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## the DHRG seminar presents

# seven years of FAIMS mobile: strategies for 'small data' infrastructure

Wed 5 June 2019 | 1100-1230 | PS.E.Ha.1.30 | or via Zoom (765 070 572)

The nature of research is changing. Driven by the 'reproducibility crisis' and related challenges to research integrity, funders, journals, and other stakeholders are beginning to demand the publication of comprehensive, well provenanced, **FAIR ('Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable') data**. Current ad hoc approaches to data capture and management will not meet these requirements.

To meet these challenges, 'small-data' domains require purpose-built, research-specific infrastructure. Small data is no easier than Big. Small data is heterogeneous and lacks common standards. For small-data infrastructure to be both fit-for purpose and sustainable, it will likely follow four design principles: it will be **(1) generalised, (2) open-source, (3) federated, and (4) properly documented and supported**. The Field Acquired Information Management Systems (FAIMS) project represents an early and innovative example of a platform built according to these principles. FAIMS generates customised, offline-first, GIS-enabled field recording systems. Customised for over 50 workflows at more than 30 projects, FAIMS demonstrates how a tool can provide robust small data infrastructure for diverse researchers in a broad domain.



**Shawn Ross** is Associate Professor of History and Archaeology and the Director of Data Science and eResearch at Macquarie University. His interests include pre-Classical Greece, oral traditions, the archaeology of the Balkans, and the application of IT to research. Since 2009, the focus of his work has been fundamental archaeological research in Bulgaria, where he supervises the Tundzha Regional Archaeological Project ([www.tundzha.org](http://www.tundzha.org)). Since 2012 he has also directed the FAIMS project ([www.faims.edu.au](http://www.faims.edu.au)).

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