she is thinking of potentially putting a bid in to have it in Lisbon - this would be great!
- Discussion about the average number of people to expect - Christina compiled a useful list based on the numbers published in past newsletters. They have spanned c230 in Cairns all the way up to c700 in Paris

Action point: Lizzie to dig out text from last time and put something together to send to Jesse for the newsletter. Update - DONE

5. Treasurer business

Melanie wasn't able to attend so we don't have an official treasurer report, but we wanted to bring up a couple of things from Lisbon that weren't ever resolved - some food for thought for the new treasurers, and also maybe we can help them out. Please send any ideas to the treasurer e-mail account.

- Can we find an alternative to PayPal for payments? The current situation is quite restrictive and doesn't work for everyone. Agreement that Paypal isn't too tricky to use, but is not so

accessible from some places so we need to find another option. Questions around whether people can pay with a credit card (Christian Kuchelmann /Vicky) - as none of the people who have been treasurer were here it was difficult to answer technical questions.

- Committee to look at longer term options for the bank account? Do we want to keep it in the US? Is there a more international option? Cleia looked into the situation in Portugal but it seemed quite complicated - the president and treasurer would have to go there to open the account and the banks were generally quite suspicious about people coming from another country.
- Suggestion to ask other similar organisations what they do.

6. Social media (Lizzie)

We have new Social Media coordinators - Mary-Louise Lambourne and Samantha Stephens. This is another job that is being shared, as it's a fair amount of work.

- They are very organised and have put together a [quarterly report](#) where you can read up to date news and stats on our accounts.
- We are on instagram now so please follow if you are on there.
- We also have a new Facebook account and a new Youtube channel.
- Reminder to send profiles for the "meet our members" feature.
- Please contact them with any questions or anything you would like to go on social media.

7. Report on [Working groups survey](#) (Lizzie/Erika)

At the end of 2025 we conducted a survey of WG coordinators - results are laid out in the above link.

- In general the funding has been very well received.
- There was a question of whether we might ask working groups to give discounts to ICAZ members in order to encourage membership, but this might then mean that we should provide "top-up" funding to make up for the lost funds.
- László agreed that this is a good idea as there aren't that many things that ICAZ can offer anyway, so this could be one.
- Angela asked about accessing the logos. Reminder that these are available on the website.
- Sebastián suggested that we could encourage WGs to coordinate a bit more with each other, and this might increase visibility.

8. Approval of new [WG policies](#):

Off the back of the survey above a committee was formed to update the WG policies document (Mariana, Erika, Jean-Denis, Lizzie). A link to the new version can be found above. Please have a look to check that you agree with the changes.

Vote: New Working Group policies have been accepted pending minor edits.

- Richard suggested min 10% discount for ICAZ members and certain requirements if they take the funding - advertising ICAZ+ ICAZ branding. This was not specifically voted on, but the spirit of this is included in the new WG policies and it could be made more formal in future.
- Eve asked how WG coordinators can find out the memberships status of people in order to check that the 10 members per group rule is being followed - Mariana said that it's possible

to check the member database on the website, Erika said you can also just ask people. General agreement that this isn't something that is very strict and we aren't checking, it's just more of a sentiment. Lizzie also said that if you had a situation where you were going to do discounts for ICAZ members and you wanted to find out who was a member then you can contact the treasurer before a meeting and get the most up to date list. This is something that Sarah also has access to through the website.

9. Reviews on developments in zooarchaeology/feedback from journalist (Mariana/Lizzie)

At the meeting in Lisbon there was some discussion around what we might call a "crisis" in zooarchaeology, in that we are losing zooarch posts, and how do we keep on top of what's happening and make sure we don't get wiped out by purely biomolecular people. There were a few things that were proposed as ideas to see if we could remind people of our importance. One option was to put together a position paper as the IC - calling for a better recognition of zooarch and importance of fully understanding the animal remains that are going to be involved in biomolecular analysis. We also thought we could build a list of papers on developments in zooarchaeology so we could keep on top of where the field is going. There was also the suggestion (by Roz) to talk to a journalist about maybe writing a piece in a more popular magazine about the importance of the field.

So we have some updates on these things:

- A few people have been sending review papers through, so we need to decide what we are going to do with those.
- Lizzie met Roz' journalist as ISBA but he said that it's not really a hard hitting enough story for a popular magazine.
- Position paper idea is still on the table but we would need someone to coordinate it.
- László: he is optimistic for the long term, but we do have this short-term problem.
- Reuven: A position paper that we could put on the website and act as a resource is a great idea. He volunteers to contribute to it.,
- Hanneke: Is the worry around things moving more and more towards biomolecular perspectives, or that zooarch positions are being slashed without being replaced - these are two different things and have different causes. It's about sending the message about how zooarchaeology remains very relevant in the face of new emerging techniques and remind people of the unique perspectives that zooarch provides that other disciplines cannot, because after biomolecular techniques, there will likely be something else.
- Focus: things that only zooarch can offer -including what other specialists wait for zooarchaeologists to say before making interpretations-.
- Hanneke: how about a workshop or ICAZ-wide discussion at the next International Meeting?
- Hanneke and Vicky are interested in this
- Richard: Flint Dibble might be up for something like this - he organised an event a few years ago called "Zooarchaeology Saves the World", all about showcasing the degree to which zooarchaeology feeds into all sorts of wonderful things.
- Mariana attended a workshop in palaeontology where this kind of thing was done - people came together to talk about the importance of the field, and then they wrote a synthesis paper which has been circulating a lot - so maybe we could do something similar. Maybe set up something collaborative where everybody can post their ideas.

- Lizzie: Anyone who is interested in coordinating something like this please e-mail the secretary account and I can get the ball rolling.
- Aleksa, Christina and Christian confirmed that there is still an opportunity for extra things to be scheduled in Vancouver, but we also need to see how the schedule is when the scientific committee have gone through the session proposals.
- Christina: there is a slot booked for general meeting on Saturday afternoon if this was something that we want to make plenary. Perhaps just before the general meeting? It would be great if this was hybrid if possible.
- Vicky: we could just have a small “start-up” meeting to start with?
- László: this could also be something for the wider field of archaeology
- Diana: also use social media
- Mariana: should we set up a committee to take this forward? Vicky, Reuven, Diana, Lizzie, Christian.

Action point: Lizzie to e-mail all of the volunteers and get the ball rolling (lists, start-up meeting? paper?, round table?)

10. Agreements with other organisations

- ISBA: Richard Madgwick confirmed the agreement with ISBA whereby we each sponsor a conference prize. They will sponsor one at our International conference and in one working group within the four year cycle, rotating between the different groups related to biomolecular stuff. It's a small cash prize as well as we can't rely on the conference being somewhere convenient for the person. We sponsored our first prize – Emilio Mármol-Sánchez, so the next one will be at the international conference next year. Rich is happy to continue to act as the liaison between us and them. If it goes well it's potentially something that we could consider with other organisations as well.
- Bloomsbury: Hitomi has explained the representative of Bloomsbury that the ICAZ logo will appear conference proceedings and WG publications, but not likely any other series. She sent the link to ICAZ proceedings published from Oxbow Books. Then in October 2025 the representative took maternity leave. She wrote that someone will follow up, but Hitomi hasn't heard from the publisher since then. So there is no progress.

11. 2 IC meetings at the next international conference? Suggestion by Umberto in Cairns

Christina confirmed that they probably could make space for this, but there wasn't a great feeling that it was needed so we will leave it how it is.

12. Candidates for Committee of Honour?

- Zlatozar Boev (proposed by Sarah by mail march 2026)
- Sabine could also be a candidate - or is this more suitable for ICAZ remembers? - yes (see below).
- Anyone else? Please e-mail Lizzie with ideas.
- Motion: that CofH members have life-long free membership - Laszlo confirmed that this is already the case.

Action point: Lizze to contact Basel group for text about Sabine for ICAZ remembers.

Action point: E-mail Lizzie with ideas for Committee of Honour and they will be voted on at the next meeting.

13. Would it be possible/desirable for ICAZ to write a statement making a Plea for peace and respect for human rights in the world, Plea for the right to education and access to scientific knowledge - suggested by Mariana.

- László: great idea, but we should focus on ICAZ so as not to be too general.
- General agreement that we should do this from everyone

Action point: Lizzie and Mariana to go away and draft something and send it round to everyone.

Update: László started the ball rolling and everyone has been making comments – this was included in the July newsletter. DONE.

14. Any other business

Lizzie: We will convene an EC meeting with the conference organisers soon, and then have regular meetings throughout the next year leading up to the conference.

Mariana: Thanks to everyone for attending the meeting, especially those for whom it is a horrible time of day, and for bringing your fresh ideas.