

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF  
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY  
FRANCE



# Newsletter

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July/August 2010

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

Honorary Vice-Presidents: Dave Hanley, Siân Reynolds

Honorary Secretary: Steve Wharton: S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk

Website:

[www.asmcf.org](http://www.asmcf.org)

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## ASSOCIATION NEWS

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**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET DONE SO,  
KINDLY FORWARD YOUR EMAIL TO:  
[Imogen.Long@ul.ie](mailto:Imogen.Long@ul.ie)**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009/2010**

Hon Vice Presidents: David Hanley; Siân Reynolds  
Hon Secretary: Steve Wharton  
Executive Committee, 2009/2010  
(Term of office expires at the AGM of the year given)  
President: Máire Cross, Newcastle 2011  
Vice-Presidents  
David Hanley, Portsmouth; Siân Reynolds, Stirling  
Secretary: Steve Wharton, Bath 2011  
Treasurer: Jonathan Ervine, Bangor 2011  
Membership Secretary: Imogen Long, Limerick 2012  
Editorial Board Representative: Jackie Clarke, Editor, M&CF, Southampton  
PG Representative: Lindsey Dodd, Reading 2010  
Ordinary members  
Maggie Allison (Conference Officer), Bradford 2011  
Helena Chadderton, Lancaster 2010  
Matthew Moran, KCL 2011  
Scott Soo (Web Officer), Southampton 2011  
Natalya Vince, Portsmouth 2010  
Co-opted members  
Emmanuel Godin (2009 Conference, Portsmouth) 2010  
Chris Reynolds (2010 Conference, Nottingham Trent) 2011

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### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSTS: ELECTIONS**

**Two committee posts will become vacant at the AGM on 10 September 2010, and the new Post Graduate Representative, Ellie Sutcliffe (University of Bangor), will be co-opted. Nomination forms should be returned to the Secretary not later than the start of the AGM. A nomination form document is attached to this Newsletter.  
Secretary: Dr Steve Wharton; S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk**

### **ASMCF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010**

***La France et la Crise: bilans, ruptures, antécédents***  
**Modern and Contemporary France annual conference, Nottingham Trent,**  
**9-11 September 2010**  
**Please see attached documents for registration and programme.**

### **ASMCF ANNUAL CONFERENCES 2011, 2012 and 2013**

**The ASMCF Annual Conference 2011 will take place at the University of Stirling**

**The Executive committee welcomes bids to host the Annual Conference in 2012 and 2013.** For information on how to submit a proposal please consult the:

**Honorary Secretary, Steve Wharton at: [S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk](mailto:S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk)**

or:

**Conference Officer: Maggie Allison at: [M.E.Allison@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:M.E.Allison@bradford.ac.uk)**

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## **POSTGRADUATE STUDY DAY**

### **Report on the 2010 ASMCF Postgraduate Study Day at Reading University 13 March 2010**

The sunny terraces and comfy lounge of Old Whiteknights House, home of the Graduate School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Reading, were the setting for the 2010 ASMCF Postgraduate Study Day. Delegates and speakers were welcomed with good coffee and excellent biscuits, getting the day off to a flying start.

The day began with a short introduction by Dr Steve Wharton, Honorary Secretary of the ASMCF. Dr Joan Tumblety, co-editor of *Modern & Contemporary France*, then gave some valuable practical advice concerning the world of academic publishing for postgraduates, looking not only at journal publishing, but other forms accessible to students. Having recently submitted his thesis, Matthew Moran, last year's ASMCF Postgraduate Officer, was able to give extremely encouraging talk about the vicissitudes – and eventual success – of completing a thesis. His watchwords were 'contact, discipline, perspective'. Dr Sophie Heywood, recently appointed lecturer in French at the University of Reading, was then able to move the discussion to the next stage. She spoke of the many ways of preparing self and CV to be in the best position to succeed in interview. Following more coffee and biscuits, two postgraduates, Ellie Sutcliffe from Bangor University and Chloe Jeffries from Merton College, Oxford, gave two interesting and useful talks, the first on using the Bibliothèque nationale, and the second on using French archives. Archives and libraries are idiosyncratic and potentially baffling places, thus having some insider advice before visiting was reassuring.

Following an excellent and copious lunch, five postgraduates from the UK and Ireland gave research papers on their studies. For some it was the first time they had spoken outside of their home institutions; we hope we were a supporting audience! Michelle Harrison from the University of Liverpool gave an excellent paper on Alsatian, German and French language teaching at primary level in Alsace; the journey then continued with a paper from Sheila Walsh from NUI Galway looking at Saint-Simonian Thomas Ismayl Urbain's experiences in Egypt; encounters with the 'other' were equally prevalent in Victoria Harrison's (University of Birmingham) paper on girls' perceptions of German soldiers in Occupied France. Following questions and more chat over tea and coffee (and the return of the profiteroles), the final session consisted of two literary papers. Jonathan Lewis from the University of Exeter spoke about ideas of *visibilisation* and *invisibilisation* in contemporary Francophone literature by authors of Algerian origin, and Sara Leek (QMUL) turned our attention towards the use of language in the experimental forms of Linda Lê's texts, dealing with madness and exile.

The Study Day provided a wonderful opportunity for postgraduates at different stages of the PhD process to come together, listen, talk and participate, to share their experiences, make new friends or useful contacts. The atmosphere – as ever – was friendly and welcoming, and drinks and dinner at a local pizzeria topped off an super day.

I would like to thank everyone for coming, all the speakers for their hard work, my two marvellous helpers for setting up and clearing away the food with me, and the Graduate School of Arts and Humanities, Mrs Helen Apted in particular, for providing us with such a wonderful venue. Together with all the other postgraduates, I would also like to thank the ASMCF for continuing to support the activities of postgraduates in French studies, enabling those of us from smaller departments to meet and build networks of friends and colleagues across the country.

*Lindsey Dodd*  
ASMCF Postgraduate Officer  
[l.a.dodd@reading.ac.uk](mailto:l.a.dodd@reading.ac.uk)

**FMRG 19 8 MAY 2010**

FRENCH MEDIA RESEARCH GROUP  
Conference 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010, University of Nottingham  
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE IN THE FRENCH MEDIA

The conference, which took place in the Trent Building of the University of Nottingham, was attended by 16 delegates, 6 of whom gave papers.

The morning session, including the presentation of the invited speaker from France, Jamil Dakhli, focussed on **The Personal and the Political: Breaking the boundaries of public/private**. Helen Bilger-Street concentrated on legal aspects and case law in a number of case studies, followed by Jamil Dakhli who gave a detailed expose of the implications of 'peopolisation' in a wide range of the popular glossy press. Raymond Kuhn's presentation synthesised the issues, addressing media, socio-cultural and political changes in France in the context of public/private.

The afternoon's papers investigated **Breaking The Silence: From Private Experience To Public Expression**. Here Jane Chapman's paper traced how the expression of workers in French India from 1935-7 via their own press gained a wider public ; Bruno Levasseur followed with the case of a small scale banlieue publication, *Afrika*, whose local remit nonetheless enabled broader understanding of the population concerned; finally, Jonathan Irvine analysed a self-parodying comedy series from an Islamic website, illustrating the crossing of the threshold from private humour to a more public audience.

The day conference was greatly appreciated, and a closing discussion session looked at the possibilities for further such meetings, we assume on an annual basis.

We are most grateful to ASMCF for their generous funding which enabled support of the visiting speaker.

We thank also the Department of French Studies at Nottingham University for use of two rooms and their kind waiving of fees for technological support.

Maggie Allison  
Sheila Perry

15 May 2010

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### 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 ASMCF website (rubric 'Funding').

Please send applications to: Honorary Secretary, Steve Wharton at: S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk

For consideration at the forthcoming Executive Committee meetings, **please submit bids in good time**, preferably not too close to the event in question. The forthcoming deadline is:

- **03 September 2010.**

**Applications should be accompanied by relevant supporting documentation such as a call for papers and, where possible, an outline programme. 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 and reported in the Newsletter.**

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ASSOCIATION

**Although the prizes for 2010 are currently under consideration, please bring these opportunities 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:

**Dr Steve Wharton, Department of European Studies and Modern Languages, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY.**

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: **S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk**

**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, Steve Wharton at: **S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk**. **This should be done by 15 May 2009**. 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 three months after return to the UK.

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**THE DOUGLAS JOHNSON MEMORIAL PRIZE**

**The Douglas Johnson Memorial Essay Prize** was 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:

**Dr Steve Wharton, Department of European Studies and Modern Languages, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY.**

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### **ASMCF WEBSITE**

The new website was launched during the 2009 annual conference at the University of Portsmouth as part of the Association's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. As always, please contact Scott Soo with any suggestions for the website.

Visit the website on: [www.asmcf.org](http://www.asmcf.org)

Contact the website officer, Scott Soo at: [S.Soo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:S.Soo@soton.ac.uk)

### **FORTHCOMING ASMCF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**The next Executive Committee meeting will be held at 18.00 on Friday September 10 at Nottingham Trent University during the 2010 Annual Conference.**

**Items for the next Executive Committee agenda and any Initiative fund bids should be submitted to the Honorary Secretary, Dr Steve Wharton at:**

**[S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk](mailto:S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk)**

**by FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2010.**

### **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

#### **Membership fees**

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

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

Please see the website for full details at: **[www.asmcf.org](http://www.asmcf.org)**

**PLEASE forward any changes to your email and other contact details to:  
IMOGEN LONG, Membership Secretary, at: [Imogen.Long@ul.ie](mailto:Imogen.Long@ul.ie)**

