

## Item 9.d: Early Career Academics Report

### ECA Special Interest Group (SIG)

#### State of the field

Employment opportunities for early-career academics remain infrequent across the board, and most are represented by part-time, fixed term contracts. Current PhD students are receiving fewer teaching opportunities than previously before the Covid-19 pandemic. Postdoctoral prospects continue to be extremely limited.

#### 1. Mentoring scheme

The ECA Support Network now has 63 mentors on its database across 6 language areas.

#### 2. ECA Symposium: 15 July 2021

The ECA SIG is planning a day-long online symposium for early-career academics and established colleagues, with a range of sessions on themes relating to early-career issues. Attendance and input in Q&A from UCML colleagues and established academics, especially from outside of French Studies, would be welcome.

#### 3. Updates to website

The ECA SIG section of the website now has a list of active members with photographs. Colleagues are advised in future to check claims of membership of the SIG with the website.

#### 4. ECA social media

The SIG now has a Twitter account to represent early-career academic issues on this social medial platform. The handle is @UCML\_ECA

#### 5. ECA survey

A survey of the field for early-career academics, and for established colleagues on ECA issues, continues to be drafted, and will be released over summer 2021.

#### 6. ECA Code of Practice (previously ‘Charter’)

The Code of Practice is to be shared among UCML HE members by the end of the calendar year. Including definition of scholarship, parity of access to research training/support, training for health & safety issues, and standard of training for PGRs. The ECA Code of Practice will consider both REF and TEF implications.

## **7. Coffee Mornings**

The ECA SIG has led monthly online coffee mornings for ECAs this academic year, which have been a great success, and have received attendance in particular from French, Spanish and Slavonic Studies. For the next calendar year, we are keen for colleagues to share the coffee morning details on relevant mailing lists outside these areas to increase our reach.

## **8. Networking and Collaboration**

The ECA SIG Chairs are committed to improving networking and collaboration opportunities for cases across language areas. For the next academic year we are investigating opportunities to offer training and talks by outside speakers, and seek advice on what funding might be available for doing so.

## **9. Equality and Diversity**

As UCML ECA rep, Liam is keen to sustain equal and diverse representation of the ECA community among the ECA SIG. He continues to develop ideas for this and welcomes the support of UCML colleagues.