Lusophone Studies report for UCFL

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LUSOPHONE STUDIES REP COMMENTS

If 2022 was dominated by the 200th anniversary of the independence of Brazil, 2024 has seen numerous events to mark two important Lusophone events with global repercussions – the birth of a poet that wrote on the start of the Portuguese empire, and a revolution that brought that empire to an end. 2024 marks the 500 years of the birth of the Portuguese Early Modern poet Luís de Camões (celebrated here in relation to his iconic and masterful contributions to Portuguese language and literature). This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the 25th April 1974 Carnation Revolution, which brought to an end the former Portuguese overseas empire and, subsequently, the independence of all former colonial territories.

The Portuguese Consulate General in Manchester, and the Camões Institute in London, have been actively promoting various events throughout the UK. Importantly, these coinciding anniversaries and respective celebrations are opening up a space for dialogue on coloniality and decolonial approaches to Lusophone Studies (and society in general).

In Lusophone Studies we now look forward to 2025, marking the 50th anniversary of independence of Lusophone countries (Angola, Cabo Verde, São Tomé and Principe, Mozambique), which, following the 1974 coup d'état, secured the right for self-determination (Guinea Bissau secured independence in 1974, and the event has been discussed in Portugal and elsewhere, though not in the UK).

News from relevant associations:

ABIL – ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH AND IRISH LUSITANISTS

ABIL continues to be a really strong voice for Lusophone Studies in the UK (and Ireland). It has an active PG and Early Career community, who meet regularly, furthering the work of UCFL's ECA SIG.

The Association's 2023 conference was in University College Cork, Ireland, marking the launch, in 2020, of UCC BA Programme in Portuguese Studies. Nearly one year on, UCC colleagues confirmed that the conference had, indeed, not only contributed to raising the profile of the new degree, but also contributed already to the expansion of this sub-department.

The next biennial conference will be in September 2025, at the University of Birmingham, led by Emanuelle Santos.

During the fallow year (2024), ABIL has now formalised its support for up to two substantial events (e.g. colloquia, workshop, or similar). The association secured some funding from the Anglo-Portuguese Society for this purpose. Only one application received this year, which was approved. A renewed call should be announced in June 2024, with a deadline of September 2024.

In conjunction with ABIL, the Anglo-Portuguese Society agreed to renew its commitment for the Ann Waterfall Prize. The award ceremony will take place in London, on the 5th November 2024.

Furthermore, the Anglo-Portuguese Society rep, Sandra Carito, proposed to run a session for ABIL's ECAs, likely in collaboration also with ABIL's ECA rep, on employability and the relevance of speaking Portuguese.

SLAS – SOCIETY FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

SLAS covers both Portuguese-speaking Latin America (Brazil), as well as other language areas of the continent (mostly Spanish, but also indigenous languages, French, English, and others). Therefore, the report we received from SLAS should be understood in this transnational context.

However, it must be noted that Brazil (and, therefore, Portuguese language and, by extension, Lusophone Studies) is well represented in SLAS: at the forthcoming annual conference, in Amsterdam (3-5 July 2024), there are over 30 papers (c. 1/3 of all papers) on Lusophone Studies and one panel on Brazil, a sign of the strength of the subject.

Furthermore, and in the context of SLAS' forewarning tone below, some positive developments are happening in Latin American Studies (inc. Brazil), e.g., a new Research Network for Latin American Studies has just been announced at the University of Glasgow, within the College of Social Sciences. We hope that this contributes somewhat to a recovery trajectory in the field.

SLAS highlights:

- Redundancies and department closures affecting Latin Americanists and teaching provision in Latin American Studies. This is not only an issue in Language departments but across Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Like other subject associations, the role of SLAS as an advocate for Arts, Humanities and Social Science research has become more important than ever. We also take into account that the current higher education climate has worsened the job prospects and funding opportunities for postgraduates and early career scholars.
- An emerging issue is the trend across the sector to homogenise degree programmes, reducing optionality. This could make Latin American Studies less visible and reduce opportunities for students to study Latin American cultures and societies.
- We are having ongoing discussions about how subject associations like SLAS can respond to the climate emergency by making conferences and research more sustainable. For example, we ask grant applicants and conference organisers to take into account the SLAS Climate Action Plan. This has already led to changes in our annual conferences and examples of remote research collaboration. A related issue is to address and raise awareness of inequalities between academics in the Global South and North by sharing best practices for such research collaborations.

TROPO UK – ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS AND RESEARCHERS OF PORTUGUESE IN THE UK

TROPO UK continues to promote CPD online sessions for teachers of Portuguese in the UK and beyond, called 'Tertúlia' (roughly 'scholarly gatherings' in English), with a focus on pedagogy of Portuguese as a L2 or Heritage Language (see https://www.tropouk.org/events.html for details). Importantly, these continue to be run in Portuguese, to further galvanise Portuguese language as an international language of research. TROPO UK's 3rd conference will be on 13th and 14th September 2024, at Newcastle University (https://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/iii_conference_tropo_uk/).

ACIS – ASSOCIATION FOR CONTEMPORARY IBERIAN STUDIES

ACIS' 45th annual ACIS Conference will take place at Technological University Dublin from 4th to 6th September 2024, in hybrid format. The association is also offering postgraduate bursaries, which are welcome. For more information, see the ACIS website and the conference website.

ACIS publish a regular useful newsletter with updates on their activities, resources, upcoming events, and discussions – see https://www.iberianstudies.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/ACIS-NEWSLETTER-May-2024-2-1.pdf for the latest issue.

CAMÕES INSTITUTE, LONDON (IC)

The IC continues to extend its network and support of teaching Portuguese as a Heritage Language in the UK. New schools are being added to the network in Manchester and in Scotland. The IC has also been instrumental in a strategic coordination of celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Luís de Camões, and the 50th anniversary of the Carnation Revolution, supporting events with writers and speakers in UK HEIs and schools.

IC's only bilingual community primary state-school, the Anglo-Portuguese School (London), created in 2020, continues to thrive.

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