

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY
FRANCE



Newsletter

May/June 2007

Honorary President: Máire Cross (M.F.Cross@newcastle.ac.uk)

Honorary Vice-Presidents: Dave Hanley, Siân Reynolds

Honorary Secretary: Emmanuel Godin (secretary@asmcf.org)

Registered charity
number 1014382

Website:

www.asmcf.org

ASSOCIATION NEWS

AS you know, in order to ensure all members are fully informed of the Association's activities, we shall periodically publish a Newsletter in email format, transferring entirely from hard copy format as email addresses are submitted. PLEASE COULD MEMBERS STILL RECEIVING THIS MAY/JUNE 2007 ISSUE IN HARD COPY NOW PROVIDE THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS TO FACILITATE THE NEWSLETTER OPERATION?

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**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET DONE SO, PLEASE FORWARD YOUR EMAIL
TO:**

M.E.Allison@bradford.ac.uk (see page 8)

Report from ASM&CF President, Professor Máire Cross

On 11 May I attended the annual AUPHF forum hosted by Queen's University Belfast where the sessions included a panel presentation from colleagues from Irish universities on opportunities for French in research funding available. As in the UK, competition is tough although the amount of funding has increased. Two colleagues, John Gillespie and David Johnston spoke about 'Language strategies and the devolved United Kingdom', a particularly apt topic in the week of the re-launch of NI devolution as David Johnston presented his theory of the role of translation as a key device in social policy. The message from the conseillère culturelle and Director of the French Institut in London, Mme Laurence Auer, was equally encouraging as she sees the Institut playing a key role as facilitator for the promotion of languages in the UK. The Education service of the Institut is proposing to host a day in June in the Maison française for all interested groups working in the school and university sector to pool ideas, resources and actions for the promotion of French. Collaboration of this nature is more than desirable as the recent HEFCE initiatives for the promotion of languages indicate. Four innovative regional consortia have recently been selected to increase the take up of languages in their area by directly encouraging students to continue studying languages in school and then at university. The funding for the three-year consortium projects comes through Routes into Languages, a £4.5 million programme funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), in partnership with the Higher Education Academy (HEA) Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies, with the University Council of Modern Languages, and CILT, the National Centre for Languages. For more details on the regional consortia led by Aston, Brighton, Manchester Metropolitan and Newcastle universities see the web page: (<http://www.llas.ac.uk/news/>). Clearly there are post-Dearing opportunities for us to recruit future generations of students. Lobbying for French will be most effective in the wider campaign for the provision of languages in education from primary school to postgraduate studies.

Modern and Contemporary France

Editorial Vacancies at *Modern and Contemporary France*

North American Editor

The ASMCF Executive has recently decided to appoint a North American Editor to the Editorial Team of *Modern and Contemporary France*. The journal already has a large North-American subscription base and the new post reflects this international profile. We are looking for a colleague who will help us enhance this profile and will be an active member of the Editorial Team.

Enquiries about the post should be directed to the Executive Editor, Dr Jackie Clarke, jrc4@soton.ac.uk

Applications should be made by a brief CV (no more than 4 pages) and letter to The Hon. Secretary of ASMCF, Emmanuel Godin, emmanuel.godin@port.ac.uk

Deadline for applications: 31 July 2007. It is anticipated that an appointment will be made at the ASMCF conference (6-8 September 2007) and that applicants will be informed of the outcome shortly thereafter.

Reviews Editor

In the Autumn we will be looking for a new Reviews Editor. Watch this space for further details.

2007 ASMCF ANNUAL CONFERENCE : 6-8 SEPTEMBER

The University of Reading

Mapping France

No country in Europe boasts a greater geographical diversity than France. The contrast between a strong national identity, underpinned by a centralised state, and an infinite diversity of local situations waiting to be discovered and compared, is one of the delights of studying it.

But the fact that 'Paris is not France' also presents the specialist of France with an obvious problem, more acute here than elsewhere: how can we be sure that what we know about 'France', based in the capital, corresponds to the thoughts and behaviour of Bretons or Alsaciens or Savoyards or Auvergnats? And how persistent, and consistent has the geographical diversity of the country been in an age when globalisation has diminished distance and difference between countries and continents, to say nothing of regions?

This conference will have the ambitious aim of *mapping* France's geographical diversity in a variety of political, historical and cultural areas, in the hope not only of drawing participants into unknown but revealing byways, but also of producing, through a multidisciplinary approach, a sum that is greater than its parts.

Plenary Session (Day 2, Friday 7th September)

The Changing Geography of Political France

Speakers: Hervé Le Bras (INED); Michel Bussi (Université de Rouen); Frédéric Sawicki (Université de Lille)

The AGM will take place on Day 1, Thursday 6th September at 17.30

REQUEST FROM THE CONFERENCE ORGANISERS!!!

Would colleagues requiring accommodation PLEASE register prior to 20th

JUNE, to avoid disappointment, including a deposit of at least £75.

Formal registration deadline is Tuesday 24th July 2007

All enquiries should be addressed to:

Professor Andrew Knapp
French Studies
School of Languages and European Studies
University of Reading
PO Box 218
Whiteknights
Reading
RG6 6AA

telephone +44 (0)118 3788120

fax +44 (0)118 3788122

e-mail : **a.f.knapp@reading.ac.uk**

Those receiving this Newsletter electronically will find the full programme and registration details attached. Otherwise, please consult the ASMCF website at:
www.asmcf.org

ASMCF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

Constructing French Identity / Identities

University of Manchester 5-6 September 2008

Call for Papers

This conference will explore the emergence and expression of multiple, plural and divided French identities, and the ways in which such developments have interacted with enduring concerns to assert a more unified vision of what it means to be French (most notably perhaps, in the modern and contemporary periods, through the concept of republican citizenship). These are issues which lend themselves to historical investigation but which have come to the fore with particular acuity since 1945, as domestic processes of social, political, economic and cultural change have combined with increased involvement with 'the other' through European integration, post-colonial immigration and new forms of globalisation. The conference should therefore appeal to specialists working in the social sciences, literary, cultural, film and media studies, politics and history, as well as to comparatists.

The conference will be organised around 'themed' streams of panels, running in parallel across the two days of the conference. These are intended to build on the Association's interdisciplinary strengths, encouraging colleagues to engage with common issues and topics even though approached through different disciplinary perspectives. However, individual panel sessions within each stream may be organised within a shared disciplinary framework. Suggested themes are:

1. French identity / identities and political representations
2. French identity / identities and cultural representations
3. French identity / identities and processes of Europeanisation
4. French identity / identities in the Francophone world

Within each of these streams, papers should engage with specific debates around notions of ethnicity, class, gender and generation, and how these affect the construction of 'identity'.

We welcome proposals for individual papers or for groups of papers forming a single panel session. The Association is keen to encourage postgraduate participation at its annual conferences (and offers a substantially reduced conference-package rate for its postgraduate members): both paper proposals and proposals for contributions to the postgraduate poster session at the conference are welcomed from doctoral students. The deadline for receipt of paper and panel proposals is **15th December 2007**. The full version of this call for papers will be posted on the ASMCF website (www.asmcf.org/). All enquiries, proposals for panels and paper proposals (with an abstract of 250 words) should be addressed to:

Dr. Jill Lovecy, email: jill.lovecy@manchester.ac.uk / Politics (School of Social Sciences), The University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, or
Dr Barbara Lebrun, email: barbara.lebrun@manchester.ac.uk / French Studies (School of Languages, Linguistics and Culture), The University of Manchester, Manchester, M13 9PL

ASMCF ANNUAL CONFERENCES 2009 and 2010

The Executive committee welcomes bids to host the Annual Conference in 2009 and 2010. For information on how to submit a proposal please consult the Association's Conference Liaison Officer, Jill Lovecy, or the Honorary Secretary, Emmanuel Godin: jill.lovecy@man.ac.uk
secretary@asmcf.org

ASMCF POSTGRADUATE STUDY DAY 2008 IN LONDON

The next ASMCF Postgraduate Study Day will be held at the Institut Français in London on Saturday 16th February 2008. All postgraduates are warmly invited to attend. Confirmed speakers include:

- Dr Nadia Kiwan of Aberdeen University, provisional topic: Transnational artists' networks
- Dr Ruth Cruickshank of Royal Holloway, provisional topic: Representations of Paris in recent French cinema.
- Dr Jackie Clarke of Southampton University, and Editor of the Association's journal **Modern and Contemporary France**, will give a presentation on the Journal and provide advice on getting work published.

In addition we hope to hold a number of practical workshops ranging from starting the PhD process to writing for publication.

Further details will be available soon on the ASMCF website.

If you would like to take part or have an idea for this event, please do get in touch with either Imogen Long, f1l0ijl@leeds.ac.uk or Helena Chadderton, h.chadderton@lancaster.ac.uk.

ASMCF NORTH WEST

Further event for the year 2006-2007

Friday 15 June 2007, 3pm at Chester University

- date and time subject to confirmation

Round Table on *Postcolonialism and Memory* + AGM

For details, please contact Brenda Garvey, b.garvey@chester.ac.uk

The first event of the following year will be held in Autumn 2007 at Liverpool University (subject and speakers to be arranged).

Any ASMCF members in or near the North West who have not already done so are invited to contact Daniel Gordon, gordond@edgehill.ac.uk to join the mailing list.

20 Years of WIF

Call for Papers

10th Biennial Women in French Conference, Hinsley Hall, Leeds, 9-11 May 2008

Conference Theme: Le parcours/Trajectories

Conference organisers : Angela Kimyongür (University of Hull) and Angela Kershaw (Aston University)

This three-day conference aims to bring together female scholars with an interest in cultural history, women's lives, women's histories, women's writing, philosophy, film studies, media studies and gender studies in order to explore the theme of women's trajectories in French and Francophone society. It particularly welcomes contributions from postgraduate students, for whom there will be reduced rates. Short proposals in English or French (c. 500 words) should be submitted to Angela Kimyongür (a.m.kimyongur@hull.ac.uk) and Angela Kershaw (a.m.kershaw@aston.ac.uk) by 1 September 2007. The organisers hope to publish selected papers.

Papers for the conference may be in English or French, however any publication resulting from the conference will be in English.

ASMCF INITIATIVE FUND

The Association's Initiative Fund provides small grants to individuals or institutions to help defray the cost of day schools, seminars etc., and support for postgraduate initiatives and travel (in addition to specific funding for postgraduate attendance at conferences/day schools).

The Association is particularly keen to encourage and support regionally based collaborative initiatives on the part of its members.

The relevant form can be downloaded from the website (rubric 'Funding').

Please send applications to: Honorary Secretary, Emmanuel Godin at:

secretary@asmcf.org

For consideration at the forthcoming Executive Committee meetings, **please submit bids in good time**, preferably not too close to the event in question, **by Thursday 30th August in time for the next Executive Meeting. Applications should be accompanied by relevant supporting documentation such as calls for papers and a programme of events.**

Successful applicants will receive funding following the event and after submission of a report to the Honorary Secretary. Details of these grants will then be posted on the website.

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ASMCF WEBSITE

Ideas are invited for a new design to the homepage of the website, in particular for visual items which represent the remit and scope of the Association.

Visit: www.asmcf.org

Contact the website officer, Scott Soo at: S.Soo@soton.ac.uk

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ASSOCIATION

Please bring these to the attention of those eligible

All three prizes are now set at £250

Brian Darling Memorial Essay Prize

The Brian Darling Memorial Essay Prize was established in memory of Brian Darling, the first Honorary Secretary of the Association.

The prize, **to the value of £250** is awarded for an undergraduate essay or dissertation which may treat a theme relevant to the Association's concerns, in aspects of Modern French history, politics, society and culture, as well as the relationships between France and other countries, including those in the French-speaking world. The work may be written in either French or English and should not normally exceed ten thousand words.

Essays or dissertations must be accompanied by a supporting statement from a members of the Association at a UK or other university. Submissions should be made by **1 July of the year in question** to the Honorary Secretary of the Association:

Emmanuel Godin, Park Building, King Henry Street, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth P01 2DZ, UK.

A three-person sub-committee of the Executive will be invited by the Secretary to consider the submissions and determine the award of the prize. Prize winners will be notified directly and their names announced both on the website and at the Association's Annual general Meeting.

Further enquiries may be made from the Secretary at:

secretary@asmcf.org

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Peter Morris Memorial Postgraduate Prize

In memory of the late Professor Peter Morris, **an award of £250** will be made to a postgraduate student to contribute towards travel costs incurred on a short research visit to France.

The terms and conditions of the Prize are as follows:

- Postgraduates applying for the award should send in an outline of their research project and the aims of their research visit to the Association's Hon. Secretary, Emmanuel Godin at: **secretary@asmcf.org** **This should be done in time for the May Executive Committee meeting.** The Executive Committee will then allocate the award and make known their decision by the end of June. Applications should be submitted in advance of the visit, which may take place at any time in the twelve months following 15 May of any year. A subcommittee convened to adjudicate the prize will look for evidence that the visit has been well planned and that the student has attempted to maximize the benefits to be drawn from the time spent in France.
- Each student shall be required to provide a letter of support from his or her supervisor.· Bids to other funding bodies, either pending or known, should be disclosed. The person to whom the prize has been awarded should provide a brief report on the visit, including details of expenses, no later than three months after return to the UK.

THE DOUGLAS JOHNSON MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Douglas Johnson Memorial Essay Prize was recently established in memory of the late Douglas Johnson, the first Honorary President of the Association.

The prize, **to the value of £250**, is awarded for an undergraduate essay or dissertation which may treat a theme relevant to the Association's concerns, in aspects of Modern French history, politics, society and culture, as well as the relationships between France and other countries, including those in the French-speaking world. The work may be written in either French or English, should be over five thousand words, but not exceed ten thousand words.

Essays or dissertations must be accompanied by a supporting statement from a member of the Association at a UK or other university. Submissions should be made by **1 July of the year in question** to the Honorary Secretary of the Association:

Emmanuel Godin, Park Building, King Henry Street, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth P01 2DZ, UK.

FORTHCOMING ASMCF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND AGM MEETINGS

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 6th September 2007 at the University of Reading prior to the 2007 annual conference. Dates for meetings 2007/8 will be published subsequently.

Items for the Executive Committee and AGM agendas and any Initiative fund bids should be submitted to the Honorary Secretary, Emmanuel Godin, by:

Thursday 30th August 2007:

secretary@asmcf.org

The AGM will be held in the afternoon of 6th September, Day 1 of the conference

PLEASE NOTE: ELECTION TO POSTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT THE SEPTEMBER AGM

Officers (3 year term):

Maggie Allison (Membership Secretary): term ends in September 2007

Emmanuel Godin (Hon. Secretary): term ends in September 2007

Nadia Kiwan (Treasurer): will resign from her position as Secretary at the next AGM.

Helena Chadderton, who has shadowed the ASMCF PG representative, **Imogen Long**, since September 2006 will replace Imogen in that role in September 2007

Ordinary members (2 year term):

Daniel Gordon: term ends in September 2007

Jill Lovecy: term ends in September 2007

Co-opted members:

Scott Soo, co-opted from November 2006 as Webmaster, will see his term extended to September 2009 if ratified by the AGM on 6 September 2007.

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The full membership fee has now increased to £44 / \$79.

The Postgraduate and Unwaged fees remain at £10/ \$18.

MEMBERSHIP EMAIL LIST

A heartfelt thank you to all those who have provided their email addresses.

There are still a few outstanding, so PLEASE SPARE A MOMENT to forward the remaining ones to me so we are able to inform colleagues as rapidly and efficiently as possible of ASMCF and other related events and news.

PLEASE also forward any change to your email and other contact details to:

Maggie Allison,

M.E.Allison@bradford.ac.uk

Thank you in advance.

