

“Writing Wrongs: Political Communication as Art”: An online, mixed-media magazine dedicated to exploring, uncovering and analysing human rights issues.

IATL funding granted July 2013

INTERIM REPORT

Introduction

The Writing Wrongs project funding was granted in order to create an on-line multimedia magazine that curates and displays innovative content relating to the study and promotion of human rights (both within and outside the University). The intended outcomes were stated to be:

1. A fully established and sustainable on-line Magazine
2. A core team (comprising an editorial and curating component from student and academic bodies) with the skills to produce high-quality material
3. An established track record of high quality output being accessed regularly on line

This interim report provides a brief overview of achievements in relation to these objectives.

1. Established On-line Magazine

Lacuna was launched on 24th February 2014. It is now accessible at www.lacuna.org.uk. It already has over a 1000 followers on facebook. Since February it has published more than twenty seven articles across a range of related subjects. We have four main sections:

THINKING introduces long features, opinions and reports

INSIDER delves deeper into the lives of those behind the stories with interviews, personal accounts of writing experiences and a corner for philosophers to discuss some of the ethical questions faced across our contributions

REVIEW looks at books, films, theatre, music and art relevant to our general themes but not always covered in the mainstream press

OPEN LACUNA provides the space for new writers to use fiction, memoir, and reflection to talk about the issues that engage them. There is a standing invitation for all readers to submit articles for publication

Across these fields we have attracted a broad range of professional journalists, noted and prize winning authors, and university student contributors. We have also produced multi-media content including our first film (see <http://www.lacuna.org.uk/insider/an-interview-with-lesley-mcintyre/>)

2. Established core team

Our aim was always to have a diverse and talented team to produce the magazine and its contents. We have been fortunate enough to attract professional editors and journalists (Peddle and Omonira), academics (Freely, Harrison, Alsop and Williams), and students (Kendrick, Byrom, Javed, Raine and Mycroft). Administrative assistance has been provided by Garton. Between us we have

been able to deliver a technical platform that we hope does the project justice and in a style and with a vision that is both inspiring and attractive.

The team works very closely together and has distributed the roles in an effective and sustainable fashion. New members of the team will be brought through as and when needed.

3. Track Record of high quality content

We believe the content speaks for itself. We have a rich diet of articles, films and reviews in store and aim to produce material every week. The value of our content was recognised at a recent Frontline Club event which was organised by Lacuna (see <http://www.frontlineclub.com/art-and-politics-the-aesthetics-of-protest-and-the-fight-for-human-rights/>)

We have given equal prominence to student contributors as to outside professionals and academics. Our aim has been to develop writing skills so that content can be produced that will enhance the writing of the students involved. We have a team of student coordinators who work with students when they are making proposals for submissions and when they have submitted a piece of work. 11 students (across the UG and PG range) have had pieces published so far.

Expenditure

To date we are well on track to spend the grant in its entirety. The costs of production included in our budget are being supplemented by other funding sources (notably the RDF and the Law School). We have yet to attract full and long term funding however and this is one of our key tasks remaining.

Details of expenditure are awaited from our accounts department.



2 April 2014