

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY
FRANCE



Newsletter

February/March 2008

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

Honorary Vice-Presidents: Dave Hanley, Siân Reynolds

Honorary Secretary: Emmanuel Godin (emmanuel.godin@port.ac.uk)

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 FEB/MARCH 2008 ISSUE IN HARD COPY NOW PROVIDE THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS TO FACILITATE THE NEWSLETTER OPERATION?

In this issue:

- Names and functions of the Executive Committee
- Appointments of Conference Officer and Schools Liaison Officer
- Report on address by Monsieur Michel Monsauret
- Modern and Contemporary France: Reviews Editor appointment
- ASMCF Annual Conferences 2008 and 2009
- PG Day 2008 report; PG Day 2008 report; ASMCF N-W 2008 programme; FMRG 19 APRIL 2008
- Initiative Fund successful bids
- Association Prizes and successful candidates (???)
- Website matters
- Dates of next Executive and AGM meetings
- Membership matters: DIRECT DEBIT form, pp 8-9.

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Honorary President: Máire Cross
Honorary Vice-Presidents: David Hanley and Siân Reynolds
Honorary Secretary: Emmanuel Godin
Treasurer: Steve Wharton
Membership Secretary: Maggie Allison
Chief Editor of Modern and Contemporary France: Jackie Clarke
Post-Graduate Officer: Helena Chadderton
Publicity Officer: Daniel Gordon
Webmaster: Scott Soo
Schools Liaison Officer: Jonathan Ervine
Conference Officer: Chris Reynolds
Ordinary Officers
Imogen Long
Julia Waters
2008 Conference Organisers: Jill Lovecy and Barbara Lebrun

PLEASE NOTE:

**The new Conference officer is Chris Reynolds: chris.reynolds@ntu.ac.uk
It was agreed that ASMCF should appoint a Schools Liaison officer, with an immediate concern to reach out to colleagues in the sixth form college sector in particular. Jonathan Ervine has been appointed to this role: j.ervine@bangor.ac.uk**

The Executive Committee Meeting of 9 February 2008 was pleased to welcome Monsieur Michel Monsauret, Conseiller Culturel Adjoint et Attaché de Coopération de l'Ambassade de France à Londres, who in a brief address expressed his concern at the decline in foreign language learning in both Great Britain and France, likewise anxieties as to the implications and long-term outcomes of the introduction of foreign language learning at primary level. He will be pleased to receive communications from colleagues involved in ventures related to this issue. (michel.monsauret@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

Modern and Contemporary France

Editorial Appointment at *Modern and Contemporary France*

Journal news

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Vivienne Orchard (University of Southampton) as Reviews Editor of Modern and Contemporary France. Vivienne will be working closely with the rest of the Editorial Team in Southampton, ably supported by our Editorial Assistant, Christine Guilfoyle.

Colleagues are reminded that we are always on the lookout for potential reviewers. If you would like to be added to the database of reviewers, please contact Christine on m_c_france@yahoo.co.uk with your contact information and a list of your areas of expertise. Reviews Editor.

POSTGRADUATE STUDY DAY REPORT

The third ASMCF postgraduate study day took place on Saturday February 16th at the Institut Français in London. The day was attended by 32 participants, of which 9 speakers. Maggie Allison as Membership Secretary began proceedings by briefly introducing the association and enumerating the aims and benefits of becoming a member. The morning session was devoted to practical issues charting the different stages of the PhD journey from start to finish. Ruth Kitchen of Leeds University gave a lively and informative session on 'Starting a PhD' with an excellent summary of the literature surrounding the topic twinned with personal insights and philosophical musings. Mark Sawchuk of the University of Berkeley followed, with a highly personal and amusing account of how to negotiate the French public archives, packed with vital information. Jackie Clarke, the executive editor of MCF then advised on the issue of publishing, covering general points involved in approaching peer-reviewed journals and encouraging copy for MCF! Recently appointed as a lecturer at the University of Lancaster, Charlotte Baker rounded the morning session off with a useful account of the transition period from PhD to first academic job. The afternoon session was dedicated to more traditional academic papers with keynote speakers Nadia Kiwan of the University of Aberdeen and Ruth Cruickshank of Royal Holloway addressing the pertinent and contemporary topic of Paris and cultural representation. Excellently chaired by Owen Heathcote, Nadia concentrated on the city's relationship with transnational artists' networks and Ruth on representation of the city through recent film. After coffee, the final session saw Matthew Moran of UCL speak on the *police de proximité* and Delphine Grass, also of UCL, give an examination of Charles Fourier and Michel Houellebecq's representations of sexuality. The day concluded just after 4pm and conversations continued and contacts were made over drinks and crêpes in the Kensington Crêperie.

This event proved useful and enjoyable for all, with participants expressing their gratitude for a day which combines 'mini-conference' sessions with practical advice. Many thanks to speakers and participants for engaging so enthusiastically and to all those who made the day possible.

Helena Chadderton, 19th February 2008
h.chadderton@lancaster.ac.uk

ASMCF Annual Conference 2008
Constructing French Identity / Identities
University of Manchester 5-6 September 2008

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 globalization. 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

Confirmed keynote speaker: Sami Nair (Université Paris VIII; Institut d'Etudes et de Recherches Europe-Méditerranée –IEREM).

THE PROGRAMME AND REGISTRATION DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY AND BE THE SUBJECT OF A FUTURE MAILING.

For further details, please consult:

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 2009 Annual Conference will be hosted by the University of Portsmouth, with the theme:

The Executive committee welcomes bids to host the Annual Conference in 2010 and 2011. For information on how to submit a proposal please consult the Honorary Secretary, Emmanuel Godin:

secretary@asmcf.org

or:

CONFERENCE OFFICER: chris.reynolds@ntu.ac.uk

ASMCF NORTH WEST

**Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France North West
Regional Group
Programme Spring/Summer 2008**

16-18 April at Manchester University

Visit by Rony Brauman (Founder, Médecins sans frontières) including
Wednesday 16 April 2-5pm: Informal round table with academics and NGOs on
Humanitarianism, past and present

Thursday 17 April am: Workshop with anthropologists and historians on
Population displacement

Thursday 17 April: lunch with postgraduate students

Thursday 17 April 5-6.30pm: university lecture

Thursday 17 April 7-8.30 pm: discussion at Café Muse

For further details, please contact Bertrand Taithe,
bertrand.taithe@manchester.ac.uk

Friday 2 May, 3.00 pm at Chester University

Significant Moments of the Fifth Republic

Round table to mark its fiftieth birthday with

**Jill Lovecy (Manchester University), Kate Marsh (Liverpool University),
Daniel Gordon (Edge Hill University) and Jonathan Ervine (Bangor University)**

+ AGM

Venue: Binks Building, 112 (first floor)

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

2-4 July at Liverpool University

**Conference on Loss, Nostalgia and *la fracture coloniale*: contextualising
*l'Inde perdue***

Supported by the ASMCF Initiative Fund

For further details and registration, please contact Kate Marsh,
clmarsh@liverpool.ac.uk

For general details regarding the North West Group, please contact:

gordond@edgehill.ac.uk

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FMRG: French Media Research Group

The next day conference of the group will take place in Newcastle on
Saturday 19 April: The theme is: **Media and Sport**.

For further details, please contact:

Hugh Dauncey: H.D.Dauncey@newcastle.ac.uk

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 9th May in time for the next Executive Meeting on Saturday 17th May. 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.

RECENT SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS:

Kate Marsh; University of Liverpool; £200 for 'Loss, nostalgia and *la fracture coloniale*. Contextualising *l'Inde perdue*. 2-4 July 2008

Raymond Kuhn and Rainbow Murray; QMUL; £210 for *Women in French Politics*. Friday 20 June 2008.

Natalya Vince; University of Portsmouth; £200 for *Beyond the France/Algeria binarism?* 2 April 2008.

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PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ASSOCIATION

Please bring these to the attention of those eligible

All three prizes are now set at £250

RECENT AWARDS

The 2007 Douglas Johnson Prize was awarded to Karen Saunders (Cardiff) for her dissertation on the following subject: How does Samuel Beckett use the concept of self-fragmentation within the operations of memory in his plays and to what effect?

The 2007 Brian Darling Prize was awarded to Claire Earl (Newcastle) for the following essay: 'How does feminism influence our understanding of French Politics between the wars?'

The 2007 Peter Morris Prize was awarded to Emelyne Cheney (LSE) for a research trip to Paris to investigate the impact of European integration on the politics of minority nationalism in France. The prize allowed her to complete some archival work and a series of interviews with key actors on this subject.

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

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@amscf.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.

ASMCF WEBSITE

A number of changes have recently been incorporated into the website, but ideas always welcome to enable it to be as efficient and welcoming as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact Scott Soo with your suggestions and materials.

Visit: www.asmcf.org

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

FORTHCOMING ASMCF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND AGM MEETINGS

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 17th May 2008.

The following Executive Committee Meeting and AGM will take place during the Annual Conference in Manchester, 5-6 September 2008.

Items for the next Executive Committee agenda and any Initiative fund bids should be submitted to the Honorary Secretary, Emmanuel Godin, by Thursday 8 May 2008 at:

secretary@asmcf.org

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The full membership fee is now £44 / \$79.

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

A DIRECT DEBIT FORM IS ATTACHED TO THIS MAILING

It would help immensely if members would subscribe via direct debit.

MEMBERSHIP EMAIL LIST

Thank you again 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.

