UCML Executive Committee

Friday 29th April 2022 10am-12pm
 Via MS Teams

Item 5: Vice Chair Research

In February I attended a meeting with EC with the new AHRC Fellows Nicola McLellan, Michelle MacLeod, and Emmanuelle Labeau to feed into their discussions. A questionnaire for researchers and a questionnaire for postgrads was disseminated following the meeting.

I attended a focus group looking at the future of AHRC DTP funding organised by CRAC. A key point to emerge was the need to disseminate AHRC support (e.g. training) more widely to avoid a two-tier system where funded students have access to many more resources as well as funding.

On March 31st I attended a workshop 'UK Language Policy from 2015-2022 and beyond' led by Wendy Ayres-Bennett, a follow-on from the AHRC project 'Promoting Language Policy'. They have developed a one-stop online repository of legislation on language policy from 2018-present and of papers which have informed language policy (such as British Academy reports). www.promotinglanguagepolicy.org **Can we include a link to this on our website?** There were also presentations from GCHQ, the Cabinet Office, the Department for International Trade, UK Health Security Overseas, Ministry of Justice, Department of Education. GCHQ have set up schools resources on their website and are running a languages competition for year 8 and 9 this year – which may be useful for Routes. GCHQ also recorded their Director speaking about the value of languages in a business setting at the Languages Show 2021: https://www.gchq.gov.uk/news/the-languages-show-2021

The final report of the Digital Mediations strand of the 'Language Acts and Worldmaking' project has been published: https://languageacts.org/digital-mediations/digital-mediations-publications/digital-mediations-final-report/ . The report considers two main areas: (1) as the field of Modern Languages searches for a new vision and a new identity in the wake of multiple and complex transformations, how should it engage with digital methods, literacies and pedagogies? (2) As digital studies and practice become increasingly embedded within academic scholarship as a whole, how can we ensure that they are informed by linguistic awareness and sensitivity, and that Modern Languages expertise and perspectives influence digital research design?

The Small Grants Sub-Committee will be meeting on May 13th to consider the current applications.