

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF  
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY  
FRANCE



# Newsletter

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December 2009

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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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- Membership Secretary: Imogen Long
- Newsletter Editor: Natalya Vince (Currently on leave, so please contact Maggie Allison with items for March issue)

**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 Irvine, 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

### **ASMCF response to HEFCE re the REF**

The Association was invited to contribute to the HEFCE discussions on the REF. Its final response, agreed by the Executive after full discussion at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009, may be read at:

<http://people.bath.ac.uk/mlssw/ASMCFresponsetoREFconsultation15Dec09.pdf>

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### **MCF Journal News**

#### **Editorial Board Appointments**

The two appointments made were:

Professor Gabrielle Parker: University of Middlesex (3 years)  
Dr Nadia Kiwan: University of Aberdeen (2 years)

#### **Journal: MCF 17.4 on Sarkozy Presidency**

Many of you will already have noted that the most recent issue of Modern and Contemporary France is a special issue on The Sarkozy Presidency. This is the first collection of articles to offer a mid-term 'bilan' of the presidency and it will be of interest for both research and teaching purposes. Guest edited by Philippe Marlière and Joseph Szarka, it contains articles on ideology, political strategy, economics, media and European policy.

All enquiries regarding the Journal should be addressed to the Executive Editor, Dr Jackie Clarke, **J.R.Clarke@soton.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**

#### **New deadline for proposals: 1 February 2010**

The current economic crisis surely constitutes a major turning point for France, Europe and the broader world. Since around 1983 – the time of the Socialist government’s famous shift to the right – the march of liberal globalisation has seemed unquestioned and inevitable, decisively shifting the balance of power between capital and nation-states on the one hand, between management and labour on the other. The crisis has thrown that apparently inevitable process into doubt, questioning our assumptions and inviting us to an urgent mapping of the present and a rethinking of our understanding of an immediate and longer-term past and possible futures. The conference will be organised around four major themes. We list these below with suggested panels for each theme. The suggestions are not meant to imply that alternative ideas for panels or individual papers are not also warmly welcomed.

#### **1. Mapping the crisis**

We would welcome proposals in the following areas:

- Narratives of crisis (frameworks, actors, causes, solutions, periodisations)
- The impact of the crisis on ‘mainstream’ politics
- The crisis as moral crisis
- Policy responses to the crisis
- The crisis and the margins
- The geography of crisis
- The crisis and the world of work
- The crisis in mainstream and alternative media

#### **2. Reactions to the crisis**

We would welcome proposals in the following areas:

- Political alternatives (Greens, anti-capitalists, counter-globalists)
- Protest movements and protest repertoires
- Social movement reactions
- Gendered reactions/implications
- Cultural responses (film, novel, theatre, song, bande dessinée etc.)
- Intellectual reactions and interventions

#### **3. The international perspective**

We would welcome proposals in the following areas:

- The crisis and development from a French perspective
- The crisis and French Exceptionalism
- France, Europe and the crisis
- The French role in broader international responses to the crisis

#### **4. Histories, bilans**

We would welcome proposals in the following areas:

- The ‘bilan’ of the neo-liberal years: patterns, changes, resistances
- The crisis and the legacy of 1968
- The crisis and the 1930s
- The crisis of the 1970s

In line with the ASMCF's interdisciplinary approach, this three day conference will welcome papers from a wide variety of disciplines including international relations, history, geography, politics, economics, sociology and religious, gender, literary, cultural, film and media studies. We welcome both proposals for individual papers (300 words max.) and for panels, which should consist of three presenters and a named chairperson. **Papers may be delivered in English or French.** The total time for one paper is 20 minutes both for presentations in panels as well as for individual presentations. Postgraduates students are strongly encouraged to present papers.

Postgraduate Poster Session: Postgraduates in the early stage of their research are invited to present their work at the conference Poster Session. The Poster Session aims to enable postgraduate students to participate in the conference programme, receive feedback from specialists in an informal and friendly setting and to prepare them for presenting papers at future conferences. If you require further information about presenting a poster at the ASMCF annual conference, please contact the ASMCF postgraduate representative, Lindsey Dodd ([l.a.dodd@reading.ac.uk](mailto:l.a.dodd@reading.ac.uk)).

Proposals for papers and panels (with contact details) should be sent to Martin O'Shaughnessy ([martin.oshaughnessy@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:martin.oshaughnessy@ntu.ac.uk)) or Chris Reynolds ([chris.reynolds@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:chris.reynolds@ntu.ac.uk)) by 1 February 2010.

## **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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### **ASMCF NORTH WEST GROUP**

**Please note the following event:**

Anthony Grant (Edge Hill University), seminar on French creole in the West Indies, organised by Brenda Garvey at Chester University, Wednesday 24 February 2010

For further information, please contact Daniel Gordon at:

[Gordon.d@edghill.ac.uk](mailto:Gordon.d@edghill.ac.uk)

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### **FRENCH MEDIA RESEARCH GROUP: CFP**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**NEW DEADLINE 1 FEBRUARY 2010**

**FMRG 19 : The next meeting of the French Media Research Group will take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at the University of Nottingham.**

**The theme will be Public / Private in the French Media**

**Public / Private in the French Media : Call for Papers**

*Version française en pièce jointe (en bas du document)*

Contributions are invited for the above one-day conference, organised under the auspices of the French Media Research Group (affiliated to the ASMCF), to be held at the **University of Nottingham on Saturday 8 May 2010**.

The purpose of this conference is to explore the public and the private both in terms of organisational structures and media outputs / content. Papers may be in French or English.

The following list is indicative and not meant to be exhaustive:

Public/private sectors in broadcasting  
The future of PSB / tabloidisation  
The changing boundaries of public/private space  
Formats / genres / outlets which make private lives public  
Private lives in political communication / *la peopolisation*  
Celebrities and their personal lives  
Gendering of public and private spaces  
The *fait divers*  
'Hard' vs 'soft' news  
Taboo subjects / breaking of taboos

Please submit proposals with an abstract (max.300 words) to the conference organisers:

Dr Sheila Perry, University of Nottingham: [sheila.perry@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:sheila.perry@nottingham.ac.uk)

Ms Maggie Allison, University of Bradford: [m.e.allison@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:m.e.allison@bradford.ac.uk)

Deadline for proposals: Monday 1 February 2010.

Contributions from Postgraduate students are welcome, and financial support for attendance by PGs giving papers may be provided (within the UK and within the limits of available funding).

**Version en français disponible en pièce jointe à ce bulletin d'information**

## **POSTGRADUATE STUDY DAY**

**Saturday 13 March 2010, 11.30 – 17.30**

**Old Whiteknights House, University of Reading**

All postgraduates in French and Francophone studies are warmly invited to the annual Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France (<http://www.asmcf.org/>) postgraduate study day.

The event is always valuable for postgraduates, and is also a genuinely enjoyable social occasion, with a good lunch and the opportunity to meet other postgraduates from across the country.

The morning will consist of informative presentations from postgraduates and established academics on a variety of topics from using the Bibliothèque nationale and French archives, to getting published, to bagging your first job; during the afternoon, six postgraduates will present papers on their own research.

The day is equally useful for postgraduates nearing the end of their studies, those somewhere in the middle, and those just embarking upon – or even considering doing – a PhD in French or Francophone studies. It is

- FREE for ASMCF postgraduate members
- £10 for non-members [but join the ASMCF for £10 and get the study day FREE as well as the other benefits of ASMCF postgraduate membership...]

Join the ASMCF here: <http://www.asmcf.org/membership/>

The day will be followed by drinks in a local pub, and dinner for those who wish to stay. **Contact Lindsey Dodd to register**, or for any other information about the Study Day: [l.a.dodd@reading.ac.uk](mailto:l.a.dodd@reading.ac.uk). Reading is only 25 minutes from London Paddington by train, and has excellent rail and bus connections across the country.

***Venez nombreux!***

Hoping to see you in March,  
Lindsey, ASMCF Postgraduate Officer

## **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, 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 deadlines are:

- **26 February 2010; 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.**

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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*

#### **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.**

### **Divers**

#### **New MA Course**

**The University of Portsmouth is launching a new MA Francophone Africa**, starting September 2010. Colleagues may wish to bring this to the attention of any students who have a specialist interest in French-speaking Africa and who may be interested in pursuing this interest at postgraduate level. Details of the course are available at:

<http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/coursetypes/postgraduate/MAFrancophoneAfrica/>

## **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 in London on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY.**

## **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, the new membership Secretary at: [Imogen.Long@ul.ie](mailto:Imogen.Long@ul.ie)**

**NEWSLETTER: NATALYA VINCE, the new Newsletter editor is currently on leave, so  
in the interim, please forward any Newsletter information to:**

**[M.E.Allison@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:M.E.Allison@bradford.ac.uk)**



**Many thanks.**