

UCML Executive Committee

Friday 12 November 2021 10am-12pm

Via MS Teams



Item 10C: Germanic and Low Countries Studies

The annual **Association for German Studies** conference took place in a hybrid format but mostly online (Sept 2021; University of Swansea). See also the [related exhibition](#) "Poets by the Sea: German Writers Visit Swansea" part of the Centenary Exhibition "Swansea University: Making Waves since 1920". A full president's report by **Prof Nicola McLelland** (Nottingham) is available at: <http://www.ags.ac.uk/2021-online-conference> and offers insights into some of the recent campaigning issues (including into ways of sustaining OeAD and DAAD lecturers and DAAD assistantships after Brexit in view of prohibitive new visa regulations and minimum salary thresholds). The annual **Heads of German** meeting ('HoG') is being rescheduled to its previous regular time slot and will take place in London in May 2022 (provisional). This will be supported and hosted by the **DAAD** (German Academic Exchange Service) and co-chaired by AGS (Prof McLelland) and by the incoming UCML rep (Prof Allyson Fiddler's term of office finishes in January 2022). New from 2020, AGS now offers some conference grants as well as PGR publication and travel grants <http://www.ags.ac.uk/prizes-scholarships>).

The **Summer Bulletin of ALCS (Association for Low Countries Studies)** can be read [online](#). **Dr Christine Sas** (Chair) reports that, we can 'look back on a good year in Dutch Studies: our online Postgraduate Colloquium 'City Lights' brought together young researchers from all parts of the world, we awarded three ALCS Essay Prizes and a Research Grant, we have enjoyed our collaborations with New Dutch Writing and welcomed Surinamese-Dutch author Tessa Leuwsha on our annual UCL-Sheffield Literary Translation Project.' **ALCS** also announced the forthcoming 14th biennial Conference and the first Dutch-Language Summer Course (planned for summer 2022).

WIGS (Women in German Studies) held its 2021 conference online (hosted by the University of Aberdeen). This year's was an Open Conference entitled 'Crossing Thresholds' (24-26 June). Full reports can be read at: <https://womeningermanstudies.wordpress.com/2021/07/13/crossing-thresholds-women-in-german-studies-open-conference/> Of particular note this year were two diversity and inclusion panels as well as career development sessions for Early Career members. WIGS has also recently hosted the highly successful '[Online Teaching Day](#) – A Postgraduate Perspective' and has now opened an Instagram account in addition to its other social media channels. (All of the above organisations have Twitter accounts as well as full webpages.) This [link](#) introduces the current Chair of WIGS, **Prof Ingrid Sharp**, on Instagram.

03/11/2021

Compiled by Allyson Fiddler (**Rep for Germanic and Low Countries Studies**). Previous reports have been written in consultation with the Chairs of various organisations, most recently Nicola McLelland (AGS), Christine Sas (ALCS) Ingrid Sharp (WIGS). Time did not allow for me to consult with them on this occasion; apologies, therefore, for the brevity and for any important omissions. The links above should afford more insight into the important work undertaken by colleagues and members.