

Item 10.e Lusophone studies

WISPS – Women in Spanish and Portuguese Studies

The planned **annual WISPS conference** for November 2020 was postponed, scheduled now for November 2021, online. To mark the 20th anniversary of WISPS a **call for contributions** to a special issue of *Romance Studies* is still ongoing. WISPS was engaged in making the most of the online platform and, on 25th November 2020, ran an **online roundtable** (in partnership with Spanish Seminars at Oxford): ‘The female body as a site of social/political struggle in the Iberian context’; on 1st February 2021, it ran the **online seminar** ‘Academic inclusivity and Luso-Hispanic Studies today: an online conversation with Tamara Walker and Catherine Boyle’, a well-attended event. Finally, the launch of the **new website** <https://www.wispsacademic.org/> coincided with celebration of International Women’s Day with a presentation of publications by WISPS members.

ABIL – Association of British and Irish Lusitanists

ABIL held a **virtual committee catch up** early in Semester 1 (where it was decided to freeze membership due to current situation). In a subsequent meeting it was agreed that the **biannual conference (in Newcastle)**, on ‘Crossing borders, crossing boundaries’, would take place **face to face** in September 2021; concerns regarding ABIL’s decision for in-person attendance have been allayed by a healthy number of paper proposals received. There are plans to run a panel at the conference specifically on **decolonising Lusophone Studies**. The mapping exercise report of **Lusophone Studies in the UK**, by the outgoing UCML Lusophone Studies Rep, **Professor Hilary Owen**, was discussed and well received. ABIL’s Postgraduate Rep ran virtual writing sessions (in the style of ‘Shut Up and Write’) earlier in lockdown. ABIL is also running an initiative to encourage ECRs to publish with [*Portuguese Studies*](#). ABIL also wrote letters to express regret re actions at SAS in London and in Hull (subject closures and curtailments).

SLAS – Society for Latin American Studies

The **annual conference** is being held online, with upwards of 150 speaker delegates. We welcome the strong Brazil emphasis at this year’s conference (where its two virtual exhibitions, on [*LGBTQIA+ indigenous people*](#) and on [*decolonising art*](#), are also on Brazil).

AHGBI – Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland

The annual (virtual) **conference** (University College, Dublin) happened in March 2021, with a small participation of Lusophone-related papers. No further report received for Lusophone-related activity. See Hispanic Studies report for other related details.

TROPO-UK - Association of Teachers and Researchers of Portuguese Language

In March 2021 TROPO-UK co-organised an **intercultural communication workshop**, in partnership with PARSUK (see below). Although it is a young association, it has been particularly engaged in promoting Lusophone Studies-related events, be it on Foreign language pedagogy or Cultural

Studies. In September 2020 TROPO-UK sponsored **Panel 4** in '[Decolonising Modern Languages: A Symposium for Sharing Practices and Ideas](#)' (organised by IMLR). A forthcoming conference is expected in 2021.

[PARSUK](#) – Portuguese Association of Researchers and Students in the UK

Although PARSUK began as an association of Portuguese postgraduate students, researchers, and postdocs, it has expanded its membership remit to include members from the Lusophone world. Most of its activity is directed to STEM; however, an increasing number of members in other Subject Areas (Modern Language Studies, Humanities, Social Sciences). Therefore, it was felt that a report on their activities in the UK would be a useful contribution to the overall picture of Lusophone Studies in the UK. In February 2021 the [GraPE](#) forum for postgraduate students ran entirely online (in partnership with sister associations in the USA, BeNeLux, France, Switzerland, Germany, and Scandinavia). Keynote speakers included important stakeholders that support PG and Postdoc work in the UK, such as the **Foundation for Science and technology (FCT)**, Portuguese **Ministry for Science and Education**, and **Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation**. Lusophone Studies in will benefit from an increased dialogue with these institutions, alongside other research funders in Lusophone Studies (such as CAPLE and others in Brazil). PARSUK also run [events](#) relevant to this community on topics such as research ethics, securing research grants, mental health and WFH, and Brexit.

[ACIS](#) - Association for Contemporary Iberian Studies

ACIS' annual 2020 conference was postponed to [September 2021](#), and will be held in a virtual format. ACIS continues to be increasingly active in ancillary Subjects and research areas, attracting ever more conference papers from Latin-America (Brazil), and Lusophone Asia and Africa (as reflected also in its proprietary journal (accounting for c. 20% of its output since 2017).

As UCML Lusophone Studies Rep expressed concerns regarding current UKRI ODA funding cuts, alongside other Subject associations in the UK.

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