

**SESSION TITLE:**     **Archaeology and the global crisis - multiple impacts, possible solutions**

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**SESSION PROPOSAL:**

Since the summer of 2007, and with increasing gravity since the autumn of 2008, the global economic crisis has affected and will continue to affect our lives for some time to come. The 'crisis' – both at face value and as a syndrome or collective representation - clearly impacts on the practice of archaeology, on its practitioners, and ultimately also on the knowledge we produce and on our understanding of the past.

Broadly speaking, these impacts can be felt in four overlapping areas: (a) Research funding and priorities (b) Professional employment and skills, (c) Conservation and public outreach, and (d) Heritage management, policies and legislation.

Papers are invited to address these impacts in different countries and situations: they should distinguish, as much as possible, the effects attributable to the crisis to those belonging to other long term processes, and also relate the specific incidence of the crisis to pre-existing structures and traditions in the countries or sectors concerned. The overall objective is not (only) to draw a map of desolation, but also, by specifically identifying the direct and indirect effects of the crisis on archaeology, to discuss and identify some 'mitigation' measures and be better positioned, when recovery comes, to better manage, protect and study the archaeological heritage.

(This session is organised under the banners of the 'Archaeological legislation and organisation' committee, the 'Professional associations in archaeology' committee, and the 'ACE- Archaeology in contemporary Europe' Working party).

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