

## **IATL INTERIM REPORT 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Ancient Global History Module Academic Fellowship 2017-8**

**Prof Michael Scott**  
**Department of Classics and Ancient History**

Work began on this Academic Fellowship in January 2018. The team comprised of myself as Academic lead; Steve Ranford, Faculty of Arts Academic Technologist as technical liaison and an external development company, Computerminds, led by Steven Jones, who undertook the digital development.

Our goal was to take a public facing portal, Oiko.world, developed over the last 2 years with the help of Strategic and Departmental Impact grants, and to modify it so that it could be part of a new form of digital assessment for an honours module taken with the Humanities 'Ancient Global History'. To do so required two main developments of the website: firstly, to allow for secure (and anonymised) Warwick students sign on to the portal as moderators; and secondly, the creation of a staging area within the portal's database where new entries by the students could be created, posted into a transcript form that could be submitted via Tabula as a piece of assessed work for their module, marked, and then updated/ corrected as required prior to be published as part of the open public Oiko.world database.

In conjunction with this digital development work, Michael Scott was working to secure approval for the module through the traditional new module approval channels, and in particular for the approval of the new digital assessment pathway. This involved substantial discussions with other Academic technologists within the university, particularly Robert O'Toole, comparison with the assessment criteria developed for different forms of non-essay assessment (within the Classics faculty, with the Faculty of Arts, with IATL and more widely); and finally the creation of a new set of assessment criteria for this oiko.world data entries assessment that would be seen as robust enough, and comparable enough to other forms of assessment, to be passed by the Department's Teaching and Learning committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018, all the development work for Oiko.world has now been completed. In addition, not only has the module received approval to go on the books in 18-19, but that the assessment criteria for the digital assessed work has also been approved by the Department's Teaching and Learning Committee.

In particular, I am delighted to report that the module has proved very popular with students keen to study and have the opportunity to be assessed in this way in 18-19. The numbers of places available on the module has been increased to 55, still leaving a waiting list of students keen to take the course.

Going forward, the module will be delivered starting in October 2018, with the beginning of the digital assessment project in December 2018. The digital assessment aspect of the module will be tackled by students in January-March 2019.

I attach to this report the established and agreed assessment criteria that have been developed to allow Oiko.world to act as part of this module.

I look forward to delivering my final report at the end of the IATL Academic Fellowship as a video submission. I would ask that IATL allow me to delay the delivery of this report until March 2019 (current date is 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2019), to allow me to report fully on the experience of the first students going through this new assessment process.

I would like to ask guidance from IATL on when they would like me to produce the 1000 word blog post requested in the AF funding letter – perhaps this would be best included as part of the final project report? And I also look forward to hearing from IATL who will act as my mentor (as outlined in my IATL funding letter) to assist with the dissemination of the project's outcomes.

Prof Michael Scott

**FROM CONFUCIUS TO CONSTANTINE: ANCIENT GLOBAL HISTORY**  
**CX 270-30/ 370-30**

**Alternative Assessment Criteria:**

**Pathways of Assessment:** In **term 1**, all students will complete an essay (2500-3000 words) responding to a pre-set title (there will be a choice of 4 titles). This will be submitted in the usual way and marked according to the same assessment criteria as essays for other modules.

In **term 2**, students have the following options for assessment:

- **Option A:** The completion of a second essay (2500-3000) words responding to a pre-set title (there will be a choice of 4 titles). This will be submitted in the usual way and marked according to the same assessment criteria as essays for other modules.
- **Option B:** Following study of the current entries within the Oiko.world portal, students will create a research question of their own choosing (to be agreed with the module convenor in advance), relating to ancient global interaction and based on a specific set of data entries within the portal, and then research and write a 2500-3000 essay responding to the question they have created (indicating which data entries they were initially inspired by). This essay will be submitted in the usual manner and will be marked according to the same assessment criteria as essays for other modules with several additional criteria assessed at each class level (see below).
- **Option C:**
  - Students will do the following:
    - Attend a 2 hour taught session on how to create new entries and 'narrative chains' within the Oiko.world portal (in week 1 of term 2). Students will not be allowed to continue with this form of assessment if they do not attend.
    - Identify examples through their own research of ancient global interactions not currently contained within Oiko.world.
    - Plan 1 new 'narrative chain' (comprised of 3 or more individual entries of c. 500 words each), along with a narrative chain description of 200 words, to be constructed within Oiko.world + submit their plan to the module convenor for sign off to ensure no significant overlap between students (a 250 word plan will need to be submit through Tabula – without which students cannot continue with this form of assessment)
    - Create their new 'narrative chain' + associated entries within Oiko.world
    - Write an accompanying 1000 word essay reflecting on their choices, research bibliographies and outcome + significance of their data entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world

- Submit an exported transcript their data entries/narrative chain (PDF) + their reflective essay for assessment via Tabula.
- The quality of their data entries/narrative chain will comprise 50% of their mark and their reflective essay 50% of their mark.
- This option will be assessed against a new set of assessment criteria (see below)

In **term 3**, all students will sit a 2 hour exam.

The term 1 essay and term 2 options are each worth 25% of the candidate's overall module mark. The exam is worth 50% of the candidate's module mark.

### **Assessment Criteria:**

#### **Term 2, Option B:**

In addition to the usual assessment criteria at each level for an essay, assessors will be looking at the following additional criteria:

- **Clarity of Research Question:** marks will be awarded for the clarity and phrasing of the research question formulated, which the essay seeks to answer.
- **Pertinence of the Research Question and Essay:** marks will be awarded for the degree to which the research question formulated, and responding essay, is related to the original data entries in Oiko.world the student cites as inspiration.

As such:

**3<sup>rd</sup> year – 1<sup>st</sup> class:** will show excellent clarity in the research question and an extremely strong pertinent relationship between the research question, essay and original Oiko.world data entries.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year – 1<sup>st</sup> class:** will show very strong clarity in the research question and a very strong pertinent relationship between the research question, essay and original Oiko.world data entries

**3<sup>rd</sup> year – 2.1 class:** will show strong clarity in the research question and a strong pertinent relationship between the research question, essay and original Oiko.world data entries

**2<sup>nd</sup> year – 2.1 class:** will show clear clarity in the research question and a clear pertinent relationship between the research question, essay and original Oiko.world data entries

**3<sup>rd</sup> year – 2.2 class:** will show clarity in the research question, and a good degree of pertinence in the relationship between the research question, essay and original Oiko.world data entries.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year – 2.2 class:** will show competent clarity in the research question, and competence in articulating the relationship between the research question, essay and original Oiko.world entries.

**3<sup>rd</sup> year – 3<sup>rd</sup> class:** will show some clarity in the research question, and some competence in articulating the relationship between the research question, essay and original Oiko.world entries.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year – 3<sup>rd</sup> class:** will show some competence in the clarity of the research question, and some competence in articulating the relationship between the research question, essay and original Oiko.world entries.

**3<sup>rd</sup> year – Fail:** will show little or no clarity in the research question, and little or no competence in articulating the relationship between the research question, essay and original Oiko.world entries.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year – Fail:** will show little or no clarity in the research question, and little or no competence in articulating the relationship between the research question, essay and original Oiko.world entries

## Term 2, Option C

Marking criteria and class descriptors are as follows:

- Workshop on how to undertake data entry: **attendance mandatory** (cannot continue with this form of assessment if you do not attend this session)
- Plan for 1 new narrative chain (comprised of 3 entries at 500 words each): **mandatory submission of c. 250 word plan** outlining theme of narrative chain + identifying 4 or more individual data entries within each chain (cannot continue with this form of assessment if you do not submit your plan and receive sign off). To be submitted via Tabula.

### Data Entries/ Narrative chains in Oiko.world:

Your data entries/narrative chains will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Completion of entry:** the degree to which you have accurately filled out the database entry for each of your data entry 'points', as well as completed an entry related to your 'narrative chain'
- **Connectivity between entries:** the degree to which you have sought to create links for each data entry not only to other entries in a 'narrative chain', but more widely to other entries within the Oiko.world system.
- **Primary sources:** the degree to which your entries are based on accurately-referenced primary source material
- **Secondary sources:** the degree to which your entries are based on accurately-referenced secondary source material

**3<sup>rd</sup> year 1<sup>st</sup> class** data entry will have all fields in the database entry system completed for each entry/narrative chain with a very high degree of accuracy. The candidate will have been able to create very clear and convincing connections between entries within a narrative chain, between narrative chains, and between entries within the Oiko.world system. Each entry will be backed up by accurately-referenced primary and secondary material.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year 1<sup>st</sup> class** data entry will have all fields in the database entry system completed for each entry/narrative chain with a high degree of accuracy. The candidate will have been able to create clear and convincing connections between entries within a narrative chain, between narrative chains, and between entries within the Oiko.world system. Each entry will be backed up by accurately-referenced primary and secondary material.

**3<sup>rd</sup> year 2.1 class** data entry will have all fields in the database entry system completed for each entry/narrative chain with a strong degree of accuracy. The candidate will have been able to create connections between entries within a narrative chain, between narrative

chains, and between entries within the Oiko.world system. Each entry will be backed up by accurately-referenced primary and secondary material.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year 2.1 class** data entry will have all fields in the database entry system completed for each entry/narrative chain with a good degree of accuracy. The candidate will have been able to create connections between entries within a narrative chain, between narrative chains, and between entries within the Oiko.world system. Each entry will be backed up by accurately-referenced primary and secondary material.

**3<sup>rd</sup> year 2.2 class** data entry will have most fields in the database entry system completed for each entry/narrative chain with a good degree of accuracy. The candidate will have been able to create some connections between entries within a narrative chain, and/or between narrative chains, and/or between entries within the Oiko.world system. Each entry will be backed up by primary and secondary material, which has been referenced fairly accurately.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year 2.2 class** data entry will have a majority of fields in the database entry system completed for each entry/narrative chain with a good degree of accuracy. The candidate will have been able to create connections between entries within a narrative chain, and/or between narrative chains, and/or between entries within the Oiko.world system. Each entry will be backed up by some primary and secondary material.

**3<sup>rd</sup> year 3<sup>rd</sup> class** data entry will have some fields in the database entry system completed for each entry/narrative chain, perhaps with historical inaccuracies. The candidate will have been able to create at least some connections between entries within a narrative chain, and/or between narrative chains, and/or between entries within the Oiko.world system. Each entry will be backed up by some primary and secondary material, perhaps inaccurately referenced.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year 3<sup>rd</sup> class** data entry will have at least some fields in the database entry system completed for each entry/narrative chain, often with historical inaccuracies. The candidate will have been able to make a few connections between entries within a narrative chain, and/or between narrative chains, and/or between entries within the Oiko.world system. Each entry will only rarely be backed up by primary and secondary material, which is often referenced inaccurately.

**3<sup>rd</sup> year fail** data entry will have no, or very few, fields in the database entry system completed for each entry/narrative chain, with many historical inaccuracies. The candidate will have failed to make connections between entries within a narrative chain, between narrative chains or between entries within Oiko.world. There will be little or no primary and secondary material provided to back up each data entry.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year fail** data entry will have no, or very few, fields in the database entry system completed for each entry/narrative chain, with many historical inaccuracies. The candidate will have failed to make connections between entries within a narrative chain, between narrative chains or between entries within Oiko.world. There will be little or no primary and secondary material provided to back up each data entry.

### **Reflective Essay:**

In addition to the standard criteria for assessing written work in the department, your reflective essay will also be judged on the following criteria:

- **Reflection on choices made in the data entry**

- **Extent of independent research** on the data entries and more widely on the historical societies in which the data is situated.
- **Reflection on the contribution of entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> year 1<sup>st</sup> Class** essay will be fluently, stylishly and concisely written, demonstrating an excellent grasp of English grammar and syntax and excellent communication skills. It will present an extremely clear reflection on the choices made in the data entry, demonstrate extensive independent research, and offer an extremely thoughtful, logical and structured reflection on the contribution of the entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year 1<sup>st</sup> Class** essay will be fluently and concisely written, demonstrating an excellent grasp of English grammar and syntax and very good communication skills. It will present a very clear reflection on the choices made in the data entry, demonstrate very significant independent research, and offer a very thoughtful, logical and structured reflection on the contribution of the entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world

**3<sup>rd</sup> year 2.1 class** essay will be well written, demonstrate a very good grasp of English grammar and syntax and strong communication skills. It will present a very clear reflection on the choices made in the data entry, demonstrate significant independent research, and offer an very thoughtful, logical and structured reflection on the contribution of the entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world

**2<sup>nd</sup> year 2.1 class** essay will be well written, demonstrate a good grasp of English grammar and syntax, and good communication skills. It will present a clear reflection on the choices made in the data entry, demonstrate good independent research, and offer a thoughtful, logical and structured reflection on the contribution of the entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world

**3<sup>rd</sup> year 2.2 class** essay may show weaknesses in English expression, interpretation and in clarity of structure or argument. It may show occasional lapses in the clarity of its reflection on the choices made in the data entry. It will demonstrate some independent research, and may show occasional weaknesses in clarity, logic and structure of its reflection on the contribution of the entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year 2.2 class** essay will show weakness in English expression interpretation and in clarity of structure or argument. It will show occasional lapses in the clarity of its reflection on the choices made in data entry. It will demonstrate independent research, and will show occasional weaknesses in clarity, logic and structure of its reflection on the contribution of the entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world.

**3<sup>rd</sup> year 3<sup>rd</sup> class** essay will be mostly unsuccessful in the clarity of its reflection on the choices made in data entry. It will demonstrate little independent research, and will show significant weaknesses in clarity, logic and structure of its reflection on the contribution of the entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year 3<sup>rd</sup> class** essay will be mostly unsuccessful in the clarity of its reflection on the choices made in data entry. It will demonstrate insufficient independent research, and will

show poor clarity, logic and structure in its reflection on the contribution of the entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world.

**3<sup>rd</sup> year Fail** essay will be unsuccessful in the clarity of its reflection on the choices made in data entry. It will demonstrate little or no independent research, and will show considerable ineptitude in the clarity, logic and structure of its reflection on the contribution of the entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world.

**2<sup>nd</sup> year Fail** essay will be unsuccessful in the clarity of its reflection on the choices made in data entry. It will demonstrate little or no independent research, and will show considerable ineptitude in the clarity, logic and structure of its reflection on the contribution of the entries and narrative chain to the wider picture of ancient connectivity represented within Oiko.world.