

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

Date: 4 – 5 December 2023

Event Type: Conference

Organised By: Geological Society Events, Forensic Geoscience Group, International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)

Venue: In-Person at Burlington House

Event Status: Event Open

Time and Location: This is an In-Person event taking place at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. The event will take place from 1:00pm – 8:00pm on 4 December and 9:00am – 12:30pm on 5 December.

Overview of event: 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 operational 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 metal 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 and researchers 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, metals 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.

Schedule: Please see below for the schedule across the two days. For the full, in depth programme please refer to the programme under downloads.

Monday 4 December

1:00pm – 2:00pm	Drinks reception and registration in the Lower Library
2:00pm – 2:10pm	Welcome by GSL-FGG Chair, Prof Lorna Dawson.
2:10pm – 2:30pm	Launch of 'A Guide to Forensic Geology' and an overview of the history and development of GSL-FGG and IUGS-IFG, Dr Laurance Donnelly, Chair IUGS-IFG.
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Session 1: Search Operations. Murray Haynes, National Crime Agency, UK National Search Adviser. Followed by presentations on ground search burials.
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Coffee break and poster session
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Session 2: Minerals, Mining and Metals Crimes. Fabio Salvador, Brazilian Federal Police and The Clean Gold Programme. Followed by presentations on minerals, mining and metals crimes.
5:00pm – 5:30pm	Break

5:30pm – 6:30pm	Poster presentations and drinks reception in the Lower Library
6:45pm – 7:00pm	Introduction of guest speaker
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Evening public guest presentation. Jodi Webb, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Ground Search and Geological Trace Evidence in the US system. Including a 15 minute Q and A.
8:00pm	Close of day's events at Burlington House by Prof Lorna Dawson

Tuesday 5 December

9:00am – 9:10am	Welcome by IUGS-IFG Chair, Dr Laurance Donnelly
9:10am – 10:10am	Session 3: A Human Taphonomic Facility for the UK? Prof Roelof-Jan Oostra, Amsterdam, UMC. Followed by a panel discussion on human taphonomy and geological information assisting in its use as intelligence and evidence
10:10am – 10:30am	Break
10:30am – 11:30am	Session 4: Geological Trace Evidence. Gary Pugh, UK Forensic Science Regulator. Followed by a panel discussion on the evaluation of geological trace evidence, including comparisons across different legal systems with a focus on adversarial legal systems.
11:30am – 12:00pm	Presentations on the topics of geological trace evidence and taphonomy
12:00pm-12:15pm	Close of meeting by DR Laurance Donnelly and awarding of the IUGS-IFG Raymond Murray Award
12:15pm – 12:30pm	Handover from Prof Lorna Dawson to new incoming GSL-FGG Chair and Committee, and awarding of the poster prizes and the GSL-FGG Award
12:30pm	End of the conference

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-horizons-in-forensic-geoscience-the-bedrock-of-international-security-tickets-660965133507?aff=oddtcreator>

The Public Lecture will be added under our Public Lectures page shortly. For those attending the Conference you do not need to register again for this.