

Italian report for UCML Exec, 11th November 2022

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This report is based on ongoing discussion in the discipline (mailing lists, annual meetings, seminars and conferences) and on updates from representatives of the two main professional associations: Society for Italian Studies in the UK and Ireland (SIS) and Association for the Study of Modern Italy (ASMI).

Most Italian units are very busy with the day-to-day running of teaching and admin tasks, and little space is left for broader, national initiatives. The tail of the pandemic-induced crisis and the effect of ongoing strikes should also be factored in.

Colleagues in Italian Studies continue to report widespread worries for the very limited number of jobs advertised and their precariousness (mainly yearly contracts, and a worrying distinction between teaching and research posts), with consequences for a healthy life of the units and for the career perspectives for early career researchers. Recruitment is another area of concern, as well as the management of the Residence Abroad after Brexit.

Under this respect, the UCML YA SIG is proving very helpful to get the Modern Language's community together, to share best practice, and to speak as a single voice to national and international institutions, promoting the interests of the whole community; the same can be said for the work done by UCML in collaboration with IMLR in relation to the consultation on the new QAA's Subject Benchmark Statement. Languages, Cultures and Societies (September 2022).

The Independent Schools Modern Languages Association, in the person of its chair, Peter Langdale, has drafted a letter of complaint to Ofqual, following the widespread dissatisfaction with the Italian GCSE results 2022, and providing a detailed assessment of the situation and of the problems it raises (attached). They are looking for signatories and support from subject associations.

The two main subject associations in Italian Studies continue successfully with their research events, among which the following should be noted:

- ASMI - Modern Italian History Seminar (ISH) Series, Autumn 2022, <https://www.asmi.org.uk/news/asmi-2021-conference-call-papers1/>
- ASMI - 2022 Annual Conference, *Change, Evolution and Disruption in modern and contemporary Italy*, 2 – 3 December 2022 Italian Cultural Institute, London
- A calendar for SIS's events and meetings is being discussed at present.

Finally, the joint UCML-SIS survey on Italian studies has been finalised but not circulated yet. It should be sent to Italian units in the new year.

Leeds, 8th November 2022