

**CIFA INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**

**12 February 2025, 1730-1830**

**Minutes – Committee Meeting (via Teams)**

**Present:** Leonora O'Brien (Chair), Niamh Carty (Vice-chair), Max DuBois Jones, Ruth Humphreys, Emily Dennis, Adam Pietrzak, Richard Hughes, Cara Burton (CifA)

**Apologies:** Bill Finlayson, Charles Le Quesne, Caroline Pathy-Barker, Alice Hobson

Agenda Point	Actions
<p><b>1. Welcome to new committee members</b></p> <p>LO'B shared the Group's origins, the backgrounds of the members and how the forum can be used.</p> <p>Question to consider for new committee members – what would have supported you in your career which IPSIG could have provided?</p>	AP, ED
<p><b>2. Offer to support as an advisor from Pete Hinton</b></p> <p>Committee in agreement that Pete's experience as a high-status manager with strong links with his equivalents from overseas would be an asset to the Group.</p> <p>Suggestions for ways Pete's experiences could be utilised include linking IPSIG up with other high profile overseas managers, developing a joint agenda with them, link up with counterparts for conversations and request for speakers.</p> <p>Considerations such as engagement with emerging countries, learning and skills sharing from them with anti-colonialism in mind could be an original opportunity which Pete could aid with.</p> <p>Committee also want to acknowledge Pete's offer to help and share their thanks, and that it will be great to have him as 'an insider' where he can get involved in a way which works for both him and the Group (and have a bit of fun too!)</p>	Confirm with PH
<p><b>3. Challenges expressed about International Projects</b></p> <p>RO's are UK based and it's hard to find qualified individuals not in the UK. How could IPSIG support with building a network of people who can be utilised? Different locales have different processes or licencing systems which can be an issue, likewise 'special friends' and favours outside of these agreements mean lack of transparency in some areas.</p> <p>Rolodex for international companies – issues with perceived accountability, but how else to ascertain good Vs terrible? Justifying higher costs for those with qualifications or who abide by standards is also hard.</p> <p>Value needs to be understood on the ground and a lot needs to be driven internally from the countries.</p>	
<p><b>4. Challenges conversation led on to idea for event – A Collective Moan!</b></p> <p>Add rolling challenges onto IPSIG website, also have a space for people to share and vent.</p>	

	<p>Challenges in international archaeology &amp; cultural heritage practice - online discussion? Maybe 1 hour? Semi-structured to cover a range of themes e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lack of heritage governance/legislation</li> <li>• lack of heritage guidance/professional standards/regulation</li> <li>• decolonising practice</li> <li>• contractor skills and quality assurance</li> <li>• developing local partnerships</li> <li>• how much local experience and expertise is enough?</li> <li>• building in staff training/next generation</li> <li>• academic and commercial partnerships</li> <li>• persuading clients to do evaluation and survey work</li> <li>• budgeting for massive projects</li> <li>• remote terrain and logistics</li> <li>• intercultural working</li> <li>• safety and security ...</li> </ul> <p>Do you have any more topics or preferences from among the above themes?</p>	<p>All to consider topics or preferences.</p> <p>CB can set up meeting slot &amp; send invites/mailings once confirmed.</p>
5.	<p><b>Supporting Leo as Chair</b></p> <p>Suggested each quarter, committee members are nominated to support Leo with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minute taking</li> <li>• meeting preparation and collating agenda points in advance</li> <li>• actions from meetings carried out and delegating/chasing other committee members if needed</li> </ul> <p>Used a random name generator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April – August 2025 - Richard, Alice &amp; Niamh</li> <li>• September – December 2025 - Ruth, Max &amp; Charles</li> <li>• January – March 2026 - Adam, Bill &amp; Emily</li> </ul>	<p>Check which months you are supporting</p>
6.	<p><b>CifA Group updates</b></p> <p>Treasurer role to update to Vice-chair role this year. Niamh happy to be a Vice-chair with committee supporting her in the role</p> <p>CB shared that potential group updates, with the addition of Networks where a community of people with a shared interest of experience can come together. Committee discussed how this could work for IPSIG and enable member to share experiences, moans &amp; solutions. Could give the next generation an idea of career paths &amp; projects and focus on the human side of groups.</p> <p>Stressed that the group will remain the point of contact with related questions and are considered with discussions as the experts in their field. This should be done early on, not after something has already been actioned.</p>	
7.	<p><b>IPSIG/BoD statements about international conflict</b></p> <p>Ukraine, Gaza, ISIS and Syria all mentioned as opportunities for IPSIG or CifA to provide statements of support for those colleagues who are affected by these conflicts. IPSIG will continue to suggest opportunities to share messages such as these at times of conflict and raise concerns. In general, discussion and resolution about issues raised by committees is needed, don't just let them drift.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Twitter/X</b></p>	

	If any committee members have strong views about keeping this as a platform please say before the next meeting in April. If nothing heard by then, the account will be disabled as committee present in the meeting aren't wanting to personally engage with X.	
9.	<p><b>Can ClfA &amp; IPSIG be a coordinator for those wishing to contribute to international conferences?</b></p> <p>Discussion about WAC-10 conference in Darwin, Australia. We should have an active role in supporting all SIGs and members &amp; bring together archaeologists and knowledge from across the globe. Reporting on meetings and discussions by attendees at international conferences would be beneficial to bridge the gap between commercial and academic archaeologists too. Much more potential for holistic approach for what we do internationally.</p> <p>Can someone from the membership attend &amp; feed back? This will enable engagement with the conference materials with a wider range of people.</p>	Ask membership about international attendance feedback
10.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> 9 April 5.30-6.30pm</p> <p>April – August 2025 - Richard, Alice &amp; Niamh to support Leo with meeting &amp; actions</p>	CB to book