

**ARLIS/NA
Archaeology & Classics SIC**

Annual meeting

Date Wednesday, 05/05/2021
Time 9:00AM US West Coast Time
 12:00 noon US East Coast Time
 5:00PM UK time
Venue: Zoom (Invitation sent separately by Isotta Poggi)

PRESENT:

Officers:

ARLIS/NA SIG Liaison: Rebecca Price <rpw@umich.edu>
SIG Co-Chair: Clare Hills-Nova <clare.hills-nova@bodleian.ox.ac.uk>
SIG Co-Chair: Isotta Poggi <IPoggi@getty.edu>
Guest speaker: Roland Betancourt <roland.betancourt@uci.edu>

Courtney Leeann Baron <courtney.baron@louisville.edu>
David Brafman <DBrafman@getty.edu>
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Julia Wisniewski (Library of Congress) <jwis@LOC.GOV>

AGENDA

1. Apologies & Welcome: Co-Chairs CHN & IP welcomed attendees and noted the unusually high number of attendees (higher than in-person annual meetings).

2. Introductions: Attendees introduced themselves and their interest in the SIG.
3. Approval of the Minutes (AGM 2020): Approved.
4. Matters Arising (not otherwise referenced in the Agenda): None.
5. ARLIS/NA - SIG Liaison: Rebecca Price noted that funding was available for SIG initiatives -- example: sponsoring a speaker.
6. 2020 activities (Isotta Poggi) noted the challenges of the previous year (e.g., Covid), including unsuccessful attempts to engage interest in organising an event in fall 2020.
7. Upcoming Event/s
 - (Isotta P.) ARLIS/NA conference, International Relations Committee: *International Perspectives on Photo Archives documenting the Transformation of Cultural Heritage Sites* (May 13, 2021[online]).
 - (Deborah S.) Archaeological Institute of America in conjunction with the Society for Classical Studies (5-8 January 2022, San Francisco): AIA-ARLIS/NA joint proposal: Ethics & Open Data (Currently waiting to hear whether topic has been accepted).
8. What's in a Name? Classics, and Art Libraries Today (All)

Introduction & background to the topic: Isotta Poggi & Deborah Stewart

Guest speaker: Roland Betancourt (Professor of Art History, UC Irvine)

Points raised for discussion:

- The SIG's Statement of Purpose (see document circulated w Agenda), in particular:
 - “The Archaeology and Classics Special Interest Group is a forum for the discussion of topics relevant to the archaeology and art of the ancient and medieval world.”
- The debate on Classics and its (alleged) whiteness and association with racism (see, for example: [He Wants to Save Classics From Whiteness. Can the Field Survive? - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/21/arts/whiteness-classics.html)).
 - Decline in Classics programmes.
 - Opportunity to revisit Classics & related disciplines.
 - Diversifying the field.
 - Students interested in looking at the past in different ways,
- Academics & Librarians who support 'Classics': Their profiles and roles. – Challenges associated with supporting expanded cultural studies programmes, e.g., outmoded disciplinary and library collecting fault lines.
- Should the SIG extend its focus to cover:
 - Archaeology of the post-medieval world?
 - Archaeology of the non-Mediterranean world?

- The SIG's name: Classics and Archaeology: Should the name be changed?

A wide-ranging, albeit inconclusive, discussion followed.

ACTION: SIG Co-Chairs agreed to circulate a poll, seeking to understand members' views more fully.

All thanked speaker Roland Betancourt for his extremely helpful comments.

9. Vote on SIG's name:

- o 'Archaeology & Early Cultures SIG'?
- o Alternative new names?

CONCLUSION/ACTION: Subject to a subsequent poll of members (see item 8).

10. AOB: In response to a question David Platt spoke briefly about the Cicognara Project. See:

[The Digital Cicognara Library](#).

David Brafman also highlighted the Getty Research Portal. See: [Getty Research Portal](#)

11. Next meeting (to coincide w ARLIS/NA Annual conference 2022)