



**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY
FRANCE**

Registered charity number 1014382

Website: www.asmcf.org

**NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2012**

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2012/13

Hon Vice Presidents: David Hanley; Sïan Reynolds
President: Maire Cross (University of Newcastle)
Secretary: Steve Wharton (University of Bath)
Treasurer: Jonathan Ervine (University of Bangor)
Membership secretary: Fiona Barclay (University of Stirling)
Editorial Board representative: Gill Allwood (University of Loughborough)
PG representative: Laura Kottos

Ordinary members

Helena Chadderton (University of Hull)
Scott Soo (Web officer) (University of Southampton)
Jan Windebank (Newsletter editor) (University of Sheffield)

Co-opted members

Joanne Warson (Postgraduate Representative 2010-11; University of Portsmouth)
Christina Johnson (2011 conference, University of Stirling).

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Professor Maire Cross, University of Newcastle

Dear Members

The forthcoming French presidential elections are giving us new opportunities and fresh material on our study of modern and contemporary France but the past is always with us. The committee would like to encourage members to spread the word about the theme of the 2012 annual conference to be held in Bath so that we can have as large an attendance as possible and a wide variety of conference papers relating to the theme of republican values.

After the successful day for postgraduate students at the University of Sheffield on Saturday March 3rd when a record number of delegates attended and we shared the organisation and costs with the Society for French History we would ask you to encourage your postgraduate students to attend the annual conference in Bath and present papers. We are delighted to report that the journal is flourishing under the new management of colleagues in Nottingham Trent University.

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MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY FRANCE

Editorial Board appointments / re-appointments

At its meeting on 19th November 2011, the Executive Committee appointed / re-appointed the following colleagues to the Editorial Board of *Modern and Contemporary France*: Tony Chafer; Sue Collard; Daniel Gordon; Simon Kemp; and Barbara Lebrun.

The Editors would like to alert members to the availability of Virtual Special Issues on *May/June 1968*, *Cinema*, and *Women in France*. Taylor and Francis are offering some of the articles free of charge to all readers; others can often be accessed through library subscriptions. All are ideal for student reading lists. The links are:

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/explore/cmcf-vsi-women-in-france.pdf>

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/explore/cmcf-vsi-contemporary-french-cinema.pdf>

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/explore/cmcf-vsi-may-june-1968.pdf>

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE: *LES VALEURS REPUBLICAINES* / *REPUBLICAN VALUES*, UNIVERSITY OF BATH, 6TH – 8TH SEPTEMBER 2012

The annual conference will take place this year at the University of Bath on the theme of ‘Republican Values’.

The organisers invite papers from any discipline (for example, social policy, political thought, history, post-colonial studies, media, culture and gender studies) on any or all interpretations of the term ‘Les valeurs républicaines / Republican values’. Questions to be addressed might include:

- What are these values, how have they changed and to what effect?

- Whom do they address, and why?
- What is a citizen?
- How are republican values disseminated, and to which audiences?
- Are French republican values *unique au monde*?

Deadline for receipt of proposals (250 words): Friday 30th March 2012 to Dr Steve Wharton, Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies, The University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY, or by email: S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk.

For full details of the CFP, please see:

<http://www.asmcf.org/docs/CFP-conference-2012.pdf>

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POSTGRADUATE NEWS

Report on the 2012 ASMCF Postgraduate Day

The 2012 annual Postgraduate Study Day of the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France (ASMCF) took place Saturday 3 March at the University of Sheffield. For the first time, the event was co-organised with two other associations of French studies and their postgraduate representatives: the Society for the Study of French History (Linda Briggs - University of Warwick, Andrew Smith - Queen Mary University London and Joanna Warson - University of Portsmouth) and the Association des Etudes Françaises et Francophones d'Irlande (Olivier O'Hanlon, Cork University College). This collaboration brought together 40 delegates who investigated the theme of the day: *Futures*.

The day began with a warm welcome from the ASMCF honorary president, Prof. Máire Cross and was followed by a professional session which gave postgraduate students the opportunity to discuss some complex issues of the academic world. Dr. Jack Rhoden (University of Sheffield) gave an entertaining presentation on how to survive the viva comparing Ph.D. students to *star wars* heroes, while Dr. Robert Priest (University of Cambridge) focused on the postgraduates' future careers and suggested useful ways to get postdoctoral funding and jobs in

academia. Dr. Penny Roberts (University of Warwick) shared her experience as co-editor of the French History Journal and gave valuable tips to help Ph.D. students get published.

After a short break two parallel sessions were dedicated to academic research. In a panel on medieval and early modern France, Prof. Mark Greengrass (University of Sheffield and Warwick) explained how to use early modern archives, while Matt Jackson (University of Warwick) and Phil McCluskey (University of Manchester) gave the delegates examples of successful research. During the panel on modern and contemporary France Ian Mossman (Cardiff University) presented the French National Library to future visitors. Dr. Lindsey Dodd (University of Huddersfield) explained how oral history can enrich academic research with some incredible interviews of World War II eye-witnesses, and Dr. Brian Sudlow (Aston University) described how delving into the archives can be a contact sport!

Further discussions and networking took place around a generous lunch of sandwiches, quiche and porkpies. In the afternoon, ten postgraduate students presented their research. In the first session on French history, Nathalie Hawkes (University of Newcastle) and Annissa Bennaïli (University of Limerick) took us back to the world of King Louis XIV respectively with papers on the king's doctors and the representation of the king as a child. Leaping forward to modern France, Sarah Wood (University of Manchester) gave an interesting introduction to the Galmot Affair which shook French Guyana in the interwar period, and David Lees (University of Warwick) presented an imaginary reality of Vichy France using some stunning audiovisual sources.

The second session was on French culture and the delegates heard some very interesting papers on the authors Philippe Toussaint and Michel Houellebecq (Will Crichton, University College London) as well as on Casimir Delavigne (Marion Joassin, University of Limerick). In another field, Olivier O'Hanlon (University College Cork) showed us visions of the future in the 1920s cartoons of the journal *l'Echo de Paris*.

Finally, the last session of this intensive day was devoted to contemporary issues. Abigail Taylor (University of Sheffield) gave a paper comparing child poverty in Lille and Sheffield. Martin Verbeke and Angus MacDonald (University of Stirling)

analysed popular French culture respectively through a study of rap music and horror films.

The whole event took place in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Postgraduate students of various disciplines but with a common interest in French studies were given the opportunity to exchange their ideas, experiences and contacts. The sessions offered a unique occasion for postgraduate students to discuss their research topics and careers fellows postgraduates and receptive senior academics.

Many thanks to the ASMCF, but also the Society for the Study of French History and the Association des Etudes Françaises et Francophones d'Irlande, for supporting such a useful and rewarding event, and to everyone who came and particularly all the speakers who worked hard to make the 2012 postgraduate day such a successful and enjoyable moment. Finally, heartfelt thanks also go to the University of Sheffield, and notably Jack Rhoden, for hosting what hopefully will be the first of a series of events of this kind which bring together French organisations across the UK and Ireland. Given that *Futures* was the theme of the conference, it is also hoped that in a few years time, the seeds planted in this first collaboration between postgraduate representatives will bear fruit in new bonds with sibling organisations across Europe.

Kottos Laura, ASMCF Postgraduate Officer, l.m.l.kottos@pgr.reading.ac.uk

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ASMCF NORTHWEST FORTHCOMING EVENTS SPRING 2012

- Friday 4 May, 6 pm at Alliance Française de Manchester

Analysis of the 2012 Presidential 'débat de l'entre-deux tours'

Amandine Scherrer (Open University) is managing editor of the journal *Cultures et Conflits*

Venue: 55 Portland Street, Manchester M1 (third floor)

Free, open to all: for further details, please contact Barbara Lebrun:

Barbara.Lebrun@manchester.ac.uk

In association with Alliance Française de Manchester

- Sunday 6 May at Alliance Française de Manchester

Presidential Election Results Live on France 2

Venue: 55 Portland Street, Manchester M1 (third floor)

Free, open to all: time to be confirmed (from c. 6.30pm?). Please bring your own refreshments. For further details please contact Barbara Lebrun, Barbara.Lebrun@manchester.ac.uk

In association with Alliance Française de Manchester

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WOMEN IN FRENCH

The biennial conference of ‘Women in French’ will be held at Hinsley Hall, Leeds on 10-12 May 2013 on the theme: *Solitaires, Solidaires* for the first time in partnership with ‘Women in French in Scotland’.

Please see the full Call for Papers circulated with this Newsletter for further details.

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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: Friday 25th August 2012

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

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 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.

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 2011. 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.

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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FORTHCOMING ASMCF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday morning, 6th September, 2012, just prior to the ASMCF annual conference taking place at Bath University. Items for the next Executive Committee agenda and any Initiative fund bids should be submitted by FRIDAY 25 AUGUST to the Honorary Secretary, Dr Steve Wharton at: S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

To see the full benefits of Membership, including access to the MCF Quarterly Periodicals Index, please access the Members' Area on the Association's website at: www.asmcf.org.

PLEASE forward any changes to your email and other contact details to:

Fiona Barclay, Membership Secretary (fiona.barclay@stirling.ac.uk), and cc to Jan Windebank, Newsletter Editor (j.windebank@sheffield.ac.uk)

