

Renaissance Centre Committee/SSLC Meeting

Thursday 27 February 2020, 3-4.30pm

MINUTES (Part One) Unreserved

Present: Rebecca Carnevali (CSR PGR), Marta Celati (CSR Leverhulme Fellow), Giulia De Stefano (CSR Erasmus), Aysu Dincer Hadjianastasis (CSR DGS, History), Vendula Hoppe (CSR PGT), Beat Kümin (History), David Lines (Chair, SMLC [Italian]), Aidan Norrie (CSR PGR), Iván Parga Ornelas (CSR PGR), Maria Pavlova (SMLC [Italian]), Paloma Perez-Galvan (CSR PGR), Costanza Prenassi (CSR PGT), Jayne Sweet (CSR Administrator), Bobby Xinyue (CSR BA research fellow)

Apologies: Paul Botley, Bryan Brazeau, Tess Grant, Rich Rabone, Karin Sprang, Esther van Raamsdonk, Katherine Waters

1. Minutes

Part one (unreserved) of the previous meeting were discussed and approved (Doc1).

2. Chair's Business

a) matters arising:

- The CSR welcomes Esther van Raamsdonk, our new BA postdoctoral fellow
- UG modules continue well, with good attendance; we hope for even better take-up next year. Would be most helpful to have a coordinator/convenor for these.
- Benefactor's (Greg Wells) Awards have been announced, with 25 March deadline. These are open also to MA students. **Action point: next year, announce this much earlier, with an earlier deadline (October at latest).**
- Possibility of developing new UG module(s), e.g. on 'Renaissance Masterpieces'?
- Exploration of PhD co-tutelle arrangements is underway with Tours (Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, among other things strong in musicology), Ca' Foscari, and Geneva (Institut d'histoire de la Réformation). BK also suggested the [European Institute for the History and Cultures of Food](#) (IEHCA) in Tours.

3. Library

Nothing to report (librarian sent apologies)

4. SSLC

- PGT students voiced general dissatisfaction about the new core (Venice) module offered by the History of Art department. The tutor and the fact that teaching took place in-situ were good, but they felt that teaching was too basic, and also too specific at the same time; also, no reading list or set texts were provided. It was felt that as this module is core, it should be more 'useful'.
- Students felt that a methodology course would have been useful whilst in Venice; it was also felt that more choice/extra options whilst in Venice would be most useful, for example, one of the

UG classes delivered by the History Department would have been useful to take. DL is already looking into the possibility of PGTs taking optional classes at Ca' Foscari.

- It was mentioned that having another language option available in Venice would be good, rather than only Italian.
- The 'Critical Foundation's module was mentioned, and reported that this would run bi-annually (usually in term two)
- The two PGT students present were asked if they would have chosen Warwick for study, if there had been no Venice term, both said that no they wouldn't; it was the KSP for them

5. Current CSR activities

- DL asked if anyone would have liked to take Latin Palaeography this year; one student said yes
- Latin for Research update from Paloma Perez-Galvan: steady group of 3-4 all term including one from Birmingham; good level, going well.
- Italian Palaeography report from Marta Celati and Maria Pavlova: again a steady group of 4-5 including one from Leeds, going well.
- English palaeography, going well: 5-6 regular participants. It was reported to be well structured and very useful.
- Reading groups: Augustine, *City of God* (BB): the group is proceeding well with the possibility of forming two reading groups next year (one on a key text of the Renaissance and one on a foundational text?)
- Dante Reading Group (EC): still meeting regularly this academic year, with a small but committed group of readers on Wednesday afternoons. Sarah Wood and Carol Rutter have kept the group going along with Stefano Milonia.
- STVDIO series (RR). Four seminar this term, hosting a varied range of speakers, on letter-locking practices, Spanish drama, epigraphy, and early modern humour. Sessions are well attended and it has been a good term. Two (possibly more) sessions scheduled for next term.
- Prof. Laura Bass (Brown), who works on Golden-Age Spain, will be hosted at Warwick during the first two weeks of June as an IAS visiting fellow. Details of events will be disseminated in due course.
- Early Career Club (RC + MC). It was reported that ECC events (x3) have been well attended this year; we have more ways of advertising these events now including adding to Skills Forge and via library contacts. Convenors strive to ensure that ECC topics/speakers are not duplicated by CADRE events. It was noted that it would be possible to open up these events to CSR PGTs, if the topic were applicable.
- Community course (AD): the full and finalised programme is on the website, but despite advertising widely, only 6 people have confirmed interest in the course so far, with 10-12 needed to make it viable.
- Warwick–Warburg Doctoral Training Programme (MB). Finalised programme and registration is now live on the CSR website.

6. Current research projects for report

- Bobby Xinyue: Project, 'Redesigning Time: Cultural Politics in Renaissance Poetic Calendars'. Two pieces of work accepted recently, one for Bloomsbury (a Neo-Latin European anthology) and a publication for the British School at Rome. BX is also putting together a collection of articles resulting from his conference in Venice last September. The project is moving forward slowly but steadily.
- Marta Celati: Project, 'The 'Mirror' of History. Prince and Tyrant in Italian Renaissance Literature, between Political Theory and Historiography' is moving ahead slowly. She is

scheduled to present at the RSA in April, and the final manuscript for her monograph is nearly ready.

- Maria Pavlova (Italian): Project, 'The Renaissance Knight: War, Nobility and Virtue from Pulci to Ariosto, 1461-1532' is moving ahead slowly, and her monograph is nearly complete. Maria and Marta plan to host a joint conference at Warwick in September (24-25) on the figures of the Prince and Condottiero in the Renaissance (from the 15th century to the first half of the 16th century), with the intention of publishing the proceedings.
- Beat Kūmin discussed his project on local historiography/church spires
- Aysu Dincer is preparing paper on 'aromatic substances'

7. Research development / Future research bids

- Two Marie Curie applications submitted last summer were unsuccessful.
- No BA applicants have gone to final stage.
- The CSR has put forward two strong applicants for Leverhulme Early Career fellowships.
- DL asked for details of any strong candidates who could apply for the Newton Fellowships, deadline end March.
- DL has submitted, as PI, an AHRC standard-grant proposal with the Warburg and Ca' Foscari on 'Multilingualism and Philosophical Translation in Early Modern Italy and France (1400-1700)'. Results hopefully by August.

8. Ideas for future development of CSR (for discussion)

- Ideally, the CSR needs to submit one major application per year; ideas are strongly invited.
- We continue to be present at the RSA with 15 Warwick colleagues due to attend this year in Philadelphia.
- The Prato consortium, led by Monash, continues to flourish. DL and Iván Parga Ornelas (CSR PGR) attended the meeting in December 2019, and Iván presented a paper.
- We still have a strong relationship with the Newberry Library and Johns Hopkins University.
- DL is meeting with the SNLS people with regard to their web pages, currently hosted on the CSR website. They are also due to have an event here at Warwick next year.
- DL said that he would like to have more art historians involved in the CSR, including as honorary fellows and speakers in the STVDIO seminar series. Iván mentioned an art history project called 'Petrifying Wealth'. RC suggested having an art historical perspective as part of a new reading group.
- It was reported that academic language skills sessions are not offered at Warwick. DL is in talks with Zahara Newby (Classics) and other faculty members to strengthen provision.
- DL has been approached by Brepols about a new book series highlighting the CSR. A proposal would need to be put forward in the next two to three weeks in order to meet the next meeting deadline. We would also need to form an advisory board.
- The annual CSR Director's report will be disseminated more widely, in order to raise the CSR profile.
- We are trying to increase the visibility of the CSR at Warwick itself, because often UGs who are applying for Masters study at Warwick, do not realise that we exist. This was part of the reason for providing UG modules this year.

9. AOB

There was no other business