

## Newsletter February 2024

Hello RIG group members

We're hoping that this newsletter will be the first of many as the RIG committee believe we should be communicating more with our group members. So please read on.

### **RIG Committee**

We held our AGM in October 2023, and this is the current committee

Chair	Evelyne Godfrey
Secretary	Colin Forrestal
Treasurer	Position Vacant
Ordinary Committee Members	
	John Halsted
	Marianne Mödinger
	Katerina Vavaliou
	Perry Gardner
	Daria Dabal
	Matilda Holmes

As you can see we still have a vacancy for Treasurer, if you are accredited (PCIfA upwards) and would like to volunteer then send an email to our Secretary [forrestal.colin@gmail.com](mailto:forrestal.colin@gmail.com) and they will send you a co-option form for you to complete and you can be co-opted at the next committee meeting.

We also now have a Three-year plan which can be found [on our webpage](#).

### **RIG at EAA Rome 2024**

Members of the RIG committee have a session at EAA Rome 2024 on the topic of Synthesis, details below. We welcome any contributions from our members. Also, if you know of colleagues who may be interested, do pass on the details.

#### **Call for Papers! CI/A Research and Impact Group session at EAA Rome 2024**

The 30th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists will take place in Rome, Italy from 28 to 31 August 2024.

The co-organisers of Session #882, Colin Forrestal, PCIfA (Secretary, Research and Impact Group, Evelyne Godfrey, MCIfA (Chair, Research and Impact Group, and Ineke Joosten, (Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands) invite paper (oral presentation) and poster proposals for **Session 882: Synthesis, Facilitator or Hindrance: Should Synthesis Be Part of Commercial Archaeology or Left to the Academics?**

Please submit your abstract via the [online system here](#).

**The call for papers is open until 12 February 2024.**

Further information on the scientific programme is [available here](#).

### **Session: #882 Synthesis, Facilitator or Hindrance: Should Synthesis Be Part of Commercial Archaeology or Left to the Academics?**

**Content:** The “synthesis” of research should ultimately contribute to archaeological narratives that impact on the public understanding of the past. When we talk about synthesis, this includes the masses of grey literature reports from commercial, community, academic or publicly funded archaeological investigations as well as formal publications. But how much should synthesis signpost and when does synthesis become a research agenda or framework?

This session will examine the needs of the different audiences such as researchers, curators, local communities, and the wider interested public - in terms of access to data, narratives and formats. Synthesis is vulnerable to time-lag, and to privileging certain perspectives, as it tends to be undertaken by senior staff, and due to the demographic profile of these staff, very often older, male staff. Whilst their experience and perspectives are valuable, so are those of others.

For some synthesis is about revisiting past data sets and narratives and updating in light with the results of more recent investigations so proving an improved paradigm, for others it's just about drawing together different strands of evidence from across the breadth of the archaeological profession and, more widely, from allied disciplines. Data may be from a single site or from multiple sites/locations, from different aspects of a single specialism or the collation of information from several specialisms.

This session asks

1. What can synthesis achieve and what is the value of comparative analysis?
2. At what scale of analysis should we be considering synthesis; Regional, National, European or Global?
3. How do we decide on appropriate themes for synthesis?
4. How are synthetic studies used to plan future investigations?
5. How can we achieve more rapid synthetic studies; is there room for interim discussion papers?
6. Should adequate funding for Synthesis be budgeted for at the start of the process

### **Coming soon, Knowledge Hub group**

To engage more with our group members, we are investigating the Knowledge Hub platform to create a group discussion and hope to have it up and running for the end of March 2024.

### **Contact Us**

Please get in touch with us directly by email using [cifarig@gmail.com](mailto:cifarig@gmail.com).