

## Item 10c: Germanic & Low Countries

### ALCS

Flagged as an upcoming item in the last report, **ALCS** has a new Chair (Christine Sas of UCL). ALCS is holding its third **Postgraduate Colloquium** at Senate House, University of London, 9-10 July 2020. The event is entitled, ‘City Lights: Urban Space and Civic Identity in the Low Countries and Beyond’ and proposals are being sought from PhD candidates and early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences. Deadline: 30 March. Enquiries about **bursaries** for the colloquium to be sent to Adam Sammut, c/o [anws500@york.ac.uk](mailto:anws500@york.ac.uk). The annual UG and PG ALCS essay prize competitions are still going ahead.

The last report covered the exciting events to mark **100 years of Dutch at UCL** (see also [www.dutch100.com](http://www.dutch100.com)). The Association notes that there was a good presence from US colleagues from the **AANS** (American Association for Netherlandic Studies), and the ambition to work more closely and alternate their conferences seemed to be paying off. The AANS has their conference in June 2020 (and is likely, therefore, to be cancelled due to the Corona Virus outbreak). ALCS shares its **journal publication** with AANS and is looking into further integrating the output of Dutch Studies in English onto one platform. The journal, *Dutch Crossing* is going strong and publishes 3 issues a year

As the 2018 ALCS report showed, there is a growth in **Dutch in IWLP**, meaning that ALCS is focusing on creating a network of Dutch teachers in these institutions and offering professional development opportunities. Summer 2021 will see a **Dutch Summer course for Beginners**, to be organised at University of Edinburgh, where ALCS (and the Dutch Language Union) are keen to support the teaching of Dutch. Provisional funds have been granted to organise a language teacher get-together in September 2020 for a brainstorming and networking session.

An **action plan** is being worked on to re-appoint to the **oldest chair of Dutch Studies** in the UK at UCL. This is seen to be paramount for the continuation of the field in the UK. The project has the support of the diplomatic representations of the Netherlands and Flanders, and the *Nederlandse Taalunie* (Dutch Language Union).

### AGS

The annual Association for German Studies in Great Britain and Ireland (**AGS**) conference is scheduled to take place this year 2-4 September at Swansea University. The lead panel for the conference will be ‘German Futures, Future German/ies’, with a number of regular as well as one-off panels. AGS has raised its funding for PGRs (travel grants and publication subsidies) and introduced a new grant to support conferences. Plans for a conference for schoolteachers of German in May will probably be postponed. Liaison with schools is still very high on the

agenda for AGS, especially through the work of the regional German Networks. The annual Heads of German meeting has been postponed to October.

## **WIGS**

The winner of the **2019 Women in German Studies Book Prize** was announced at the annual conference (last year in Dublin). It was Erica (Yejun) Zou. A full report of this news item and of the conference can be found at:

[womeningermanstudies.wordpress.com/category/conferences/](https://womeningermanstudies.wordpress.com/category/conferences/). The 2020 conference will take place at the University of Warwick. Provisional dates are 7-8 November and a Call for Papers will be launched soon. The WIGS committee is especially concerned about its casualised and freelance members as well as PGRs during the current COVID-19 crisis and notes that this is, indeed, a major concern for the whole profession.

Our thanks go to Christine Sas (ALCS), Margaret Littler (AGS) and Ingrid Sharp (WIGS) for their input and for their leadership of the above associations.

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