

## UCML Executive Committee



Friday 2 November 2018      12.30 – 16.00

Monnet Room, Europe House

32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU

### Germanic and Low Countries Report

This report itemises a number of relevant publications and conferences that have taken place since the last report UCML report date:

**ALCS** (Association for Low Countries Studies) held its 12<sup>th</sup> biennial conference, 'Picturing Reality', 28–30 June 2018, at the University of Sheffield.

**ALCS has also published a report** entitled 'The State of Dutch Studies in the UK and Ireland: A Study into the Provision of Dutch Language and Culture Teaching in Higher Education, 2017-2018' (June 2018). The report, commissioned by ALCS and authored by Henriette Louwerse and Louise Snape, provides a snapshot of HE provision of Dutch Language and Cultural Studies in the UK and Ireland. Similar tracking exercises were conducted in 2006 and in 1992 and the results from 2017-2018 make very sobering reading. The result is available in pdf format here: <http://alcs.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/The-state-of-Dutch-studies-in-the-UK-and-Ireland-2018-SMALL.pdf> (published with support from the 'Representation of the Flemish Government' in London). There are recommendations made for education authorities in the Netherlands and Flanders, too, but quoted here for the purposes of broader access and emphasis are the 'Recommendations to the Educational and Academic Authorities of the UK and Ireland' (p. 16):

- Faced with a continuing general decline in the study of modern languages, we call for a strategic protected status of particularly those languages identified as significant for the future prosperity of the UK.
- The current undergraduate provision of Dutch Studies at Degree Level with two remaining anchors at UCL and Sheffield must be strengthened.
- We ask that educational and academic authorities support the re-institution of at least one named Chair of Dutch Studies in the UK.
- In addition, we call for the expansion of the offer of Dutch Studies at Degree Level within the UK Higher Education sector in particular in those institutions that already have a proven interest in Dutch, such as Newcastle, Nottingham, and Cambridge, or a thriving IWLP in Dutch, such as Manchester and Edinburgh.
- Reintroduce Dutch Studies as part of a Language Degree Programme in at least one HE Institution on the island of Ireland.
- Encourage the development of bi- or multilateral relationships with universities in the Netherlands and Flanders.

**AGS (Association for German Studies in Great Britain and Ireland)** held its annual conference at Bangor University, 29-31 August 2018.

The association has recently been forging connections with the Anglistenverband in Germany (who had approached AGS), with the Germanistenverband, and with the GSA, as well as with cognate

UK associations such as the German History Society. AGS is offering 'members' rates' to the AGS conference for members of these associations.

A key point of Margaret Littler's response to the AHRC this summer on behalf of AGS (following a members' questionnaire) had stressed the importance of targeted funding streams for UK researchers to conduct work with colleagues in Germany. In this context, it is very pleasing to note the AHRC's 'UK-German Call for Proposals in the Humanities'. The call is due to open in October 2018, and the pre-announcement is available via the AHRC and via the DFG webpages:

<https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/apply-for-funding/current-opportunities/uk-german-call-for-proposals-in-the-humanities-pre-announcement/>

[http://www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/announcements\\_proposals/2018/info\\_wissenschaft\\_18\\_61/index.html](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/announcements_proposals/2018/info_wissenschaft_18_61/index.html)

**WIGS (Women in German Studies)**, will hold its 30th Anniversary Conference, at the University of Aston, **9-10 November 2018**. The event also includes a postgraduate/ ECR workshop. **WIGS** will be awarding an Essay Prize as well as a prize for the most promising book proposal (in tandem with Peter Lang Publishing). The programme is available here:

[https://womeningermanstudies.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/wigs\\_aston-2018\\_draft-conference-programme-for-registration.pdf](https://womeningermanstudies.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/wigs_aston-2018_draft-conference-programme-for-registration.pdf).

**Outreach Publication:** As trailed in the previous report to UCML, Charlotte Ryland and the Oxford German Network have now published 'Undergraduate Participation Outreach in German-Language Outreach Activities' (with funding from the German Embassy in London). The report can be read in pdf format here:

[http://www.ogn.ox.ac.uk/files/undergraduate\\_participation\\_and\\_literary\\_outreach.pdf](http://www.ogn.ox.ac.uk/files/undergraduate_participation_and_literary_outreach.pdf). The huge range of inspiring outreach events and ideas summarised here was also brought to the attention of the Heads of German meeting in June 2018.

**UCML survey by incoming Chair:** The recent (September 2018) survey exercise was advertised to three JISC lists – German Studies, ALCS, and WIGS – with the offer of collating responses. I passed on the responses I received as one long entry on the questionnaire sent round by our new Chair, Claire Gorrara. The number of responses I received was a little disappointing, and I do hope that individuals have also replied separately to the survey. The timing may have been unfortunate as 15 October 2018 was also the deadline for responses to the consultation on REF2021 guidance and criteria.

Prof Allyson Fiddler, UCML, Germanic and Low Countries, 22/10/2018