

UCML AGM

Friday, 14th July, 2023

UCML Report, Chair

A very warm welcome to new members joining us; grateful thanks and farewell to those leaving (see the full list in report of Honorary Secretary). This includes thanks to **Mary Newman** who stepped down as Administrative Assistant in January, and welcome to **Liam Lewis** who has joined us as Project Coordinator. **Liam** was formerly ECA rep, a position now taken on by **Ashley Harris**.

We welcome a new Treasurer (back): **Olga Gomez-Cash** (Lancaster), and welcome **Sandra Salin** (Newcastle) to the new role of Membership Secretary. **Vicky Wright** will continue with us as VC Education until December to ensure a smooth handover to her successor. She will remain Sub-Committee Chair of Routes into Languages after December in a new affiliated role.

Welcome to the Summer Plenary (Friday 14th July, 10-4.30pm, ILCS, Senate House) –

UCML summer plenary afternoon sessions:

Parallel sessions:

- **1-2.30pm**: Translation and Interpreting Studies in the UK today: Humanistic and Economic Value of the Discipline and the Profession in an automated world. Chancellor's Hall
- **1-2.30pm**: Optional Special Interest Group Meetings in G16

Consecutive sessions:

- **3-4pm**: Revitalising Language Learning - the new NCLE initiative. Chancellor's Hall.
- **4-4.30pm**: REF2028 Consultation discussion with Charles Forsdick and Susan Hodgett. Chancellor's Hall.

Deadlines and reminders:

- The ECA SIG have put out an advertisement for more ECA mentors esp Hispanic and Italian studies – contact Dr Kate Foster ecasn.contact@gmail.com (We welcome both: Mentors offering support and those seeking support.)
- PG bursary advertised - deadline was 1st July. We'll let you know the results soon!

Meetings and invitations to speak:

- “Where Are We Now? The Location of Modern Languages and Cultures” 19-21 April, Durham University. UCML Chair spoke at the plenary round table on the ‘Modern Languages Department of the Future’.

- Routes organised a round table at the Durham conference on mentoring and ambassador programmes, 'Making the case for student ambassadors: sustainability and best practice in Languages outreach across the UK'. Chaired by Marcela, and including talks by Vicky Wright, Ed Welch, Andrew Grenfell, Janice Carruthers, Nazaret Pérez Nieto, Rubén Chapela, and Charlotte Ryland.

It was a hugely successful conference and we were heartened to see so much positivity around our disciplines, and so many of our Exec and wider associates represented there. A big congratulations to Marcela and Charles Burdett for their parts in the organisation of the conference.

- **British Academy Strategic Forum for the Humanities - 26th April**, pilot mini-Forum event on the health and sustainability of the disciplines. I represented UCML and gave some insights from the work we have been undertaking in Languages for many years. The next meeting of the Strategic Forum on 14th June discussed the outcomes of the pilot mini-Forum event and next steps. The following topics were discussed in particular in relation to the health and sustainability of the disciplines.

Open Access

Equality, diversity and Inclusion

Policy landscape

- **The Strategic Committee for Languages in Higher Education (SCLHE - jointly chaired by UCML and BA) – 23rd June**
We have discussed convening an SCLHE working group on the HE curriculum (with scope/remit to be determined but including its relation to school-teaching as a career pathway).
- **Society for French Studies Annual Conference, Newcastle University - 26-28th June**
Ashley Harris spoke on behalf of the ECA network at a round table on 'French Studies and the Precarious Humanities' at which I was respondent. The round table was chaired and organised by **James Illingworth**.
- **ILCS: 'Thinking Strategically. Acting on the Voices of the Research Community' – 30th June**
Charles Burdett, Liam Lewis, Becky Muradás-Taylor and **Liz Wren-Owens** spoke on behalf of ILCS and UCML at this seminar discussing the findings of the AHRC Language Fellows.

Consultation, campaign and policy paper on Home and Community Languages with BA/LAGB

Working with Charles Forsdick, Yuni Kim from LAGB, Vicky, and Sky to gather data, anecdotes for a policy paper on acceptance of home/community languages. This work was presented at the Strategic Committee on Languages in Higher Education in November 2022. Charles F and the BA are working on a paper to be released shortly.

Campaign for Translation Studies

Draft report on the health of the field with Callum Walker (APTIS), Begoña Rodríguez de Céspedes, and Fransiska Louwagie. We aim to launch a package of action around recruitment and closures in

Translation Studies. There will be a panel arising from this work this afternoon at the Summer Plenary. Begoña and I have been invited to report on this panel and UCML's activity more generally at the APPG ML meeting at the House of Lords on **Monday 17th July**.

BA Languages Gateway

Ongoing consultation with UCML on the new [Languages Gateway](#), one of the outcomes of the BA paper, [Towards a National Languages Strategy](#) (TNLS). Liaison with Philip Harding-Esch, APPG ML. A working site is up and running. Mark Critchley is Chair of the Editorial Board (on which I also sit), and we welcome all feedback. There is also a linked twitter account @LangsGateway

Health of the Disciplinary field:

This year we have written to **Birkbeck**, **UEA** and **Kent** on behalf of UCML to offer support to the colleagues there, and to protest the proposed redundancies. We remain in contact with Birkbeck, UEA and Kent colleagues to support through any further upheaval. Birkbeck and Kent have recently announced that they will not be moving to compulsory redundancies, however this is not the case for UEA which does still face compulsory redundancies. Recent concerning developments at **Coventry**, **De Montfort**, and **Nottingham Trent** are also on our radar, and we are in touch with colleagues at these institutions to monitor the situations and offer support as needed.

- In collaboration with the British Academy and other bodies, we have been asked to prepare a briefing, for the APPG, on HEI languages degree programme closures and how to tackle these; APPG has requested data on contraction (including on the numbers of HEIs, and for this to be set in context of uptake at school level, of cold spots, and of different kinds of institutions (cf. B. Murádas-Taylor research on low entry tariffs). We will report back on this and share the eventual paper. We also welcome all input from members to feed in.

SIGs:

We now have 7 Special Interest Groups within the UCML family. We would like to ask the meeting to approve our recently added SIGs.

ECA - ECA code of practice launch – this was launched last year with a short promotional video, we would urge all members to ask their Schools and Departments to engage with it: <https://university-council-modern-languages.org/early-career-academics/code-of-best-practice/>

Heads SIG – Helen Abbott at Birmingham is Co-chair with David Cowling (Durham). The SIG now has administrative support from the ILCS and will soon hold a first meeting.

YA SIG – James Illingworth and Jonathan Long have launched a campaign around Turing – there are shortfalls in the funding in many Universities this year, and no planned renewal yet confirmed of the scheme. Jonathan and James briefed the APPG on matters related to Turing. Now looking for a new Chair as both Jonathan and James will be stepping down – huge thanks to them for incredible work over the pandemic and aftermath.

Lesser taught languages SIG (joint AULC/UCML) – Prof Wen-Chin Ouyang (SOAS) is Co-Chair for UCML with colleagues from the AULC (Justyna Drobnik-Rogers and Sandra Torres).

Widening Participation Languages network – Chaired by Becky Murádas-Taylor. UCML have been liaising with this SIG due to recent developments with Depts at risk.

AMLUK – regular contact with Charles Burdett, and UCML steering group attendance at meetings.

***New UCML-AULC SIG** – joint SIG across AULC and UCML which was launched at the AULC conference in Edinburgh this year. The vision is for this SIG to enhance collaboration between ILWPs and degree programmes and to strengthen the status of language teaching in UK Higher Education overall. A jiscmail list has already been established. SIG Co-Chairs are Christine Schallmoser, Senior Lecturer in German Language Education and Language Director, King’s College London and Marina Rabadán, Academic Director of Open Languages (IWLP), University of Liverpool. [AULC-UCML Special Interest Group – University Council of Modern Languages \(university-council-modern-languages.org\)](https://www.university-council-modern-languages.org)

Routes into Languages

Vicky and Sky continue to hold regular meetings. UCML will partner with other organisations through Routes to collaborate with the newly established DfE-funded National Consortium for Language Education (NCLE), UCL. Vicky and I are in regular contact with Bernardette Holmes, Director of the NCLE, and a full report will be given this afternoon in our session.

AULC/UCML report

We are aiming to follow through with the results of this report. Now that we have the Heads and joint AULC-UCML SIGs, communication may be easier with individual Universities to gather information for the survey. At last report we had 21 responses from 54 possible respondents.

Consultation on possible change of name for UCML:

Liam Lewis (Project Coordinator) and I launched a consultation process in 2022. We now have a proposal we would like to discuss with the membership and a decision to be taken over a new name. Main drivers behind the consultation are shifts in the disciplinary field and perceptions of our area, decolonial turn, recent ILCS name change, SBS statement for our disciplinary fields.

EC: 14/07/23