

Expression of Interest: Pre-IAFS Workshop

Multidisciplinary Approaches to the Excavation and Documentation of Single and Multiple Clandestine Graves

Course Convenors



Prof. Soren Blau

Manager ID
Services / Senior
Forensic
Anthropologist,
Victorian Institute of
Forensic Medicine



Mr Jon Sterenberg

Consultant Forensic
Archaeologist, Victorian
Institute of Forensic
Medicine

Location:

University of Technology
Sydney (UTS) /
Australian Facility of
Taphonomic Research
(AFTER), Western
Sydney

Number of Participants:

The workshop will be
capped at 26
participants

Background

The 22nd Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS) in conjunction with Australian & New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) will be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney, Australia from the Monday 17th-Friday 21st May 2021 (<https://iafs2020.com.au/>). The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) in conjunction with other external colleagues is planning to run a pre-conference workshop entitled: Multidisciplinary Approaches to the Excavation and Documentation of Single and Multiple Clandestine Graves. In order to assist in the planning of this workshop and gauge levels of interest, VIFM is therefore seeking expressions of interest from forensic practitioners interested in participating in this pre-conference workshop.

Workshop Description

This five-day pre-IAFS conference workshop will provide participants with practical experience in the excavation and documentation of human remains buried within single and multiple clandestine graves. The individuals have been buried for four and half years and are, therefore, expected to be in a variety of preservation conditions. Participants will be provided with a broad overview of different techniques used to locate clandestine graves and will then work in groups to undertake excavation and recovery. The participants will also undertake the process of the collection and recording of a range of associated buried forensic evidence. The processing of remains through a temporary mortuary is expected to be part of the workshop.

Who Should Attend

This workshop is open to forensic practitioners from a range of disciplines including (but not limited to) forensic pathology, anthropology, archaeology, molecular biology, entomology, and crime scene who would like the opportunity to develop skills in the documentation and excavation of single and multiple clandestine graves.

Workshop Objectives

At the end of the workshop, participants will:

- Have an appreciation of different techniques that may be used to locate single and multiple graves;
- Have practical experience in recording a scene prior to body recovery;
- Have practical experience in the excavation and recoding of human remains and associated evidence;
- An understanding of the differences between excavating single and multiple graves;
- An appreciation of differential preservation of human remains;
- An understanding of the role of different forensic experts involved in the recovery process, including the collection of different types of evidence;
- An understanding of the mortuary aspect of recovered human remains.

Workshop Dates

Tuesday 11th - Saturday 15th May, 2021

Workshop Costs

Cost: estimated to be \$1900 AUS (depending on numbers this cost may be reduced).

This cost will include:

- Daily transport from the accommodation to the Australian Facility for Taphonomic Experimental Research (AFTER)
- Lectures and practical experience in the field
- PPE for each day (two changes of PPE per person per day including 2 tyvek suits, 2 face masks, 1 pair of safety goggles and unlimited gloves per person each day)
- Catering (lunch day 1)
- Management fee (as required by IAFS)
- AFTER Facility Fee (as required by AFTER)

In addition to the workshop fee of \$1900AUS per person, additional costs for each participant will include:

- Accommodation (NB: accommodation will be organised but the costs will be the responsibility of the participant) (approx. \$90AUS per day for a single room for 5 nights)
- Food (breakfast, lunch and dinner – with the exception of lunch on day 1)
- Washing (as required)

How to Register an Expression of Interest:

Please send a CV (no more than 3 pages) and a brief paragraph summarising why you would like to participate and what you would like to achieve through attending the workshop.

Please send this information to: short.courses@vifm.org

COURSE CONVENORS

Professor Soren Blau

Manager Identification Services /
Senior Forensic Anthropologist,
Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

Soren Blau is the manager of Identification Services and Senior Forensic Anthropologist at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. She is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Forensic Medicine at Monash University, Founding Fellow Faculty of Science, The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and recipient of a Churchill Fellowship (2013). Soren is also currently the Chair of the Forensic Anthropology Technical Advisory Group (National Institute of Forensic Science), and a member of the INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Pathology and Anthropology Sub-Working Group. In addition to publishing peer reviewed journal articles and numerous book chapters, Soren co-edited the Handbook of Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology (2016) and co-authored An Atlas of Skeletal Trauma in Medico-Legal Contexts (2018). Soren undertakes domestic forensic anthropology casework and has undertaken consultancies for the International Criminal Court (ICC), Justice Rapid Response (JRR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Soren has participated in the recovery and analysis of human remains from archaeological and forensic contexts in numerous countries and has delivered training to forensic practitioners and related stakeholders in Australia and overseas.

Mr Jon Sterenberg

Consultant Forensic Archaeologist,
Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

Jon Sterenberg is the consultant forensic archaeologist for the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. Jon has worked as a forensic archaeologist for a number of organisations including the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia (1997-2001), and the

International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) (2002-2007), Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he became the Head of Excavation and Examination Division. He was seconded to the United States Coalition Provision Authority (CPA), Baghdad, Iraq (2003-2004). Since 2007 Jon has been based in Australia and undertakes consultancy jobs in historical and indigenous archaeology. He continues to be involved with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) undertaking location and recovery work and has also worked with the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (Equipo Argentino de Antropología Forense, EAAF) on several projects. Jon has written and co-written articles on forensic archaeology and has undertaken the search and recovery of human remains from forensic contexts in several countries. He has also delivered training to forensic colleagues in Australia and overseas.

Mr Peter Douglas

Archaeologist

Peter Douglas is an Australian-based archaeologist. He has worked as a field investigator on the disappearance of people in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, East Timor and Mexico.

Dr Eline Schotsmans

Research Fellow

Dr. Eline Schotsmans is a research fellow at both the University of Wollongong (AU) and the University of Bordeaux (FR). Her research focuses on taphonomy and funerary practices, and lies at the interface between archaeology, anthropology and forensic sciences. Eline has a wide range of forensic experience gained through casework in Belgium and the UK. She was also deployed to five aircraft accidents and one terrorist attack. She edited the volume Taphonomy of Human Remains. Forensic Analysis of the Dead and the Depositional Environment (2017).

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22nd Triennial Meeting of the
International Association of Forensic Sciences
21-25 September 2020, Sydney, Australia
in conjunction with the 25th ANZFSS Forensic Science Symposium
Web: www.iafs2020.com.au Email: iafs2020@arinex.com.au

Meeting Hosts

Australian and New Zealand
FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY

UTS UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY
SYDNEY