

UCML Executive

Friday, 26th May, 2023

Report from the Early Career Academics Rep—Liam Lewis (outgoing) and Ashley Harris (incoming)

(In collaboration with the ECA Special Interest Group co-chairs)

ECA Representation

1. New ECA representative

After fulfilling his term, Liam Lewis is stepping down as ECA Representative to the UCML Executive Committee. Formal thanks to Liam for his work in establishing this role. Ashley Harris has been elected as the new ECA Representative. Ashley's current objectives are to continue work on diversifying and expanding our reach and ensuring sign-up to the ECA Code of Practice.

2. ECA SIG chairs

Hilary Potter will be stepping down as ECA SIG co-chair during the summer 2023. Olivia Glaze (Portuguese Studies) is currently shadowing the role and will step into the co-chair role by the Autumn. During this transition, Ashley Harris remains a co-chair but will seek replacement in Autumn 2023.

Initiatives

Early Career Academics Special Interest Group (ECA SIG)

1. New ECA rep

Jayne Duff (QUB) joins the ECA SIG as the NI representative.

2. Events for 2023

1. The ECA SIG is organising to meet at the summer plenary. We will need to look at options for funding to cover ECA reps travel/accommodation costs. We submitted a Small Grants award application in April 2023 and are awaiting the outcome.
2. The ECA SIG is running a series of workshops this academic year to support ECAs. Our first event on 'Job applications and career pathways' will take place online on 12 June 2023.
3. The ECA SIG continues to host its coffee mornings/evening drinks this term. Over the Summer, the SIG will also organise Virtual Writing sessions due to their previous popularity.

3. Code of Practice

The SIG is planning ways of contacting languages schools and departments in HE and tracking responses to the ECA Code of Practice. The ECA SIG is open to recommendations for this and for incentivising sign-up.

Call for Mentors

The UCML ECA SIG runs a much-welcomed mentoring scheme for early career academics, which pairs up early career researchers and teachers with more established academics.

We currently do not have many mentors from Hispanic or Italian studies, so please do encourage colleagues to get involved.

Updates

UCML Name Change Steering Group

As Project Coordinator, Liam is co-chairing with Emma Cayley a steering group looking into potential name changes for UCML. Following initial consultation with experts across the discipline, we will produce a report for the UCML Executive committee, before the summer plenary 2023.

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 ascott23@qub.ac.uk.

*Liam Lewis and Ashley Harris
25 May 2023*