



## Session

### Is This Session for Real?

#### **Chairpersons:**

David Bibby (Independent) - Germany

Ann Degraeve (Head of Archaeological Heritage, Direction of Cultural Heritage, urban.brussels) - Belgium

#### **Description and Motivation:**

OK, so over the last 30 years of the CHNT there have been countless demonstrations of each year's latest kit, complete with a story of it actually functioning and benefiting archaeology and cultural heritage. And we, the participants, wide eyed with admiration, believed it – or pretend to... We witnessed the introduction of the Total Station and watched CAD recording systems come and go as GIS largely replaced them. Laser and structured light scanning and GPS were next, close on their heels Drones, Lidar and SFM. Then virtual reality and artificial intelligence. But, while basking in the imperial opulence of Vienna's iconic Town Hall and its Hofburg Palace, we have sometimes tended forget the workaday life in the outside world. So, what is actually happening on the ground? Is all this glossy technology really being put to good use? If so, is really proving its worth and what is it really being used for? What is making things better and how? And how do we define "better"? Where is the added value? Equally important, what is not working? Do some situations still call for „old technology”, i.e. “pre-digital methods”? If so, why? What roles do education, expertise and finances play?

If you find this call provocative, sceptical, then you have understood. In this session we look beyond the spin and cut to the quick. We expect contributions describing on-site technological-methodological success stories with the focus equally on the “why” of the new (or old) technology/methodology as on the “what”. Synergy and a “kick start” gained by emulating and adapting others’ successes is always relevant and is a stated aim of this session. But avoiding mistakes already made by others is equally important. Descriptions of pitfalls and glorious failures are therefore equally welcome.

**Target Audience:**

Cultural heritage practitioners, Scientists, Technicians and all who are interested experiencing technology in action beyond rarefied conference atmosphere.

**Keywords:**

Technology use, real world experience, synergy

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