

UCML Executive Committee

Friday 2 November 2018 12.30 – 16.00
Monnet Room, Europe House
32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU



Linguistics report

Survey on the teaching of linguistics in Modern Languages Departments and Schools.

As announced at the previous UCML General Meeting, a survey on the teaching of linguistics in Modern Languages Departments/Schools across the UK will be sent to all HoD and HoS by the end of the Autumn Term 2018. A draft of the survey will be presented to the UCML Executive Board on the 2nd November.

Reach-out/reach-in event with schools on language teaching

Dr Gianfranco Conti, co-author of 'The Language Teacher toolkit', winner of the 2015 TES best resource contributor award and founder of www.language-gym.com, has been appointed as a Visiting Scholar in Modern Languages at Reading. He has been touring the UK for teaching training sessions and activities, and he is available for our-reach/in-reach events seminars and workshops with schools across the UK. As I have proposed at the last General Meeting, it would be beneficial to all UCML members if we share resources for out-reach events in schools, and – from my perspective of representative for Linguistics – if we prepare some promotional material that could work across languages as a 'bridge' between language and culture teaching (i.e. linguistics).

Linguistics Association in the UK

I am trying to establish/consolidate effective relations with the other association of linguistics in the UK, and I will try to attend their annual meetings/events as much as possible, in order to update the UCML Executive Committee on their initiatives and campaigns.

The Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB) has held its 2018 Annual Meeting 2018 at the University of Sheffield on 11-14 September. Within this annual event, a Workshop on linguistic approaches to literature was organised. The workshop explored how developments in electronic literary

corpora, computational modelling, eye-tracking, neuro-imaging and reaction time studies are providing new insights on historical and contemporary literature (<http://www.lagb.org.uk/workshop2018>). I have required the workshop's material to make it available to UCML members, as it could be beneficial for both pedagogical enhancement and interdisciplinary research projects.

The *British Association for Applied Linguistics* (BAAL), has recently organised a colloquium on *The legal recognition of signed languages. Taking risks in applied linguistics*. Discussions on the introduction/implementation of modules on signed languages in linguistics curricula and language centres have been held in several institutions, and the topic is going to be approached again at the 2019 BAAL Annual conference in Manchester (29-31 August), whose main theme will be *Broadening the Horizons of Applied Linguistics*. UCML could verify if there is any appetite for introducing signed languages also in Modern Languages curricula, and in case join BAAL campaign for a legal recognition of signed languages in Higher Education in the UK. BAAL has also launched a *Competition for Visual Representations of Multilingualism*, which aims to provide “a creative opportunity to explore new ways of representing multilingualism through visual means and to stimulate debate and raise awareness about innovative ways of thinking about multilingualism” (<https://baal.org.uk/2018/10/11/competition-for-visual-representations-of-multilingualism/>). The competition is organised in partnership with CuratorSpace, Multilingual Matters, and the AILA Research Network for Creative Inquiry and Applied Linguistics, and it looks like a good opportunity to foster a national campaign on multilingualism.

Last but not least, The *Committee for Linguistics in Education* (CLiE), a joint committee of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB) and the British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL), aims to explore and evaluate ways in which linguistics and applied linguistics might contribute towards the school curriculum and the professional training of teachers. It is developing a set of resources to support teachers and language development (<http://clie.org.uk/resources>), and has launched the LASER (Language Analysis in Schools: Education and Research) campaign, which includes *FL-Eng*, a project for collaboration between English and Foreign-language teachers, and *KALLing*, a project on the assessment of Knowledge About Language taught under the National Curriculum.

Federico Faloppa