**AUPHF Annual Executive Meeting**

**Friday 4th December 2020, 4.00-6.00**

**Online meeting**

**Present:** Marion Demossier, Martin Hurcombe, Fransiska Louwagie, Akane Kawakami, Emmanuelle Labeau, Philippe Powrie, Chris Reynolds, Marion Schmid (Chair), Teresa Vernon (FSLG) Adam Watts, Rebecca Wilson.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies Emma Cayley, Julia Dobson, Laurence Grove, Margaret Topping.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting** were confirmed.

**3. President’s report (MS)**

- AUPHF+ noted the difficult situation affecting Modern Languages departments. The Association has written protest letters against the planned closure of the Institute for Latin American Studies (ILAS) and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies as well as against the planned cuts to the Arts and Humanities at the University of Roehampton.

- AUPHF+ has rebranded its website thanks to the great work of Chris Reynolds.

**4. PGR rep & PGR activities (MS & MD)**

- The PGR rep advert has been circulated, but so far, we have had no applicants. We have extended the deadline to 18th December and have circulated the call to our members to target some of their PGRs. We discussed the possibility of remuneration attached to the role (200£ as a stipendiary or hourly-paid fee). There will need to be a role description explaining what it entails. Possible tasks include: attending two meetings; PGR representation and Future Leaders agenda; providing a bridge between AUPHF+ and the postgraduate community; support for the prize competition. MS will check with MT the financial implications.

**5. Newsletter (MD)** Following Sarah Waters suggestion, communication is a key issue for AUPHF+ to focus on. The production of an annual newsletter to circulate among the members as a way of improving communication is an option and MD is happy to put it together.

**6. Survey (MD)** MD has created a survey to start the discussion with members of the Association and to gather their opinions on how to improve our visibility. Feel free to send your comments to MD concerning the key questions/areas to be covered.

- Phil commented on these initiatives and the impression of déja-vu. The challenge seems to be in connecting more closely AUPHF+ to a wide range of other groups in ML and how to become a more powerful voice in the sector by rallying forces across a wide range of disciplines.

- MS confirmed that AUPHF+ remit is in French and Francophone Studies and lobbying the sector on the behalf of our members. AUPHF+ works in close contact with other Associations, including the Arts and Humanities Alliance.

**7. Annual event (MS)**

- Recent annual events have been very successful in attracting a wider audience so AUPHF+ is keen to continue to develop online events. MS discussed the next half-day event which can be organised by AUPHF+ for early May. There is an agreement on the topic of ‘Decolonising French and Francophone Studies’ focusing on both teaching and research. MH suggested inviting Ruth Bush (Bristol), Nadia Kiwan (Aberdeen). CR mentioned Charles Fordsick as another suggestion. MS added Nicola Frith (Edinburgh) as a possible speaker. EL mentioned that Aston university organised an event about Black History Month and they had 3,000 attendees.

- MS discussed the possibility of including people from outside academia. CR added that museums might be an option as they are a great avenue for the agenda on decolonising. MD is happy to approach Anne-Christine Taylor (Quai Branly) or the curator of the Musée des Confluences. The meeting is keen to organise a dialogue between French and British practitioners and curators. PP reflected on a recent event organised by Ginette Vincendeau and Sue Harris around ‘Bande de filles’ which generated a debate as the absence of black contributors was noted. MD commented that ‘Decolonising the curriculum’ is a polemical topic in France. MS noted the possibility of inviting Prof. Anne Lafont (EHESS), a leading specialist on art and race who contributed to the catalogue *Le Modèle Noir*, published in conjunction with the exhibition held at the Quai d’Orsay ( https://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/events/exhibitions/in-the-museums/exhibitions-in-the-musee-dorsay-more/article/le-modele-noir-47692.html?tx\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=649&cHash=d2c0337768).

**8. AUPHF+ Prize Competition (MS)**

- MS proposed using some of AUPHF+’s existing funds to give three prizes around the topic of ‘Advocacy for Modern Languages’/‘ Why are languages so important?’/’How Languages can change your Life’ by launching an audiovisual short-clip competition (between 3- 5 minutes). The prize would be £100. EL and other members proposed reflecting on the year abroad as other potential topics and to check what UCML is doing in this area which could be complementary. AK wishes to open the competition to UG students as well as PGs. MD mentioned the issue of GDPR and the legal obligations which she will investigate and will report back to the meeting. The meeting discussed the possibility of collaborating with the French Embassy and other institutions to support the initiative. A jury will also need to be established to judge the clips/videos. The AUPHF+ will be able to circulate the work of the nominees on You tube or other social platforms. The meeting decided on the possible deadline of January to launch the initiative, then May-June to give time to the students to produce their piece and July for the announcement.

**9. British Library French studies collection (Lead curator report: Teresa Vernon)**

- MS introduced Teresa Vernon and notes that the AUPHF+ is very keen to renew and develop our collaboration with the FSLG. Mutual reporting to start the collaboration.

- See report attached to email and presented by Teresa during the meeting.

**10. Dates of future meetings**

- May or June discussed as the next date for our meeting.

**11. AOB**