

UCML Executive Committee

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



Italian studies report

Prof Simon Gilson (Oxford), new Chair of the Society, presented to the SIS Exec committee, during the last meeting in June, his view of the priorities for future years. The aim is to galvanise the support to Italian studies, with a pragmatic approach: considering the small size of the subject area and the energies available, it is necessary to concentrate on core initiative, e.g.:

a) Teaching: support initiatives that create bridges between high schools and universities and bring students to Italian units.

b) Conferences: continue to run SIS conferences (biennial, themed, PGR) and to give support to other research events in Italian studies. The next SIS Biennial Conference will be organised by the University of Edinburgh, in June 2019;

c) Research priorities: the results of a brief survey, distributed during the AGM in January 2018, showed a number of areas of considerable strength, especially in relation to interdisciplinary research, transnational perspectives, and Mediaeval and Early Modern research. The survey also highlighted a number of opportunities: greater conversation and collaboration with N. America; eco-criticism and the post-human; digital humanities; collaboration with Social Science researchers; and translational/plurilingual in early modern studies.

d) Journal: continue to run successfully the journal *Italian Studies*; plans are under way for the 75th issue of the journal.

e) Showcase the activities carried out and continue to generate visibility for our subject area.

SIS also sent a detailed response to the consultation on the AHRC's future priorities. These included, among others:

- To support research across the entire chronological spectrum;
- To maintain Modern Languages, in its disciplinary and methodological diversity, as a strategic priority;
- To allow the outcomes of OWRI to be understood and developed by the research community;
- To support and build upon work (some done by members of our subject association e.g. 'Transnationalizing Modern Languages') with regard to practices and questions of linguistic and cultural interchange;
- To support and build upon the work (some done by members of our subject association e.g. 'Interdisciplinary Italy 1900-2015') in understanding the valences and values of interdisciplinarity;
- To seek ways to continue to integrate our subject association and Modern Languages more broadly in humanities research;
- To support and promote the value of our subject association as offering privileged access to the UK's cultural collections in the GLAM (galleries, libraries and museums sector).