

UCML Exec Committee

4th December 2020 14:00–16:00 by Zoom



Item 10d: Hispanic studies

AHGBI

1. Proposed ILAS closure – letter sent on behalf of AHGBI, petition circulated to members
2. Roehampton – proposed cuts to various subjects, including Modern Languages. Should/is UCML organising something here (e.g. support letter)?
3. Cuts in bursaries for ML PGCE
4. Moving conferences online: AHGBI has had to do this for our forthcoming 2021 conference.
5. Research affected by COVID-19: our members report fieldwork cancelled, archival visits cancelled, unable to progress with research as planned.
6. PhD students funded by UKRI – curbs in the extensions. AHGBI concerned about the impact this might have on our PGRs: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/15/phd-students-fearful-after-funding-body-ukri-curbs-extensions>,

SLAS

1. SLAs have been working to raise awareness and concern about the proposal to close ILAS. The petition against it has close to 10,000 signatures, there's been an early day motion in parliament about it and individuals and subject associations have written to the heads of the School of Advanced Study and the head of the University of London about it.
2. PhD students whose projects depend on fieldwork: the recent decision by UKRI not to offer further funded extensions is concerning.
3. The shift to Open Access publishing presents challenges to a learned society, like SLAS, which largely depends on its journal revenue to fund a range of activities.
4. The threats to language departments are also threats to Latin American Studies, as so many of our colleagues are based in language departments.
5. The spread of Covid in Latin America is, of course, a bigger concern still, as well. On the plus side, the shift to online events has created wider opportunities for participation and it's been great to see what activities different colleagues have organised with widespread geographic participation.

Dr Nicola Bermingham
November 2020