

New Horizons in Forensic Geoscience: The Bedrock of International Security in Minerals, Mining, Metals, Murders and the Missing

A forensic geology joint meeting between GSL-FGG and IUGS IFG

The Geological Society of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BG, 4-5 December 2023

Monday 4 December 2023

13:00-14:00. Drinks and light lunch reception and registration in lower library.

14:00-14:10. Welcome to the day by GSL-FGG Chair, Prof Lorna Dawson.

14:10-14:30. Launch of 'A Guide to Forensic Geology' (copies available for purchase) and an overview of the history and development of GSL-FGG and IUGS IFG, Dr Laurance Donnelly, Chair IUGS IFG.

14:30-15:30. Session 1. Search Operations. Session Chairs: Dr Alastair Ruffell and Dr Jamie Pringle.

14:30-15:00. Guest speaker, Murray Haynes, National Crime Agency, UK National Search Adviser.

15:00-15:30. Submitted talks on ground searches for burials.

15:30-16:00. Coffee break and poster session.

16:00-17:00. Session 2. Minerals, Mining and Metals Crimes. Session Chairs: Prof Duncan Pirrie and Dr Laurance Donnelly.

16:00-16:30. Guest speaker, Fabio Salvador, Brazilian Federal Police and The Clean Gold Programme.

16:30-17:20. Submitted talks on minerals, mining and metals crime.

17:20-17:30. Comfort break.

17:30-18:30. Poster presentation and drinks reception in the lower library. Three minutes at every poster for a short presentation. Voting box for community assessment of poster prize.

18:45. Introduction of guest speaker. Session Chair: FGG Chair, Prof Lorna Dawson.

19:00-20:00. Evening public guest presentation. Jodi Webb, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Ground Search and Geological Trace Evidence in the US system. Including 15 minutes of panel Q and A.

Close 20:00. Close of day's events for the public at Burlington House by chair Prof Lorna Dawson.

Tuesday 5 December 2023

09:00-09:10. Welcome with coffee and breakfast pastries by IUGS IFG Chair, Dr Laurance Donnelly in lower library.

9:15-11:30. Session 3. A Human Taphonomic Facility for the UK? Chair: Prof John Cassella.

9:20-9:50. Guest speaker: Prof Roelof-Jan Oostra, Amsterdam.

9:50-10:30. Panel discussion about human taphonomy and geological information assisting in its use as intelligence and evidence.

10:30-11:00. Coffee break and networking

Session 4. Forensic geology contributing to the Criminal Justice System. Chair: Prof Ruth Morgan.

11:00-12:00. Submitted talks: human taphonomy, search, accreditation & geological trace evidence.

12:00-12:15. Close of meeting by IUGS IFG Chair, Dr Laurance Donnelly, IUGS-IFG Award and presentation of poster prizes.

Overview

The Forensic Geoscience Group of the Geological Society of London (GSL-FGG) and the International Union of Geological Sciences, Initiative on Forensic Geology (IUGS-IFG) are offering a forum where contributors from the UK and internationally, can present and debate the results of recent research and case studies in forensic geology. In addition, this event will demonstrate where forensic geology has delivered to policy and practice with sessions on regulation and the law. The event will also focus on minerals, mining and meatal crimes, search operations, geological trace evidence and policy. We anticipate this event attracting international delegates and will encourage this by enabling livestreaming of some of the presentations. Suppliers of equipment, software and services will also be invited to attend. The meeting therefore represents an invaluable opportunity for practitioners to exchange information about recent global developments in forensic geology.

This meeting will capture interest across the geological, forensic, law enforcement, environmental science, mining, minerals and archaeological communities, with those working in the fields of serious crime investigation, search, law and mining crime. Operational case studies from industry and law enforcement are encouraged. Student poster presentations are very much welcomed, and prizes will be awarded.

Conference convenors

Prof Lorna Dawson, Chair, GSL-FGG, Head of Centre for Forensic Soil Science, James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, AB15 8QH and Pharmacy and Life Sciences, RGU, Aberdeen, AB10 7G.

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Prof John Cassella, Forensic Science, Department of Life Science, Faculty of Science, Atlantic Technological University, Sligo, Republic of Ireland, F91 YW50. John.Cassella@ATU.ie

Dr Laurance Donnelly, Chair, IUGS IFG, Head of Technical Department and Chief Geologist, AHK International, Kings Business Park, Kings Drive, Prescot, L34 1PJ. laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com

Dr Alastair Ruffell, Treasurer, GSL-FGG School of the Natural, Built Environment, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN. a.ruffell@qub.ac.uk

Click here to [Reserve your place at the meeting](#)

An abstract form will be provided after you have booked your place. Abstracts must be submitted by the 30th October 2023.

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