

## **Initiatives**

### **Early Career Academics Special Interest Group (ECA SIG)**

#### **1. Code of Best Practice for Early Career Academic Employment (Languages and Related Disciplines)**

The Code of Best Practice has been launched on the UCML website. The full Code can now be found at the following web address, with a short introductory video including Liam Lewis, Hilary Potter, Emma Cayley, and Charles Forsdick:

<https://university-council-modern-languages.org/early-career-academics/code-of-best-practice/>

**Actions:** Please could UCML executive reps disseminate the Code on relevant mailing lists and share the code with heads of departments in their institutions.

#### **2. New ECA reps**

The ECA SIG has expanded its representation to map onto the UCML Executive committee's areas of specialisation. These now include reps for Linguistics, Language Teaching, Area Studies, Middle Eastern and East Asian.

**Actions:** We are still looking for reps in Welsh/Wales (Area Studies) and Celtic. If executive representatives are aware of any suitable ECA candidates for the role, please let me know at: [liam.lewis@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:liam.lewis@liverpool.ac.uk)

#### **3. Mentoring scheme**

The ECA Support Network continues to host the Mentoring Scheme. The current call for applications to the year-long mentoring scheme for 2022-23 has now ended and we are supporting 14 ECAs through the year-long scheme.

It would be very desirable to build our list of mentors further, especially in Spanish and Portuguese/Lusophone Studies, which are poorly represented. Any expressions of interest can be directed to the scheme's coordinators Dr Kate Foster at [ecasn.contact@gmail.com](mailto:ecasn.contact@gmail.com)

#### **6. Events**

1. The ECA SIG are organising our first in-person meeting since the Covid-19 pandemic, potentially to take place in Spring 2023. We will need to look at options for funding to cover ECA reps travel/accommodation costs.
2. The ECA SIG will run a series of workshops this academic year to support ECAs. We will continue to showcase ECA research through our new seminar series to promote new research in all the languages represented in the group.
3. The ECA SIG will carry on hosting its coffee mornings this term. We look forward to welcoming Begoña Rodriguez and Bill Niven to our upcoming meetings.

## **Updates**

### **Collaborations with other networks**

The ECA team is looking at individual collaborations with other learned societies where there are mutual interests. This includes the British Academy Early-Career Researcher network.

### **Decolonisation Workshop**

Following some advice from our UCML liaison, plans are underway to develop our work in decolonisation, in order to see how we can reach out to our diverse communities and develop mentoring and support networks/workshops in this area. Any expressions of interest from UCML Executive members to support this work, or help with ideas, are welcome.

### **Diversity, equity and inclusion**

The UCML ECA SIG is a space for all our members to share their ideas, interests and experiences. Membership of the SIG is purely voluntary. As UCML ECA Rep, Liam is keen to sustain equal and diverse representation of the ECA community among the ECA SIG. He is currently developing ideas for this and welcomes the support of UCML colleagues. If members have ideas of initiatives they wish to explore to enhance the group's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, please email Liam.

*If you would like to get in touch, please email me at [liam.lewis@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:liam.lewis@liverpool.ac.uk)*

*Liam Lewis  
05 November 2022*