

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF  
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY  
FRANCE



# Newsletter

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July 2014

Registered charity  
number 1014382

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Honorary President: Jan Windebank (j.windebank@sheffield.ac.uk)  
Honorary Vice-Presidents: Dave Hanley, Siân Reynolds, Maïre Cross  
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Website: [www.asmcf.org](http://www.asmcf.org)

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## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013/2014

**Hon Vice Presidents:** David Hanley; Siân Reynolds, Maïre Cross  
**Hon Secretary:** Steve Wharton

#### Officers

**President:** Jan Windebank (Sheffield)

**Vice-Presidents:** David Hanley (Portsmouth); Siân Reynolds (Stirling),  
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**Membership Secretary:** Fiona Barclay (Stirling)

**Publicity Officer:** Wendy Michallat (Sheffield)

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M&CF; Nottingham Trent)

**PG Representative:** Abigail Taylor (Sheffield)

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Nicole Fayard - Conference Liaison Officer (Leicester)

David Lees (Web Officer) (Warwick)

#### Co-opted member

Marion Demossier (Conference organiser 2014) (Southampton)

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

With the current undergraduate session having just drawn to a close, I hope that members will enjoy a few moments reading about the exciting ASMCF news and activities that have taken place since the publication of our last newsletter and those that are due to take place in the coming months.



Our Postgraduate conference, organised jointly with the French History Association and held at the University of Newcastle on 1<sup>st</sup> March provided a day of lively and thought-provoking discussions – congratulations to the organisers for having put on such a professional event (for a full report see ‘Postgraduate Activities’ below).

We are looking forward to the annual conference in Southampton on 9-11<sup>th</sup> September. The theme of the conference is ‘Language, Culture and Power’ and has attracted over 60 speakers from a range of countries. Registration is now open [http://www.southampton.ac.uk/ml/news/events/2014/09/09\\_cf\\_2014\\_annual\\_conference.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/ml/news/events/2014/09/09_cf_2014_annual_conference.page) and I would not only encourage you to attend but also to pass the word on to colleagues who may not be ASMCF members but would be interested in this year’s all-encompassing theme.

Building on outreach work begun at the Stirling conference, we are launching a strategy to develop more links between the Association and sixth form teachers and students. In the early days of the Association, our focus on French society, history, culture and politics went hand in hand with the then new developments in the A-level syllabus with teachers and academics working on a common project to expand the scope of language studies beyond the traditional ‘lang-lit’ model. Consequently, the Association’s activities attracted the interest of A-level teachers some of whom have been amongst the most loyal supporters of our conferences over the years. Our aim is to reinvigorate this connection within the context of the challenges that we all face in terms of encouraging young people to pursue language studies. At the Southampton conference we will be running a sixth-form study workshop on the popular A-level themes of immigration and integration and of the Occupation and hosting teacher-focused discussions. Southampton is an excellent location to launch this initiative as Hampshire sixth-form colleges were some of the first educational establishments in the country to offer a ‘non-literary’ A-level examined by the Southern Universities Joint Board in the late ‘Seventies.

A further aim for the coming years is to ensure that ASMCF is represented in national campaigns and debates regarding the future of language and area studies teaching and research. Since the publication of the last newsletter I have taken up a position on the committee of the AUPHF, the Association has signed up to the ‘Speak to the future’ campaign and Steve Wharton is representing the Association on the University Council for Modern Languages.

Over the summer months, it is likely that many members will be involved in identifying themes and possible partners for a consortium bid within their institutions for the AHRC's Open World Research Initiative. (For details of the call, see <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Documents/Open%20World%20Research%20Initiative%20Call.pdf>). The AHRC is encouraging subject associations to promote engagement with this important programme. Given the range of disciplines and departments within which our members work, the ASMCF network provides an excellent forum for those who are currently seeking partner institutions and/or shaping research topics. Members are therefore invited to email me ([j.windebank@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:j.windebank@sheffield.ac.uk)) and my executive committee colleague Wendy Michallat ([w.michallat@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:w.michallat@sheffield.ac.uk)) with brief details of their ongoing plans, whatever stage they may have reached, that they would wish to be circulated around the ASMCF mailing list so that interested individuals can make contact with each other directly.

We have recently welcomed Wendy Michallat of Sheffield University to the Executive Committee. Wendy was co-opted in January as Publicity Officer and Newsletter editor. Thanks therefore go to Wendy for the production of this newsletter. This September Steve Wharton will be stepping down from the Executive committee after his long service for the Association, most recently as Honorary Secretary, a job that he has carried out with enthusiasm, precision and flair. The Conference will give us an opportunity to thank Steve fully for this contribution. The Committee now has the task of finding a replacement for Steve with elections to the post taking place at the AGM in Southampton. If you would be interested in this key post, either Steve or I would be happy to have an informal chat about what the job entails. There will also be an opening for a new ordinary member of the Executive committee in September so I would encourage you to consider this possibility. Once again, please do contact me if you would like to discuss informally this possibility.

### **Steve Wharton: Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Palmes Académiques**

Congratulations go to our Honorary Secretary, Steve Wharton who became a *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* in a ceremony in Bath in May presided over by the Attaché Culturel at the French Embassy, M. Croquette. This prestigious honour recognises Steve's enormous contribution to the promotion of French language and culture, not least through his work for the Association.





## ASMCF Annual Conference Southampton 9-11 September 2014

### Language, Culture and Power in France/ Langue, Culture et Pouvoir en France

Language and culture have long played a central role in republican ideology and in the construction of the French state and national identity. In our global age of modern communication and saturated visual culture, language -as practice, discourse and ideology- and culture in the widest sense of the

term have become powerful political tools for generating change and transforming cultural, social, political, economic and institutional practices. By focusing on the ways in which the power of Language and Culture are used and abused by individuals, social groups and institutions, this ASMCF interdisciplinary conference seeks to understand their role in shaping identification, contesting order or transforming society. In addition to artistic and literary forms, the role of language and culture will be examined in the construction of notions of citizenship, how it can unite or exclude on lines of religion, race, gender or class, its meanings for political parties, the state and communities. The conference will also engage with linguistic theory and how language and culture are conceptualised by both individuals and groups within contemporary French society from the ethnographic, literary and linguistic analysis of *banlieues* to the study of World War 2 through images and texts.

More than 65 papers will be presented from a wide range of disciplinary and chronological perspectives including anthropology, cultural studies, politics and literature with the common aim of thinking about the power of language to shape the political, social and cultural life of contemporary France. By adopting a broad interdisciplinary and chronological approach, the conference seeks to go beyond traditional academic frontiers and to deepen our understanding of how language and power have shaped French society. We hope that the conference will also provide a forum to think more critically about language, culture and power.

We have the pleasure of welcoming as our keynote speakers :

Professor Stéphane Beaud ([ENS](#))

Professor Eric Fassin ([ENS](#))

[Professor Max Silverman](#) ([University of Leeds](#))

[Professor Maire Cross](#) ([Newcastle University](#))

Programme and poster available at :

[http://www.southampton.ac.uk/ml/news/events/2014/09/09\\_cf\\_2014\\_annual\\_conference.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/ml/news/events/2014/09/09_cf_2014_annual_conference.page)

Registration now open Please register at: <http://go.soton.ac.uk/5xf>

There are residential packages available for members and non-members of ASMCF available as well as day rates etc.

If you have any enquiries, please contact Sue Nash at : [asmcf14@soton.ac.uk](mailto:asmcf14@soton.ac.uk)  
ASMCF14 organising committee

## Postgraduate News - Abigail Taylor



### French PG Study Day report, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014

The third joint SSFH-ASMCF postgraduate study day took place at the Great North Museum: Hancock, Newcastle on Saturday 1st March 2014. Over 40 postgraduate students and scholars – one of the highest turnouts yet – met for a full programme including talks on professional development as well as a broad range of papers from postgraduates from institutions across the UK. The theme of the day was ‘commemoration’, chosen for its contemporary pertinence. Notably, 2014 sees the start of the centenary of the First World War and the commemorations on both sides of the Channel has led to a reflection on how events are remembered and used in France today. However, the notion of commemoration covers all facets of French research, not just politics and history, as the range of excellent speakers demonstrated.

The morning kicked off with a panel on professional development. Dr Julian Wright, editor of *French History*, gave practical advice on how to successfully have journal articles published; Dr Imogen Long (Hull) offered some valuable yet reassuring insights into securing a permanent academic position. Postgraduate David Lees (Warwick) highlighted the importance of teaching for an academic career, along with some practical tips for developing teaching skills. This was followed by a research methods panel which outlined different approaches that can be taken within French Studies and French History: Abigail Taylor (Sheffield) spoke about using interviews for her social policy research, Natalia Bremner (Leeds) explored participatory research in the Indian Ocean and Tom Cubillas (Durham) outlined how to effectively navigate France’s archive cataloguing system, at national, regional and local levels. The final morning session was led by Dr Matt Perry, Reader in Labour History at Newcastle. Dr Perry’s superb keynote, ‘Memory, Commemoration and Consciousness: some Reflections on Contested French Pasts’ deconstructed and analysed concepts of commemoration and led to much discussion over lunch.

The afternoon was dedicated to hearing about postgraduate research, with twelve papers, split into four sessions which ran in parallel. Forms of political commemoration began with Clare Siviter (Warwick) looking at Napoleon’s theatrical commemoration, Alex Paulin-Booth (Oxford) shared her research on Ferdinand Pelloutier’s *musées du travail* whilst Christopher Leffler (Sheffield) continued the museological theme with an analysis of the *Mémorial Charles de Gaulle*. Meanwhile, the second panel ‘legacies of colonialism’ heard three excellent papers: David Cummings (QUB) discussed the impossibility of commemoration within the colonial chronotope, Hannah Grayson (Warwick) considered literary commemoration in Rwanda and Tom Martin (Leeds) highlighted the ambivalent relationship of French anti-racist organisations with the country’s colonial past.

Refreshed after a coffee break, the final two panels investigated more diverse forms of commemoration. ‘Literary commemoration’ was explored through a number of different perspectives. Thea Petrou (UCL) spoke about Paris tramways before Anaïs Fusaro (St Andrews) explored Serge Doubrovsky’s *Le Livre brisé*. Avril Tynan (RHUL) concluded with commemoration and the un-dead. Meanwhile ‘commemorating conflict’ focussed on representations of war in

Yugoslavia, Italian-occupied France and French Guiana, with thought-provoking papers from Chris Jones (UEA), Niall McGalloway (St Andrews) and Sarah Wood (Manchester). Following the official programme, discussions continued over some well-earned drinks in the Northern Stage in Newcastle.

The conference organisers would like to thank everyone who attended, gave a paper and helped make the event such a success. We would also like to thank Newcastle University for hosting the study day and their support with practical arrangements. Special thanks go to Society for the Study of French History and the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France for their generous financial sponsorship of the day.

Abigail Taylor (ASMCF, Sheffield), Ellen Crabtree (SSFH, Newcastle), and Lori Lee Oates (SSFH, Exeter)

### **PG POSTER COMPETITION 2014: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!!**

Are you an MA or PhD student working in the field of modern and contemporary French Studies? If so, have you considered entering a poster into our annual poster competition?! It is a great way to have fun with your research, to provide a visual synopsis of your work and to make it accessible to a wide audience. Whether you are working on contemporary literature or critical thought, fiction film or modern French and francophone history, society or politics, your poster will fit right in at the ASMCF conference. The theme of this year's conference is Language, Culture and Power in France. However, posters do not need to follow this theme and can be on any topic relating to modern French and Francophone studies.

The competition will take place as part of the ASMCF Conference at the University of Southampton, with presentations to take place on Wednesday 10th September. The conference will include keynote addresses by Professor Stéphane Beaud, Professor Eric Fassin and Professor Max Silverman. More details of the programme and how to register for the conference can be found here: <http://go.soton.ac.uk/5xf>

During the dedicated poster session, postgraduates will have the opportunity to give short and informal presentations of their posters. Other delegates are invited to take a closer look at the posters and speak to postgraduates about their research. The posters will then be on display in a prominent place for the remainder of the conference, providing plenty of opportunities for discussion of your research.

The poster competition aims above all to provide postgraduates with the opportunity to present their research as part of the conference programme, receive feedback from specialists in the field, and so prepare them for presenting their work at future conferences. Posters need to be A1 size and illustrate, with words, images and diagrams, the essence of a research project in a clear and eye-catching way, to appeal to specialists and non-specialists alike. The poster should provide a synopsis of your research rather than the entirety of your work on a single page. Some guidelines on poster creation can be found at the conference website:

[http://www.asmc.org/docs/PG\\_poster\\_comp\\_doc\\_2014.pdf](http://www.asmc.org/docs/PG_poster_comp_doc_2014.pdf). Posters designed by previous winners of the competition can be found at <http://www.asmc.org/funding/>. There is a prize for the first placed entry, kindly provided by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Postgraduates play an important role in the Activities of the Association and a number of papers at the 2013 conference will be delivered by current postgraduates. For an idea of the Association's postgraduate network, please see <http://www.asmc.org/postgraduates>.

If you are interested in taking part in the poster competition, please email me at [abigail.taylor@shef.ac.uk](mailto:abigail.taylor@shef.ac.uk) by Friday 18th July 2013 in the first instance. Informal enquiries are very welcome.

**Abigail Taylor, ASMCF Postgraduate Representative, 2013-14**

## Funding and Prizes

**The Association's Initiative Fund** provides small grants to individuals or institutions who are members of the Association to help defray the costs of day schools, seminars conferences, etc. The Association is particularly keen to encourage and support regionally based collaborative initiatives on the part of its members and to support our postgraduate community.

Applications should be accompanied by relevant supporting documentation such as a call for papers and, where possible, an outline programme

Applicants should provide FULL financial details of the event and not just costs for which ASMCF funding is being sought.

It is normally assumed that organisers will charge a conference fee to offset costs. If no fee is being charged, the reasons for this should be stated on the application.

Maximum contribution that can be applied for: £300

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.

Please download and complete the Initiative Fund form <http://www.asmc.org/docs/initiativefundform.docx> and return it to: Steve Wharton, Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies, The University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY.

The next deadline for the initiative fund is: 31 August 2014

## PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ASSOCIATION

*All three prizes are now set at £250*

**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.

**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.

**The Peter Morris Postgraduate Travel Prize** was established in memory of the late Peter Morris, a founding member of the Association.

The prize, **to the value of £250**, is awarded to a postgraduate students whose project is deemed worthy of support. Applications should include an outline of the intended travel, its relevance to the underlying research project, and a statement of support from a supervisor, who should normally be a member of the Association.

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.

Submissions for any or all of the above prizes should be made by 15th 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.

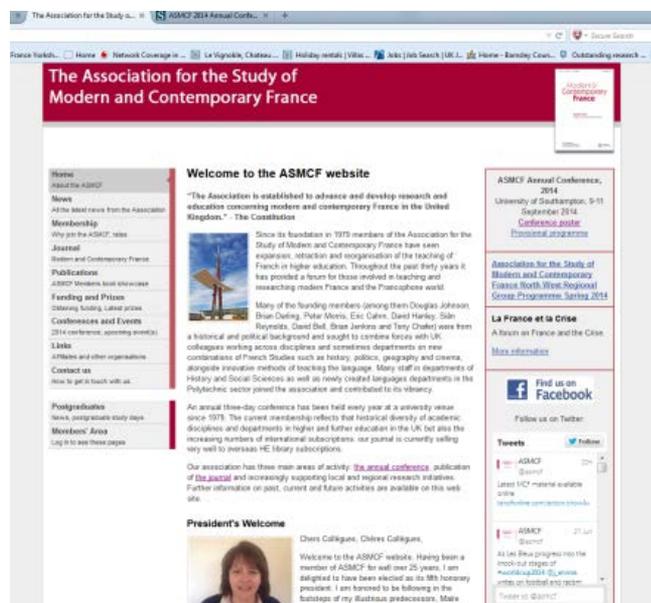
Further enquiries may be made of the Secretary at: [S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk](mailto:S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk)

## Web Site and Social Media

All new members will be sent login details to the members' area of the website by Taylor and Francis by letter.

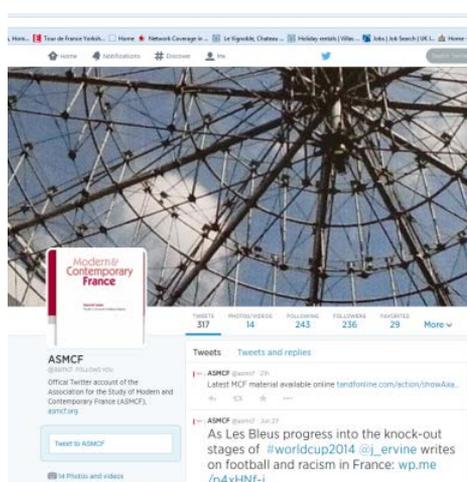
Existing members will also be reminded of their login details along with their annual renewal letter.

In the meantime members can also request their login details via an email to [societies@informa.com](mailto:societies@informa.com) with their name and email address



## Twitter and Facebook

Members are encouraged to follow/join the Association's Twitter and Facebook accounts which have now been running for two years.



Twitter: @asmcf



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asmcf1979?fref=nf>

Please keep sending items for the news and publications sections of the website to our new Web Officer – David Lees ([d.lees@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:d.lees@warwick.ac.uk))

## FORTHCOMING ASMCF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th September 2014. Items for the next Executive Committee agenda should be submitted by 31 July 2014 to the Honorary Secretary, Dr Steve Wharton at: [S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk](mailto:S.Wharton@bath.ac.uk)

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