
Minutes of meeting held on 20 May 2017, Wolfson 2 room of the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet St. London WC1E 7HU, at 10.30a.m.

Present: Dr Heather Shore, Co-Convenor (Leeds Beckett); Dr Lucie Matthews-Jones, Co-Convenor (Liverpool John Moores); Dr Richard Hawkins, Treasurer (Wolverhampton), Dr Daniel Grey, Secretary (Plymouth), Dr Bill Aird (Edinburgh); Dr Heather Shore (Leeds Beckett); Dr Mark Clapson; Dr. Kate Bradley (Kent); Dr Robert McNamara (Ulster); Dr Andrew Roach (Glasgow); Dr Karin Dannehl (EHS), Dr Daniel Gordon (Edge Hill), Dr Charles Insley (Manchester), Dr Rachel Bright (Keele); Dr Paul Corthorn (Queen's University), Dr. Rachel Lock Lewis (South Wales)

Apologies for absence

Dr Alison Hems (Bath Spa); Mr Tom O'Donnell (UCL – Postgrad Rep); Dr Paul Corthorn (Queen's University); Dr Jamie Wood, Media Officer (Lincoln)

1. Minutes of the last Steering Committee meeting

Confirmed

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Historical Association rep – ongoing

3. Confirmation of new Steering Committee members and Executive Officers

None

4. Convenors' Reports

Heather Shore: HEFCE and British Academy responses – Response to Stern was submitted in March and we expect a response this summer. We've also put our response on the website. We think it would be a good idea to update lists of HofD as a yearly task (in August), and we would be grateful if you could let us (and Sue) know if there are any changes to your HoD/School.

Education Rep – RHS – Paul Corthorn is coming to the end of his tenure. Our inclination is to currently leave it so that when Paul steps down, Peter D’Sena (already on the Education Council) takes over this role. Richard Hawkins again attended as HUK rep the Arts and Humanities Alliance.

Lucie Matthews-Jones: Research Officer – we still haven’t been able to appoint a RO, we would like to go ahead with this. Once more we are appealing to the SC for volunteers, or for suggestions of individuals outside the SC that we might approach.

Other?

Richard Hawkins mentions problems colleagues were having publishing at the Humanities alliance. One big issue with Open Access is that if a lot of images are being used, this raises serious questions about copyright and potentially huge costs to the person writing the monograph. Suggestion this indirectly discriminates against people who work with images frequently. Heather notes this can very easily be a couple of thousand pounds even on the most restrictive license.

Lucie Matthews-Jones: So, obviously, after this we’re going to have the Academic ECR Boot Camp from 12.45 onwards, starting with lunch. We’d really appreciate if you could check your rooms and whether they have been set up beforehand? We had 18 applicants, and I’ll be thinking a bit more next year about how that happened and how we might advertise more widely.

Maureen Meikle: This general shift where we’re no longer in departments but in schools represents a big change – the other subjects don’t necessarily understand the importance of what we are doing, so everything has to be explained differently.

Lucie Matthews-Jones: Do we want to see about getting some external funding for this, something that would provide bursaries, maybe we might want to move round the country – something there about teaching fellowship excellence fund?

We still haven’t been able to recruit a research officer, so unless someone would like to step up within the society, I think we’ve reached the point of needing to think about going outside HUK to speak to people who might be suitable?

Lucie explains this would potentially involve organising suitable research events and heading responses to policy that are research related

Juliane Furst suggests she might be interested, Kate Bradley wonders if Matthew Grant at Essex might be interested in this as well?

Robert McNamara asks to clarify what would be required- an annual event, something more than that?

Lucie says an annual event would be really good

Heather and Lucie emphasise they are interested in someone having flexibility to pursue their own interests within the role

Lucie Matthews-Jones discusses her event held at the British Library, which got 25 delegates. The BL are keen to work with historians and seem to have these events annually, if you might be interested in doing this, please do speak to us about it and perhaps we can help with coordination.

I'm really keen and so is Heather to think about what our research, teaching, and impact interests are in Higher Education – could everyone please send an email that would cover these issues so we can target things more directly?

5. Treasurer's Report

Richard Hawkins: Very pleased to report we currently have a surplus, and we are chasing up current subscriptions. In terms of expenditure we've not yet been invoiced by the IHR for the use of these rooms, and we also don't receive the invoice for the administrator's salary until the end of this month. Nonetheless, we will have a surplus even bearing this in mind. It is likely that the room charges for the IHR will go up next year, although these figures have not yet been finalised.

Brief discussion about possible costs and ways to reduce this next year – do we want to hold an SC meeting out of London, for example?

Heather Shore suggests that we try and target the bursaries a bit more

Mark Hutchinson the idea that it is in the IHR is important, it helps get people along and take it very seriously.

Peter notes that London, Manchester and Glasgow were key areas for holding teaching events as they were relatively easy for people to get to – the payoff is that you are more likely to get 12 than 20, but on the other hand, this also means that you get delegates who cannot manage to get to London.

6. Secretary's Report

No issues arising

7. Education Officer's Report

Peter D'Sena: New to Teaching Event that we hope History Lab + can advertise – 12 September. We've got 4 people presenting, we need one more for this. I'd like someone to do the sort of session Adam Crymble did last year on digital history. For the Teaching History in Higher Education conference, instead of getting 40 proposals which would be the normal number, I only got 12. The feeling is that people are TEF'd out. The RHistS thus decided that the best thing to do would be to postpone this – it was going to be shortly after the New to Teaching event, but this will now not happen at the moment.

I'd like to have a discussion at some point whether we do what we have done in previous years about offering a small bursary to people who come to the New to Teaching Event?

Heather Shore and Lucie Matthews-Jones say they're happy to have a talk about this. Lucie suggests a blog post on how important it is to showcase work. Lucie notes that a key thing for the TEF is to show that your innovative idea for teaching has been taken up elsewhere by another institution.

Kate Bradley asks about whether the emphasis on PGCAP and in-house training means that people have less time for other events

Heather shore suggests we think again about strategies for advertising

Juliana Furst suggests that a lot of institutions are taking these things in-house, lots of emails about teaching events or workshops.

Peter D'Sena asks if we want to do something with the British Academy for their conference?

8. Media Officer's Report

Report read out from Jamie Wood – Lucie Matthews-Jones delivers this. The website is slowly being updated and reflecting more what we are doing. Could people please check their bios (that this is up to date, and indeed on there!). We've had 4 blog posts since the last SC but we would like to really encourage the SC to write more, reflecting on issues around history in HE, either research or teaching related.

Reminder from Rachel Bright about her post and asking for people to engage with that if they are interested?

Twitter followers now up to nearly 2000

Sara Wolfson thanks the SC for letting her blog about her teaching innovation event, which was helpful with spreading the word about that. Feedback was very positive, and there were about 23 people there.

9. Reports from

i. Northern Irish Representatives

Nothing to report at present

ii. Scottish Representatives

Bill Aird – decision that Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen are stepping aside from the TEF, but a simultaneous emphasis on things like staff doing teaching qualifications. Support for EU colleagues has been good, there has been steps taken to try and support them through thinking about Brexit.

Andrew Roach says that Glasgow is taking the same view, and has been lobbying the Scottish Government hard about Brexit.

iii. Welsh Representatives

Joan Allen notes a number of Welsh universities are looking to cut costs and the humanities departments seem to be particularly hit by this. There is a view that some of the rationale for this is based on dodgy data, but it is very difficult.

Charles Insley notes that, especially for those historians who work at the early end of things, there is a very real danger that archaeology might vanish as an undergraduate subject.

Joan Allen notes that student recruitment and the drive towards employability have both impacted on this.

Heather Shore refers to the tyranny of metrics as impacting on employability rates.

Charles Insley has suggested that the DLHE window may be changing from 12 months to 18 months.

Sarah Miller-Davenport asks why can't we change the conversation – move the conversation away from this?

Sara Wolfson is currently marking portfolios about placements – don't like the idea of a closed understanding of employability: what sort of citizen do people want to be? History is great for making people think about this. Trying to get students to give specific examples for cover letters

Charles Insley asks will changing the conversation work if people aren't listening in the government?

Juliana Furst says it is important to at least try and offer an alternative perspective

Heather Shore asks Andrew if the RHistS is expanding its mission in this? Andrew says not at the moment, but it sounds like a likely thing to take up for them.

Peter D'Sena observes there is a real need to update the current literature on humanities placements (e.g. Booth 2005). Useful to think about different models of doing this.

Maureen Meikle notes that Leeds Trinity has been running placements for 25 years – core in the first year and optional after that. You build up good partnerships over time. We've been able to demonstrate that this does have a definite impact on employment.

10. Reports from:

- i. **Historical Association**
- ii. **Royal Historical Society**

Andrew notes 150th anniversary is imminent, and there will be a series of events about this and a real push for inclusivity.

- iii. **Institute of Historical Research**
- iv. **History Lab/History Lab Plus**

Sarah Holland (present!) is the new chair of History Lab +, quite a lot of people have left their positions in the organisation. She is setting up a public history and diversity workshop in Leeds this Autumn.

v. Postgraduate Representative

11. Any other business

12. Dates of future meetings

Third Meeting

7 October 2017: Held at 11a.m. at Senate House, University of London, in Wolfson Room 1.

Annual Plenary

4 November 2017: Held at 11a.m. at Senate House, University of London, in Wolfson Room 1 & 2.