

Society for French Studies

The Society for French Studies is charity no. 1078038 and is a company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, no. 3801778, whose registered office is The Faculty of Modern Languages, 41 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JF.

The 60th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 9am, Tuesday 2nd July 2019 in the Boilerhouse Auditorium, Royal Holloway, University of London.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 59th AGM, 3rd July 2018 (attached)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Report of the Directors for 2018 (attached)
5. Report of the Honorary Treasurer (attached)
6. Report of the Editors, *French Studies* (attached)
7. Report of the Editor, *French Studies Bulletin* (attached)
8. Report of the General Editor, *Legenda* Research Monographs in French Studies (attached)
9. Report of the IT Officer (attached)
10. Report of the Membership Secretary (attached)
11. Report of the Publicity Officer (attached)
12. Report of the Postgraduate Officer (attached)
13. Report of the Conference Officer (attached)
14. R. Gapper Prizes, Malcolm Bowie Prize and Prize Fellowship (reports attached) and Proposal for a Postdoctoral Fellowship (attached).
15. Funding Schemes (reports attached)
16. Election/Re-Election of Officers of the Society and Members of the Executive Committee; Election of Members of the *French Studies Bulletin* Editorial Board.
17. Any Other Business

ELECTIONS

(Item 16 on the Agenda)

The Executive Committee gives notice of the following vacancies: Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Postgraduate Officer, three Elected Members of the Executive Committee, and three members of the *French Studies Bulletin* editorial board.

Eligible for re-election: Membership Secretary, IT Officer, Conference Officer, Publicity Officer.

The Executive Committee proposes to put the following nominations to the AGM:

Vice-President	Prof. Michael Syrotinski, University of Glasgow
Honorary Secretary	Prof. Ed Welch, University of Aberdeen
Honorary Treasurer	Dr Katie Jones, University of St Andrews
Postgraduate Officer	Melissa Pawelski, University of Warwick
Re-elected Officers:	
Membership Secretary	Dr Pollie Bromilow, University of Liverpool
IT Officer	Dr Katherine Shingler, University of Nottingham
Conference Officer	Dr Victoria Turner, University of St Andrews
Publicity Officer	Dr Jennifer Rushworth, University College London
Elected Members:	Dr Sarah Arens, University of Edinburgh Dr Patrick Crowley, University College Cork Dr Sinan John-Richards, University of Oxford
Re-elected Members:	Dr Emmanuelle Labeau, Aston University Dr Jo Malt, King's College London
<i>French Studies Bulletin</i> editorial board	Prof. Enda McCaffrey, Nottingham Trent University Dr Charlotte Baker, University of Lancaster Dr Jonathan Patterson, University of Oxford

Further nominations from members of the Society for the above posts, together with a statement of the nominees' willingness to serve, should be sent to the Honorary Secretary (Dr Luke Sunderland, School of Modern Languages & Cultures, Durham University, New Elvet, Durham DH1 3JT, luke.sunderland@durham.ac.uk, 0191 334 3458). All nominations and statements must be received by 18th June 2019.

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Minutes of the 59th Annual General Meeting of the Society for French Studies held at 9am, Tuesday 3rd July 2018 in the Brookfield Health Science Complex, room G02, University College Cork.

The meeting began with a minute's silence in honour of colleagues who had passed away since last July.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Wendy Bennett, Alison Finch, Emma Gilby, Susan Harrow, Victoria Turner and Ed Welch.

2. Minutes of the 58th AGM, 4th July 2017

The minutes were passed as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

All would come up later on the agenda.

4. Report of the Directors for 2017

Speaking to his pre-circulated report, Bill Burgwinkle noted that it had been a good year for the Society, citing in particular the increased prize monies that the Society was now offering, the new website and the sound financial investments that had been made.

5. Report of the Honorary Treasurer

Ruth Cruickshank spoke to her pre-circulated report, thanking Bill Burgwinkle and Mairéad Hanrahan for their support during her time as treasurer. She pointed out that the Society's financial systems and compliancy were in good order, with the Society ready to meet the challenges ahead. She would hand over to her nominated successor, Helena Chadderton, pending her election later in the meeting.

Bill Burgwinkle thanked Ruth Cruickshank for her service in the role as she stepped down.

6. Report of the Editors, *French Studies*

Tim Unwin spoke to the editors' pre-circulated report, noting that submissions had been weighted toward the modern period, partly due to the appearance of a special issue on 'Thinking Colour Writing'. There had been a slightly slower submission rate this year and a shorter publication queue. The journal was on the lookout for good submissions. The reviews section was doing very well, attracting lots of traffic to the website, as were virtual special issues. A good line-up of *états presents* was in place.

Russell Goulbourne and Tim Unwin would step down at the end of 2018, but a new team had been nominated, pending AGM approval of the expansion of the editorial team.

Tim Unwin thanked Rebecca du Plessis in the OUP office for her work, as well as her predecessors Michael Wood and Liz Skalka. He thanked Patrick O'Donovan, Alison Finch, Elizabeth Fallaize and Neil Kenny as previous editors of the journal, Sophie Marnette with whom he had worked as co-editor, Emma Cayley with whom he currently worked, and Russell Goulbourne who had joined the editorial team at the same time as him.

Tim Unwin also thanked Janice Carruthers, Richard Parish and David McCallam, who were leaving the editorial board, with replacements to be elected at the meeting, as well as the members of the Executive Committee, and the 5 presidents with whom he had worked (Susan Harrow, Charles Forsdick, Mairéad Hanrahan, Bill Burgwinkle and Judith Still).

Bill Burgwinkle thanked for the editors for their continued service to the Society.

7. Report of the Editor, *French Studies Bulletin*

Jim Simpson spoke to his pre-circulated report, announcing that he would be standing down, with Kevin Inston his nominated successor. He noted that a glitch in the production schedule this year had meant that the spring issue did not appear. The bulletin was keen for submissions and proposals for special issues. The possibility of online-only publication would be discussed with Kevin Inston. An additional panel member was being sought, to increase coverage for the twentieth century, as well as a replacement for Chris Tinker. Nigel Armstrong was staying on.

Jim Simpson thanked all serving and previous panel members, as well as the OUP production team, Mary Rigby, and the Executive Committee.

Bill Burgwinkle thanked for Jim Simpson for his service in the role as he stepped down.

8. Report of the General Editor, *Legenda Research Monographs in French Studies*

Diana Knight spoke to her pre-circulated report. There were to be no changes in editorial personnel. The series had absorbed all that went into the Legenda 'blue' series before, including 2 titles near to completion. All post-2016 titles would appear in paperback for £10 (with an 18-month to 2-year delay after hardback publication). Publicity for the launch of the paperbacks would soon be arranged. Titles were also about to be issued in e-book form. Routledge owns the e-book rights on the backlist, and Diana Knight would continue to press for publication of the backlist as e-books and paperbacks, possibility requesting Society support if needed. Diana Knight noted that the series would continue to sit within the Legenda structure, and could not act solely as a Society series.

4 volumes on year had been published on average, with the target now 8. Of 24 titles published since Diana Knight became editor, 10 had been revised PhDs. Submissions were healthy. Roger Pensom's book was in press, and a further 6 volumes were under contract. History and politics titles were welcome. The upper limit was now 85,000 words, with 50,000 words the lower limit. It was still possible to get a volume published for REF, provided the

proposal came in soon. Diana Knight thanked Graham Nelson and all other colleagues involved in the process.

Bill Burgwinkle thanked Diana Knight her continued service in the role.

9. Report of the IT Officer

Katherine Shingler spoke to her pre-circulated report. The new website had allowed online conference registration, and online membership renewal was in development. The Society was exploring the possibility of a login area with member-only information.

Bill Burgwinkle thanked Katherine Shingler for her continued service in the role.

10. Report of the Membership Secretary

Pollie Bromilow spoke to her pre-circulated report, giving particular thanks to Charlotte Cooper for her assistance with membership matters.

Bill Burgwinkle thanked Pollie Bromilow for her continued service in the role.

11. Report of the Publicity Officer

Jennifer Rushworth spoke to her pre-circulated report, thanking Andrew Counter, her predecessor, for a smooth handover, as well as all those who were active on the Society's Facebook and Twitter pages. She also expressed gratitude to Katherine Shingler because much publicity goes through the Society website, and Charlotte Thevenet. She requested that Society members contact her if they have any ideas concerning publicity.

Bill Burgwinkle thanked Andrew Counter in absentia for his service in the role, and Jennifer Rushworth for her willingness to take on the role mid-year and for her subsequent service.

12. Report of the Postgraduate Officer

Charlotte Thevenet spoke to her pre-circulated report, introducing Alexandre Burin as her nominated successor, and thanking members of the Executive Committee for their support.

Bill Burgwinkle thanked Charlotte Thevenet for her service in the role as she stepped down.

13. Report of the Conference Officer

Nina Parish spoke to her pre-circulated report, thanking the conference team at Cork, and Patrick O'Donovan and Patrick Crowley, who represented the host department. She also expressed gratitude to Katherine Shingler for the new website, which had led to a vast improvement in conference organization, to Kaya Davies-Hayon for her help with registrations, to Charlotte Thevenet for assistance with postgraduate initiatives such flash presentations, and to Bill Burgwinkle and Mairéad Hanrahan, the Society presidents with whom she had worked. She wished Victoria Turner good luck as her nominated successor.

Nina Parish drew attention to the call for papers for the Society's 2019 conference at Royal Holloway. The Society was keen to diversify session formats, for example by welcoming

workshops. Bath had agreed to host the conference in 2020, but potential hosts were needed beyond that. Interested parties were invited to speak to Nina Parish and Judith Still.

Bill Burgwinkle thanked Nina Parish for her service in the role as she stepped down after organizing three successful conferences for the Society.

14. R. Gapper Prizes, Malcolm Bowie Prize and Prize Fellowship

a) R. Gapper Undergraduate Essay Prize

Oliver Davis spoke to his pre-circulated report, thanking his predecessor, Eric Robertson, who had organized the 2017 round. The 2018 round had just closed with 41 entries.

The 2017 prize had been awarded to Peter Tellouche (Oxford) for an essay entitled “‘The rich detail with which the experience of time is treated in individual sentences is hard to reconcile with the big-time temporality of Proust’s novel as a whole.’ Discuss.”

Oliver Davis thanked all those involved in judging, and Claire Gapper for her continued support of the prize.

b) R. Gapper Postgraduate Essay Prize

Michael Kelly spoke to his pre-circulated report. The number of entries and submitting institutions had gone up, and the prize was currently open for the next iteration.

The prize had been awarded to Charlotte Thevenet (University College London) for an essay entitled ‘Réponse du « Juif » à l’antisémite: Derrida, commentateur de Hegel et Genet’. The panel also had selected joint runners-up for this year’s award: Liam Lewis (University of Warwick) for ‘Sight, Sound, and the “Cri” of the Mandrake in the Bestiary by Philippe de Thaon’, and Rebecca Sugden (University of Cambridge) for ‘Malicious Fictions and Secret Histories in Balzac’s *Une ténébreuse affaire*’.

Michael Kelly thanked Claire Gapper for her continued support of the prize.

c. R. Gapper Book Prize

Margaret Topping spoke to her pre-circulated report. There had been 17 submissions for the prize. The winner was Roger Pearson for his book *Unacknowledged Legislators: The Poet as Lawgiver in Post-Revolutionary France* (OUP). Helen Swift was commended for her book *Representing the Dead: Epitaph Fictions in Late Medieval France* (Boydell). The prize for books published in 2017 was currently open for submissions.

Margaret Topping thanked Emma Wilson, who was stepping down from the prize jury, and Claire Gapper for her continued support of the prize.

d. Malcolm Bowie Prize

Judith Still spoke to her pre-circulated report. Submissions had been of excellent quality. There were two ways of submitting, via journal editors or departments, with UK departments much less active in proposing articles than those in the US.

The prize had been awarded to Eliza Zingesser (Columbia) for 'Pidgin Poetics: Bird Talk in Medieval France and Occitania' published in *New Medieval Literatures*. The joint runners up were Andrea Gadberry (NYU) for 'The Cupid and the Cogito: Cartesian Poetics', published in *Critical Inquiry*, and Annabel Kim (Harvard) for 'The Riddle of Racial Difference in Anne Garréta's *Sphinx*', published in *Diacritics*.

Judith Still thanked the other jury members: Bill Burgwinkle, Judith Miller (NYU), Christie McDonald (Harvard), and Ian McLachlan (Oxford).

e. Prize Fellowship

Bill Burgwinkle spoke to his pre-circulated report. The fellowship was now yearly. Hugh Roberts was been awarded this year's prize, for a project entitled 'Poetry on trial: a digital edition of French libertine verse and court records (c.1622-25)'. Bill Burgwinkle thanked the other panel members: Judith Still, Tom Conley (Harvard), Nadine Berenguer (University of New Hampshire), and Richard Trachsler (Zurich).

15. Funding Schemes

a. Research Support Fund

Jo Malt spoke to her pre-circulated report. The scheme now had rolling deadlines. The spend had been just under £6,000, with the budget reached for the first time in several years. The Executive Committee had just agreed to increase the budget. A considerable part of the funds had been spent in supporting attendance at the Society conference in Cork. Members were asked to encourage applications, and to bear in mind that the scheme was open to retired members. Emmanuelle Labeau would be taking over the administration of the scheme. Jo Malt thanked Bill Burgwinkle and Judith Still for their support.

Bill Burgwinkle thanked Jo Malt for her service in running the scheme.

b. Conference and Workshop Fund

David McCallam spoke to his pre-circulated report. The scheme now had rolling deadlines. The maximum sum allocated had been raised to £1,000. It had been a successful year, with 11 events sponsored. The scheme had hit its nominal budget. It would henceforth operate a more responsive system of approval, in line with the Research Support Fund.

Bill Burgwinkle thanked David McCallam for his service in running the scheme.

16. Proposed Amendment to the Constitution

The amendment (circulated in the AGM papers) regarded the permitted number of co-editors of *French Studies*. In light of the greater workload faced by the editors, an increase from two to three was approved by the meeting.

17. Election of Officers of the Society and Members of the Executive Committee; Re-election of Officers of the Society and Members of the Executive Committee; Appointments and Elections to *French Studies* and *French Studies Bulletin* Editorial Boards

- a. The following person, having been duly nominated to a vacancy on the Executive Committee, was elected as Honorary Treasurer: Dr Helena Chadderton, University of Hull
- b. The following person, having been duly nominated to a vacancy on the Executive Committee, was elected as Postgraduate Officer: Alexandre Burin, Durham University
- c. The following person, having been duly nominated to a vacancy on the Executive Committee, was elected as Conference Officer: Dr Victoria Turner, University of St Andrews
- d. The following person, having been duly nominated to a vacancy on the Executive Committee, was elected as Publicity Officer: Dr Jennifer Rushworth, University College London
- e. The Elected Officers of the Society listed in the AGM papers were re-elected for a further year
- f. The following person, having been duly nominated to a vacancy on the Executive Committee, was elected for three years: Dr Oliver Davis, University of Warwick
- g. The following person, having been duly nominated to a vacancy on the Executive Committee, was elected for three years: Dr Finn Sinclair, University of Edinburgh
- h. The Elected Members of the Society listed in the AGM papers were re-elected for a further three years
- f. The following people were was elected to the Editorial Board of *French Studies*: Professor Florence Myles, University of Essex; Professor Katherine Ibbett, University of Oxford; Dr James Fowler, University of Kent
- g. The following person was appointed as Editor of *French Studies* (with effect from 1 January 2019): Dr Martin Crowley, University of Cambridge
- h. The following people were appointed as Co-Editors of *French Studies* (with effect from 1 January 2019): Dr Emma Gilby, University of Cambridge; Dr Joseph Harris, Royal Holloway, University of London
- i. The following person was appointed as Editor of *French Studies Bulletin*: Dr Kevin Inston, University College London

18. Any Other Business

Judith Still thanked Bill Burgwinkle for his work as president as he stepped down from the role.

The pre-circulated resolution by Daniel Finch-Race and Joseph Ford concerning early-career scholars was discussed. Bill Burgwinkle highlighted the fact that no substantive discussion had been possible at the previous day's Executive Committee meeting. The Society wants to support early-career scholars as much as it can, and particular suggestions would be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in November.

Daniel Finch-Race spoke to the resolution, thanking the Society for all the support he had received from its funding schemes. He suggested that a stipend for research project by an early-career scholar could be a possibility for a new funding scheme that might fill a gap in employment, such as the summer months. He noted that the Society's Prize Fellowship contributed to the problem of short-term contracts, and suggested that there might be an early-career representative on the committee.

Bill Burgwinkle and Luke Sunderland had received emails expressing general support for the the resolution. Charles Forsdick suggested that the Society consolidate and amplify support for early-career scholars, noting that other learned societies had intervened actively around questions of career precarity. Martin Crowley thanked Daniel Finch-Race and Joseph Ford for the resolution, stressing that there was no shortage of goodwill to see what the Executive Committee could do on this issue. Judith Still noted that the Prize Fellowship could already be held for six months (rather than four months). Bill Burgwinkle noted that implementation could be complex, and depended on the institution, but stated that he will reinforce the idea of six-month fellowships. Claire Gorrara hoped that postgraduates and early-career scholars could be part of the process of finding solutions. Eddie Hughes stressed that this was a systemic issue that needed to be addressed, noting that some members of the Society were in positions of institutional influence. Daniel Finch-Race stressed the usefulness of set of evaluative questions circulated in the US by the MLA in 2011, and suggested that UCML and AUPHF could be involved in discussions.

The meeting rose at 10.15.

Report of the Directors for 2018

Despite continuing bad news on most fronts for language study in the UK (notably at the universities of Hull and Reading), 2018 has proved a very good year for the Society, with good financial health, an increase in spend on research schemes and payments for copy-editing, and new committed members serving on the Executive committee. We have grown the number of members of the Society to 462 (from 430 last year). Highlights this year included the introduction of online membership renewal and payment (thanks to our IT officer, Katherine Shingler), the digitisation of our archives, and a significant increase in support for conferences, and for research activity by postgraduates, ECRs and retired colleagues (following changes to the management of the schemes). We have also spent some time considering how to increase support further for ECRs and for outreach.

The 59th Annual Conference, held last year at the University of Cork from the 2-4 July, 2018, was a great success. We hit a record high number of papers (130) and panels, and Cork turned out an even better location than expected – and not just because of the beautiful weather. More than 140 members attended and we were stimulated and energised by the plenary presentations of Sarah Kay (New York University), Martin Crowley (Cambridge), and Éric Fassin (Université Paris 8 Saint-Denis). We also hosted a roundtable discussion on ‘Crisis: the state of French studies’, chaired by Patrick O'Donovan, with short papers from Janice Carruthers (Queen's Belfast, AHRC), Neil Kenny (Oxford, British Academy) and Patrick Crowley (University College Cork), and with Claire Gorrara (Cardiff University) responding. Welcomed in great style by Patrick O'Donovan and our hosts from the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Cork, we were treated to a drinks reception in the amazing Aula Maxima, a wine reception and visit to the gallery of the University Library to see exhibitions on ‘Claude Pélieu: on all frequencies’ and ‘Matters French: Learning from Libraries’, followed by a ceilidh led by a local band. The Directors are grateful to the University of Cork and to the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and especially to Patrick Crowley and the team of volunteers from Cork who made the occasion so memorable. Arrangements for the 2019 conference began over a year ago, led by Vicky Turner as Conference Officer and Hannah Thompson at RHUL. We are grateful to them and other colleagues at RHUL for preparing our way, dealing with the inevitable glitches, and putting in the hard work which organising a conference of this scale requires.

The Executive Committee followed the normal practice in meeting four times this year, once per season, usually at the IMLR in Senate House, with a fourth and final meeting to take place in RHUL, on the morning before the conference begins. The May meeting took place at the Institute of Education in response to a request from UCU members that, notwithstanding our support of and gratitude to IMLR for its work in supporting languages research, we support the boycott of Senate House. The Society continues to be involved in various policy consultations (including on Plan S for Open Access) and in lobbying for French and Francophone Studies, for Modern Languages as a discipline, in tandem with other such professional organisations, and for the Arts and Humanities more generally, as part of the

Arts and Humanities Alliance (AHA), and advising on the 2021 REF exercise. Members of the Executive Committee have attended events organised by the AHA and UCML (the University Council on Modern Languages). The annual meeting of the AUPHF (Association of University Professors and Heads of French), was folded into the program at Cork.

Our flagship journal, *French Studies*, enjoyed another successful and productive year, with consistent submission rates and high visibility of the journal's content on the web and in libraries worldwide. Russell Goulbourne and Tim Unwin completed their terms of office at the end of 2018, after many years of selfless service, and the Society expressed its thanks to them once again at a dinner in London in November 2018. Martin Crowley (Cambridge) began his term as the new General Editor in January 2019, aided by three co-editors rather than the previous two, in order to spread the workload more efficiently. Emma Cayley (Exeter), who began her third year as Co-Editor, was joined by Joseph Harris (RHUL) and Emma Gilby (Cambridge). We should like to thank the Editors, and the *French Studies* editorial board, for all their hard work and dedication to the journal. They continue to invest energy into reviewing large numbers of books for the journal, and ensuring that the reviews are published within a shorter period. All reviews and articles are available on advance access. The *états présents* section is flourishing, with a good balance between author-based contributions and studies of significant or emerging areas of the discipline. In 2018 such topics included Marcel Proust (Adam Watt) and Animal Studies *et littérature médiévale* (Yasmina Foehr-Janssens). The two *états présents* published so far in 2019 have been on Post- Deconstructive Thought and Criticism (Ian James), and Jules Verne (Volker Dehs). Further details are to be found in the Editors' report. We continue to maintain close contact with OUP on matters having to do with the production and marketing of the journal and have their firm assurance that they value our presence in their catalogue and look forward to continued cooperation. We have signed a contract with them which takes our collaboration to the end of 2024; due diligence requires that before that date the contract is put out to tender.

French Studies Bulletin has continued to develop under the capable new editorship of Kevin Inston (UCL) who has taken up the duties of Jim Simpson, whose term expired in summer 2018, and to whom we extend our thanks for his service as editor; we should also like to thank the editorial board for all their input. In a rapidly changing publishing landscape, the bulletin continues to fill an important scholarly gap as an outlet for short research articles, with its Postgraduate Bulletin Board section, and information on upcoming conferences, exhibits, and research opportunities. *FSB* also endeavours to ensure the visibility of the research conducted by early-career researchers and PhD students across all domains within French/Francophone Studies. We are consulting with OUP with regards to the advantages and disadvantages of making *FSB* online only.

The Research Monographs in French Studies, part of the Legenda series, founded by Malcolm Bowie in 1995, and supported by the SFS, has continued to attract high- quality proposals, with a regular flow of titles appearing in 2018-19 and more to come in 2020. The disciplinary and chronological spread of the monographs continues to be pleasingly diverse, as does the institutional range and career stage of their authors. The Directors offer their thanks to Diana Knight, who has edited the series with such dedication for the past seven

years, and to Graham Nelson, Managing Editor of *Legenda*, to whom all of the authors and the General Editor are especially indebted. We were delighted that Graham was able to accept our invitation to attend the conference this year to talk to postgraduates in the dedicated ‘Meet the Editors’ session (alongside Clare Morton from OUP and Laurel Plapp for Brill), and be available for other colleagues throughout. Thanks are also extended to the editorial board, who contribute so much of their time to the series. The Directors are very grateful to the MHRA for its commitment to the series, not least for the guarantee it provides of editorial independence, and we wish to thank the Editorial board for their hand in overseeing the Society's role in this admirable publishing venture.

In the twelfth year of the Malcolm Bowie Prize, Bill Burgwinkle, Vice-President of the Society, convened a jury made up of Ian Maclachlan (Oxford), Judith Miller (New York University), Christie McDonald (Harvard), and Judith Still, President, to determine the best essay on a French Studies topic published by an early-career researcher. The quality of the work presented was again impressive and reflected well on the breadth, chronological range, and international quality of emerging scholars in the field of French Studies. The prize will be awarded to Laura Hughes (New York University), for her essay, ‘In the library of Jacques Derrida: manuscript materiality after the archival turn’, which appeared in *New Literary History*, volume 49, no. 3. Summer 2018, pp. 403-424. The runner-up, who receives our commendation, is Yan Wang, from the Université Bordeaux Montaigne, for the essay, ‘L’écriture et le problème de l’ancienne histoire chinoise’, which was published in *Monde français du dix-huitième siècle*. The Society would like to thank and congratulate the authors of these extraordinary essays, the nominators for their interest in our studies, and the panel of external judges who offered so freely of their time and expertise.

The R. Gapper foundation continues to sponsor three of our academic prizes and for that we remain deeply grateful to Claire Gapper and her family. All three prizes attracted excellent submissions this year. Michael Kelly and Oliver Davis coordinated the work of the Postgraduate and Undergraduate Prizes, respectively, and we thank them for all the work that they put into this. 12 essays (from 6 institutions) were entered into the postgraduate competition, unfortunately continuing a pattern of decrease in numbers over time, and the panel chose Madeleine Chalmers (Oxford) for an essay entitled ‘The Surreal Technics of André Breton and Gilbert Simondon’. An essay by Rebecca Sugden (Cambridge) entitled ‘Sand and Rancière: Artisan Socialism and the Inadequacies of Idealism’, was selected as by the panel as runner-up for the prize. The undergraduate essay prize attracted 41 submissions (up from 35 in 2017) from 18 universities, and was awarded to Kathleen Mitchell Fox (Cambridge) for her essay ‘Talking Holes and Meaningless Sex: Exploring gender and signification in the Old French fabliaux’.

Margaret Topping once again chaired the panel of judges for the R. Gapper Book Prize – thanks to her for continuing with this significant task. A six-person jury made up of Catriona Seth (Oxford), Patrick O’Donovan (Cork), John O’Brien (Durham), Jean Duffy (Edinburgh), and Julia Dobson (Sheffield) and Margaret herself, assessed the 26 books submitted and awarded the prize to Julian Swann (Birkbeck) for his book *Exile, Imprisonment or Death: The Politics of Disgrace in Bourbon France, 1610-1789* (OUP). The other books shortlisted

by the panel were: Conan Fischer's *A Vision of Europe: Franco-German Relations during the Great Depression, 1929-1932* (OUP); Tom Hamilton's *Pierre de L'Estoile and his World in the Wars of Religion* (OUP) and Shirley Jordan's *Marie Ndiaye: Inhospitable Fictions* (Legenda).

In matters of finance, the Society remains in good health, and royalties from the journal and membership subscription continue to be the major sources of revenue as indicated in the Treasurer's Report. In 2018 royalties were £66,043 (against £56,868 in 2017). Membership revenue also increased at £19,047 (against £10,135 in 2017). The Society's investments (Secure Trust 120-day access at 1.25% interest and United Trust 100-day access at 1.25% interest) continue to grow steadily, while our investment on the AEGON platform has increased by over £16,000 since March 2017. We have also sought to continue to fulfil the Society's charitable mission by reinvesting in schemes that promote the wellbeing of the field as a whole as detailed in the attached reports. We have agreed uplift in payments to staff working as copy-editors for the journals and for Legenda. Given the good health of the Society and the associated increases in the time and effort required by members of the Executive in managing schemes and prizes inter alia, it has also been agreed to fund a further 4 special allowances for members of the Executive deemed to have particularly onerous roles: Treasurer, Secretary, IT Officer and Conference Officer. This allowance is to be used particularly with a view to cover IT equipment required to carry out the role effectively.

Sadly, as a result of redundancies in Modern Languages at the University of Hull, our Treasurer Helena Chadderton, will be standing down after only 1 year in the role; we should like to thank her for her great dedication over this year and record our deep regret at her leaving so soon – and for such an appalling reason. We should also like to thank Helena's predecessor, Ruth Cruickshank, for her support of Helena in the transition last summer and autumn.

The Conference Grant Awards Scheme, overseen by David McCallam and evaluated by himself (many thanks to him for his efficiency) in conjunction with the President and Vice-President, remains a reliable port of call, especially for early-career researchers, including postgraduates, and the changes made by the Board have clearly encouraged more interest. Now working on a rolling deadline (2 months prior to the event), the levels of funding have also been increased from £500 to £1000. 18 conferences have been funded since July (up from 9 last year) for a total expenditure of £10,689.25 at time of writing, compared to a total of £6,110 last year. The original budget set was £7,500, but it was decided to raise the ceiling since there were excellent applications still coming in, as it seems a good way of supporting the community of French Studies researchers as it is our mission to do. Funded applications already include some events which are broadly concerned with outreach, and David is investigating (in collaboration with ASMCF) a significant expansion of that area of our portfolio.

A total of 23 Research Support applications (up from 13 last year) were also deemed worthy of support. Applications were evaluated by a panel consisting of Judith Still, President, Bill Burgwinkle, Vice-President and Emmanuelle Labeau, the committee member overseeing the

scheme (to whom many thanks for her efficiency), and a total of £7,140.32 (up from £3471 last year) was awarded. As last year, the majority of applicants were requesting support for conference travel and were postgraduate research students or early-career researchers, but it is good to note that a number of retired colleagues also benefited from the scheme. It is very clear that last year's decision to work on a rolling deadline (2 months prior to the activity) rather than to have fixed deadlines in the year has achieved its goal in increasing the number of applications. While this means more work for the committee, and has meant raising the ceiling for expenditure, we are delighted as this again is part of our core mission.

In the sixth year of the Visiting International Fellowship scheme, there were two applications submitted, representing a spread of 9 institutions from across the UK and Ireland. The files were examined by a panel of members from the Executive committee, coordinated by Ed Welch. The Fellowship was awarded to Martin Munro (Florida State University). Professor Munro's research interests are in the literature and culture of the Francophone Caribbean, ecocriticism and the writing of disaster in the Caribbean, postcolonial theory, and literary translation. The Fellowship is scheduled to take place from 1-20 March 2020. Queen's University Belfast will be lead host, in partnership with the universities of Liverpool and Glasgow, University College, Cork, and the International Slavery Museum, Liverpool (see report for further details).

In line with the Society's commitment to expand its support of scholarly activity, the Society's membership approved in 2015 a proposal to establish a yearly Prize Fellowship in French; and it was decided last year to alternate between calls for early- and mid-career scholars and mid- and senior scholars. As the previous competition was aimed at mid- and established scholars, the competition this year was aimed at an early/mid-range scholar, and we should like to congratulate the declared winner who was Lucy O'Meara (Cork) for leave in the academic year 2019-20 to work on a project entitled 'Interrogating the Encyclopaedia in European Fiction and Autobiography 1870-2020'. It will examine attitudes towards the encyclopaedic organisation of knowledge in mainstream and experimental fiction and a range of types of memoir. We are proposing that next year's competition take a different form, and that we shall henceforth offer a post-doctoral fellowship in alternate years – with the prize fellowship offered to colleagues at all career stages in the other years. This is partly to enhance our support for ECRs and partly on account of the relatively low number of applications submitted to the prize fellowship over the last two years.

Alexandre Burin, the Postgraduate Officer, has worked closely with our Publicity Officer, Jennifer Rushworth, and with the editors of *FSB* to produce copy for the 'Postgraduate Bulletin Board', including quarterly announcements of new doctorates, as well as poster and conference reports. He organised a very successful Postgraduate conference on 'The Return of the Author' on 27 April, 2019. The keynotes were given by Ashley Harris (Queen's Belfast), who gave a lecture on 'The Return of the (Media) Author: Addressing New Expressions of Authorship in the Digital Age', and Delphine Grass (Lancaster), who spoke on 'Translation and the Rebirth(s) of the Author'. The conference was held outside London for the first time, and we should like to thank the University of Durham as well as Alexandre

for their generous support and hard work respectively. Alexandre also organised the postgraduate section of this annual conference.

The Directors are very grateful to all the Board members who departed this year or who will stand down in July: especially of course to Bill Burgwinkle for his work as President and then Vice-President and to Luke Sunderland for his work as Honorary Secretary, Michael Kelly for his work on the postgraduate R. Gapper prize, Alexandre Burin for his work as Postgraduate Officer, and Helena Chadderton as Honorary Treasurer. Louise Hardwick, who had been on leave, had to stand down for reasons of illness and we wish her a successful recovery. We welcomed along the way Finn Sinclair (Edinburgh) who will be coordinating the postgraduate essay prize next year, and two new ECR members Sinan John-Richards (Oxford/Paris) and Sarah Arens (Edinburgh) who will, we hope, be joining us formally in July, along with Patrick Crowley (Cork). We should also like to express our gratitude to all committee members; in addition to those mentioned by name above, we should add Jo Malt who will be taking over from Ed Walsh in managing the Visiting International Fellowship scheme, as he takes up the post of Honorary Secretary, Pollie Bromilow as Membership Secretary, and Jenny Rushworth as Publicity Officer. Increased presence on social media and new mailing lists has meant that our competitions and activities are more widely diffused. One goal for the coming year is to expand the range of institutions whose colleagues are involved in our work and apply for our schemes and prizes.

The Directors wish to record their thanks as well to the volunteers who worked at the conferences, to Kaya Davies Hayon for her assistance in helping Nina Parish organise the conference in Cork and Vicky Turner organise the conference at RHUL, and to all the members of the Society for their various contributions to the continuing health of the discipline and for fighting back in these trying times.

Judith Still, May 2019

Report of the Honorary Treasurer

I am pleased to report that the Society's finances remain very healthy. Our major sources of revenue continue to be royalties from the journal account and membership subscription. In 2018 royalties were £61,628 (against £56,868 in 2017). Membership revenue also increased over the last year.

The Society's investments (Secure Trust 120-day access at 1.25% interest and United Trust 100-day access at 1.25% interest) continue to grow steadily, while our investment on the AEGON platform (immediate access – across the Royal London Ethical Bond Fund Class M; Sanlam Strategic Bond Fund Class 1; and AEGON M&G Strategic Corporate Bond Series B) has now increased by over £16,000 since March 2017.

Members of the Executive have worked hard to optimise expenditure to support the Society's publications, to support the work of the Executive Committee, and to ensure optimal use of our funds for members, and I can report that this important work has continued this year in the following ways. There was strong support from the membership at last year's AGM to consider how the Society's considerable surplus could best support two strategic problems currently facing French Studies, namely the increasing number of members in situations of precarious employment, and the alarmingly low numbers of students coming through the secondary education system in French. As such, the Society has allocated funds to a fellowship prize specifically for those colleagues in precarious employment, as well as co-opted to the Executive two representative colleagues. The need for more engagement with widening participation and schools liaison work has been acknowledged, and the Society is currently exploring the best ways to use its funds to this end.

I am also delighted to report that the introduction of a rolling deadline for the Society's two funding schemes (Conference Grant and Workshop Awards Scheme and Research Support Fund – for unwaged members) has increased the number of applications and that the Society's healthy financial situation has pleasingly allowed us to support all the applications which meet the criteria. We are also able to support the attendance of postgraduates at the annual conference.

Given the good health of the Society and the associated increases in the time and effort required by members of the Executive, it has been voted to fund a further 4 special allowances for members of the Executive deemed to have particularly onerous roles: Treasurer, Secretary, IT Officer and Conference Officer. This allowance is to be used particularly with a view to cover IT equipment required to efficiently carry out the role.

Sadly, as a result of redundancies in Modern Languages at the University of Hull, I will be standing down as Treasurer after only 1 year in the role. I would like to thank the Society and members of the Executive for their support in this difficult situation, particularly our President, Professor Judith Still, both personally, and on behalf of my colleagues. Dr Katie Jones of the University of St Andrews will be taking over the role of Treasurer. Finally, I would like to thank my predecessor, Dr Ruth Cruickshank, for her guidance, both personal and professional.

Dr Helena Chadderton, May 2019

Report of the Editors, *French Studies*

Statistics for volume 72 (2018)

- Research articles published: 25
 - By type: articles 21; états présents 4
 - By period: Medieval 2; C16th 3; C17th 0; C18th 2; C19th 7; C20th 5; C21st 2
 - By author location: Canada 1; Ireland 2; South Korea 1; Switzerland 1; UK 13; US 7
- Books reviewed: 275

Submissions and copy

1. Articles

Final figures for 2018 show that submissions of new and revised articles were up slightly on 2017 (116 compared to 113). This figure remains lower than those of the boom years of 2015 and 2016 (157 and 131 respectively) but slightly ahead of 2014 (113). The UK and the US remain by far our most prolific sources of articles (28 and 23 respectively in 2018), with France third (but by some margin, with 10 submissions in 2018). These three are the only countries with annual submissions in double figures. OUP share our desire to attract readers and authors in larger numbers from a greater range of areas, and we continue to work with them to this end. Overall submissions show that there is global interest in the journal; anecdotal evidence suggests that one key issue is converting submissions from less heavily represented areas into successful articles.

Of the articles reviewed in 2018, 66 were rejected (29 immediately by the editors, 37 after reader review), 21 sent back for major/minor revision, and 15 accepted (including some from the 21 returned for revision).

Issue 73.4 (October 2019) is currently at the copy-editing stage. One slot remains free in issue 74.1 (January 2020); along with subsequent issues for 2020, this will be stocked with material currently in process. The recent sad losses of Nick Hewitt, Michel Jeanneret, and Kate Marsh mean that coming issues will feature a greater than usual concentration of obituaries.

2. Reviews

The editors, aided by colleagues on the Editorial Board, continue to work hard to find new reviewers for the journal, and, with the help of Rebecca du Plessis in the French Studies office, to send out books as promptly as possible. The total number of books reviewed in 2018 (275) represents a slight increase in relation to the previous year (265). We are aware that the range and number of book reviews printed in the journal is a major attraction, and we continue to increase our geographical and demographic spread of reviewers, while working to reduce the time between receipt of a book and publication of the review.

3. *États présents*

États présents published in 2018 were on French *chanson* (Rachel Haworth), Annie Ernaux (Elise Hugueny-Léger), Marcel Proust (Adam Watt) and *Animal Studies et littérature médiévale* (Yasmina Foehr-Janssens). The two états présents published so far in 2019 have been on Post- Deconstructive Thought and Criticism (Ian James), and Jules Verne (Volker Dehs), with further contributions to follow on Literature and Photography (Edward Welch) and French ecocriticism (Stéphanie Posthumus). Forthcoming topics include Baudelaire, Adaptation Studies, Classical Reception, and French Pacific Literature. We continue to solicit future contributions, and proposals for États présents are always welcome.

4. *Special issues*

One special issue of the journal was published in 2018: ‘Towards a Postcolonial Nineteenth Century’ (issue 72.2 (April 2018)), guest-edited by Charles Forsdick and Jennifer Yee. The issue was well supported by OUP, who publicized its appearance with an article written by the guest editors published on the OUP blog.

Two special issues are currently in active development.

5. *Virtual issues*

Virtual issues of the journal, in which previously published articles and reviews are grouped together and made freely available on the OUP website, have been a particularly successful development over the last few years, with issues on Modiano (2014), Barthes (2015), Tournier (2016), and Baudelaire (2017). In 2018, we put out a virtual issue on Simone de Beauvoir to coincide with the publication of two volumes of her *Mémoires* in the Pléiade and the upcoming 70th anniversary in 2019 of the publication of *Le Deuxième Sexe*. In early 2019, we published a virtual issue based around the set texts for the Agrégation 2018–19 programme; and to coincide with the SFS conference, we have made one available on this year’s most popular topic, ‘Migration and mobility’.

Editorial handover

In January 2019, Tim Unwin and Russell Goulbourne stepped down as General Editor and Co-Editor respectively, to be replaced by Martin Crowley (as General Editor) and Emma Gilby and Joe Harris (as Co-Editors, alongside Emma Cayley, who continues in that role). We offer our warmest thanks to Tim and Russell, first for their exceptional service to the journal, and secondly for the characteristic generosity, patience, and attention to detail they showed during the handover period. We are very conscious of taking responsibility for a journal that has been run with rare dedication and is in excellent health: we will endeavour to maintain their high standards.

We also record our thanks to our Managing Editor, Rebecca du Plessis, and all those at OUP (Clare Morton, Simone Larch, Matthew Marusak and especially Paula Potter), who have been similarly generous and patient as we have started to learn the ropes.

The new editorial team will be meeting during the SFS conference to review their first six months in post and to discuss any adjustments that may be needed to arrangements for workflow and distribution of labour.

OUP

The contract with OUP to publish *French Studies* was renewed in 2018 until 31 December 2024. It will be necessary to put the contract out to tender before its next renewal: as the terms of the OUP contract require 12 months' notice of termination, this process will have to be complete by December 2023 at the latest. We have accordingly recommended that the Executive Committee set this process in train at its meeting in November 2022.

Personnel

Rebecca du Plessis, who has been with us as copy-editor since January 2015 and who became Managing Editor of the journal in January 2017, remains a key and valued member of our team. Meanwhile, the editors continue to work closely with colleagues in production and publicity at OUP to ensure timeliness of publication and to maximize the journal's presence in the international scholarly community.

Conclusion and thanks

The number and quality of submissions indicate that the journal remains a prime destination for excellent research across the discipline, and maintains its reputation for rigorous peer-reviewing and editing standards, for which authors frequently express their appreciation.

The journal is a complex operation, and we are grateful for the support received from many quarters. In addition to those already thanked above, we would like to thank the members of the journal's Editorial and Advisory Boards, as well as the President of SFS and the Society's executive committee for their help and advice. Finally, we extend our thanks to the many colleagues who generously give their time to act as readers and reviewers.

Emma Cayley, Martin Crowley, Emma Gilby & Joe Harris, May 2018

Report of the Editor, *French Studies Bulletin*

1) Overview of Issues (Winter 2018-Autumn 2019)

- 148 (Winter 2018): publication according to schedule
- 149 (Spring 2019): publication according to schedule
- 150 (Summer 2019): publication according to schedule
- 151 (Autumn 2019): Issue currently in production

2) Reader Panel Changes

UK Reader Panel: Chris Tinker (Cultural Studies, Heriot Watt) has been replaced by Enda McCaffrey (Nottingham Trent University). Charlotte Baker (University of Lancaster) has joined the panel as a specialist in francophone/ C21 literary studies. Katherine Ibbett (Trinity College, Oxford) resigned as a reader for the Early Modern Period and has been replaced by Jonathan Patterson (St Hilda's, Oxford).

The Society would like to thank all outgoing members for their sterling service to the *Bulletin*, all incoming members in advance for their future contributions and all serving members for their ongoing support.

3) OUP/Production

Mathew Marusak continues to oversee the production process for *FSB*. I would like to thank him for his efficiency and promptness over the last year.

4) General Acknowledgements

Thanks as always to Steven Wilson, Mary Rigby, Jennifer Rushworth and Alexandre Burin, for their hard work, punctuality and advice. I am also very indebted to the reader panels for their careful and illuminating reviews of submissions and to the members of the executive committee.

Kevin Inston (UCL), k.inston@ucl.ac.uk

Report of the General Editor, Legenda Research Monographs in French Studies

I. Publications since 2018 AGM

New hardbacks/ebooks 2018

- Sam Bootle, *Laforgue, Philosophy, and Ideas of Otherness* (RMFS 54)
- Roger Pensom, *Accent, Rhythm and Meaning in French Verse* (RMFS 44)

New hardbacks/ebooks 2019

- Kathryn Robson, *'I suffer therefore I am': Engaging with Empathy in Contemporary French Women's Writing* (RMFS 56)
- Victoria Turner, *Theorizing Medieval Race: Saracen Representations in Old French Literature* (RMFS 55)

Paperbacks 2018

- Katherine Shingler, *The French Art Novel 1900–1930* (2016)
- Hannah Scott, *Broken Glass, Broken World: Glass in French Culture in the Aftermath of 1870* (2016)
- Damien Mooney, *Southern Regional French: A Linguistic Analysis of Language and Dialect Contact* (2016)
- Léa Vuong, *Pascal Quignard: Towards the Vanishing Point* (2016)
- Eva Szypula, *Balzac's Love Letters: Correspondence and the Literary Imagination* (2016)
- Huw Grange, *Sublime and Abject Bodies: Saints and Monsters in Medieval French and Occitan Literature* (2017)

Paperbacks 2019

- Shirley Jordan, *Marie NDiaye: Inhospitable Fictions* (2017)

[In press for 2019: Maria Flood, *France, Algeria and the Moving Image* (2018) and Sam Bootle, *Laforgue* (2018)]

II. Editorial activity since 2018 AGM

New titles accepted since 2018 AGM

- Peter Haidu (edited by Mathilda Bruckner), *The 'Philomena' of Chrétien the Jew: The Aesthetics of Evil* (RMFS 59)
- Ian Maclachlan, *Louis-René des Forêts and Inner Autobiography* (RMFS 60)
- Joanne Brueton, *Geometry and Jean Genet: Shaping the Subject* (RMFS 61)

For reference, also under contract

- Mairéad Hanrahan, *Genet's Genres of Politics* (RMFS 50)
- Margaret Attack, *Jean-François Vilar: Theatres of Crime* (RMFS 51)
- Rosalind Silvester, *Ying Chen's Fiction: An Aesthetics of Non-Belonging* (RMFS 57)
- Ruth Hemus, *Dada's Woman Wordsmith: Céline Arnauld* (RMFS 58)

Since 2018 AGM

- Formal proposals received: 10 [+ 5 advised to delay, not assessed] [for comparison 11 in previous year, + 5 advised to delay]
- Acceptances: 4 [one not yet under contract]
- Resubmission invited: 3
- Rejections: 4
- Currently under consideration: 1

Other statistics

- Publication rhythm: 2017 x 2; 2018 x 3; 2019 x 2?; 2020 x 5?
- Under contract: 7
- In category 'resubmission invited': 11

III. MHRA/Legenda annual editorial meeting

The general editors of the nine separate Legenda series are *ex officio* members of an editorial board chaired by Jonathan Long. It met for the first time in October 2018 and in future will do so annually. Legenda is clearly flourishing and it was striking that it is disseminating French studies research across its range of series: notably 'Selected Essays' (edited by Susan Harrow) and 'Moving Image' (edited by Emma Wilson), but also 'Transcript', 'Comparative Literature' and the ongoing 'Blue' series.

IV. Distinctive features of RMFS:

- The series seeks to publish the best new work in all areas of the literature, language, thought, theory, history, politics, culture and film of the French-speaking world and to cover the full chronological range from the medieval period to the present day
- The series is supported by the Society for French Studies and no author subsidy is required
- RMFS accepts proposals for monographs of up to 85,000 words. Proposals for 'short' monographs (50,000–60,000 words) with a tightly focused argument are welcomed
- The inclusion of previously published material is notionally restricted to a third of the total length of the monograph
- *Legenda* publishes books written in English which means that RMFS is unable to accept proposals for books written in French
- The series policy is to quote all primary material in French but normally to include English translations
- All members of the Editorial Committee read all proposals and sample material
- Examiners' reports are sought in the case of proposals based on doctoral theses
- The internal target for a decision and written feedback to authors is not more than three months
- A contract and series number are issued upon formal acceptance of a proposal

- The General Editor is very happy to offer advice in advance of submission of a formal proposal (diana.knight@nottingham.ac.uk)

V. Thanks:

To Graham Nelson, Managing Editor of Legenda, who works very closely with the General Editor and all RMFS authors, and to the RMFS editorial committee: Robert Blackwood, Jane Gilbert, Shirley Jordan, Neil Kenny and Max Silverman. Sincere thanks too to Adrian Armstrong, who very willingly devoted much time and specialist knowledge to the posthumous publication of Roger Pensom's monograph.

Diana Knight, 27 May 2019

Report of the IT Officer

Over the course of the 2018-19 academic year, the new SFS website (created in Spring 2018) has been further developed to introduce the possibility of online membership subscription and renewal. In the first instance we are using this for new members only, as it seemed to us that those members who pay for their membership via standing order did not immediately need to move over to the new system, and that we would prefer to test the system thoroughly before inviting the bulk of members to revise their existing payment arrangements.

The new membership system seems to be working well, although its existence has confused some members who did not know why they were not already in the online membership system. I have tried my best to make this clear on the website (including on the conference registration page where membership makes a difference to conference rates) but suggestions are welcome in this respect.

The online conference registration appears to have worked well for the vast majority of members, albeit with a couple of issues that I am aware of. In particular, two members reported being unable to pay their conference fee using a debit/credit card, and I will be exploring the possibility of alternative payment methods for next year's conference.

In collaboration with the Honorary Secretary and Membership Secretary, I have conducted a review of the personal data that the Society holds on its members, to ensure that this is handled as securely as possible and in line with GDPR legislation.

The Society's archives have recently been digitised and we are exploring options for making these available online for research and information purposes.

I would like to thank Jenny Rushworth for her efforts as Publicity Officer, which have greatly enhanced the Society's online presence. Suggestions from members about the website and its contents are always very welcome.

Katherine Shingler

25 May 2019

Report of the Membership Secretary

Membership Figures and Demographics for 2019

As of writing there are **462 individual members** of the Society (not including institutional subscribers). This total exceeds the annual target of 400 in line with OUP's estimations of healthy operating figures and represents a small increase on the figure of 430 presented in last year's report.

The membership can be analysed as follows:

Gender: 262 (f) and 200 (m)

Nationality:

Australia 10 (+3)	Ireland 17 (+4)
Belgium 4 (+3)	Israel 3 (same)
Canada 3 (-1)	United Kingdom 375 (+7)
France 16 (+2)	United States 26 (+4)
Germany 2 (+1)	

[In addition to one member from each of the following: Italy, Japan, Norway, Serbia, South Africa and Sweden]

Career Stage:

Postgraduate 92 (+7)	Part-time 13 (+1)
ECR / New Lecturer/Temporary contract 26 (-7)	Retired 71 (-1)
Full-time 260 (+39)	

To summarise the data above, the balance between male and female members remains very similar to our 2018 figures, and we have members from 13 countries across 4 continents. This year the increase in membership has come from international subscribers. Approximately 30% of our membership continues to be made up of either ECRs / colleagues in the first three years of a full-time post or PGR students, and just over 80% of our membership continues – unsurprisingly – to be based in the UK. Overall, membership of the Society remains steady.

Priorities for 2019-20

- New members now join via the Society's website which was launched in early 2019. I am actively working with the IT Officer to make sure that members enjoy the best possible experience when subscribing. Existing members can continue to manage their membership in the usual way. Updated instructions for renewing memberships which include the new on-line management facility will likely be circulated at the end of the year.
- Increasing numbers of members are asking for on-line access only to the journal. Members wishing to discontinue subscription to the print journal are asked to contact the Membership Secretary.
- All members are reminded that access to *French Studies* and *French Studies Bulletin* forms only part of their membership subscription, which offers other personal benefits (e.g. access to funding and OUP discounts) and facilitates opportunities for the discipline as a whole (e.g. the Society's advocacy, consultation, and lobbying).

PB 05/06/2019

Report of the Publicity Officer

For the AGM meeting of 2 July 2019

Over the course of this year I have continued the usual announcements and calls via francofil, H-France, Twitter, and Facebook. On Twitter we now have 1,505 followers (as of 23/05/2019), and we encourage Twitter-active members of the Society to engage with this account where suitable. The Facebook page has 433 followers; there is room for improvement here.

I have also continued to provide information for the news section of *French Studies Bulletin*. This material is now appearing sooner online, with consequently the timeliness of this information being somewhat ameliorated.

One innovation this year has been to email universities where French is taught directly about the R. Gapper undergraduate essay prize. I hope that this targeted publicity will encourage a wider range of submissions in terms of institutions. I will also do the same for the R. Gapper postgraduate prize, and report back on the results of both endeavours.

I am looking forward to working more closely with OUP, who have expressed a desire to establish a closer connection between the journal website and the Society's activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who makes my job easier, most of all Katherine Shingler (IT Officer), but also Steven Wilson in his capacity of Assistant Editor of *FSB*, and Alexandre Burin (Postgraduate Officer). I am also grateful to all those who manage the prizes, fellowships, and funding opportunities for providing me with material and keeping me on top of the deadlines.

Jennifer Rushworth

23 May 2019

Report of the Postgraduate Officer

FSB Postgraduate Bulletin Board

I worked closely with *FSB's* Assistant Editor Steven Wilson throughout the year. Following the annual conference, postgraduate students who presented a poster were given the opportunity to write a report looking back at their experience at the Conference. In addition, every three months I have sent calls for new doctorates and collated the information. I collected about 15 this year.

I am currently working on the idea of creating a special issue of *FSB* with Kevin Inston. It would ideally feature some of the best papers given at this year's SFS PG Conference (The Return of the Author). This could be a good opportunity for PG students to receive extensive feedback on their work and publish a short piece in an academic journal. The special issue could be repeated every year.

PG Conference

Sarah Budasz (Durham) and I organised the SFS PG Conference, which was held for the first time in Durham (27 April 2019). This year's theme was 'The Return of the Author'. 10 PG students from all over the world and the UK presented their research. Our keynote speakers were Ashley Harris (Queen's Belfast), who gave a lecture on 'The Return of the (Media) Author: Addressing New Expressions of Authorship in the Digital Age', and Delphine Grass (Lancaster), who talked about creative criticism in her lecture entitled 'Translation and the Rebirth(s) of the Author'. Finally, Catherine Dousteysier-Khoze (Durham) and Tina Kover (Durham) ran a panel discussion about creative writing and translation, based on Catherine's novel *La Logique de l'amanite* (Grasset, 2015) and its translation by Tina (*The Beauty of the Death Cap*, Snuggly Books, 2018). The conference was well attended. Warm thanks to Judith Still and Luke Sunderland for their support and involvement in the event, to Helena Chadderton for her help on the financial side of things, to Durham (particularly MLAC and CAROD) for partly funding and hosting the event, and to the SFS for its generous support of PG research and training.

Annual Conference

I have advertised the call for PG participation and the availability of travel grants at the same time. This surely increased participation. 14 PG students are scheduled to present their research this year (7 have entered the poster competition and 7 will give a flash presentation). They were 16 last year, and only 8 in 2017.

Publicity and Engagement

I kept posting PG-related news on the Facebook page, while Jennifer Rushworth privileged Twitter. There was a very good engagement with the series of lectures given by Natalie Edwards (Visiting International Fellow for the 2018-2019 session) and the SFS PG conference in Durham.

Warm thanks to Katherine Shingler for her help, and to Jennifer Rushworth with whom I have collaborated on the SFS social media.

Finally, I would like to thank the AGM and the Executive Committee for entrusting me with this role. I learnt a lot over these two years as PG Officer, and this has been a very rewarding experience.

Alexandre Burin

Report of the Conference Officer

After a very successful 2018 conference in Cork, with around 140 delegates and over 130 speakers, this year's event at Royal Holloway, University of London, continues to attract a high number of delegates and speakers. Our plenary speakers this year are Kate Conley (Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Professor of French and Francophone Studies, William and Mary), Pap Ndiaye (Professeur des universités à l'Institut d'études politiques de Paris (histoire nord-américaine), Sciences-Po), David McCallam (Reader in French Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of Sheffield), and Mairéad Hanrahan (Professor of French, University College London). As usual, we have received high quality proposals and parallel session numbers have remained fairly consistent, if a little lower than in Cork (around eight per breakout session). We also had a good number of complete session proposals – around 13. The topics from the call for papers received quite varying submission responses this year, with 'Migration and Mobility' proving particular popular, and 'Feminisms: *Le Deuxième sexe*, 70 years on', 'What is an author? Foucault, 50 years on' and 'The post-human' receiving similar numbers of proposals. This has nonetheless made for a varied and exciting programme of events across the conference. We have also been very pleased to receive two workshop proposals and are keen to develop alternative session formats in the coming years.

The Society's international reach continues to be visible this year, with participants from the UK and Ireland, France, USA, Canada, Australia, Israel, Sweden, Luxembourg, Italy, Algeria, Belgium.

The Society remains committed to postgraduate students, with a training session focused on publishing tips and strategies available thanks to the generous participation of Graham Nelson (Legenda) and Laurel Plapp (Peter Lang); a poster presentation slot (this year we have 7 posters); and two 90-minute flash presentation sessions where postgraduates can provide short presentations introducing their work.

Before the conference dinner we are delighted to have a wine reception in the beautiful Picture Gallery of Royal Holloway's Founders' Building and we will celebrate the overall event with a disco following the conference dinner.

Many thanks are due here to the local PG and UG helpers, the Department of French at Royal Holloway, and in particular to Hannah Thompson, for all her help with local organisation over the last year. As in previous years, Kaya Davies Hayon has also provided invaluable support with the conference registrations and with my introduction to the role of Conference Officer. I also wish to thank Nina Parish for her advice and support throughout the whole organisation process. We look forward to our next meeting in 2020 at the University of Bath!

Victoria Turner

**Report of the Gapper Undergraduate Essay Prize co-ordinator
to the Society for French Studies Annual General Meeting**

i) The 2018 round

18 institutions submitted essays in the 2018 round: Kent, Cardiff, St Andrews, Queen's Belfast, Edinburgh, UCL, Surrey, Bristol, Bath, Newcastle, Exeter, KCL, Liverpool, Oxford, Leeds, Sheffield, Cambridge, Durham. This is exactly the same number of institutions as participated in 2017 but the spread of institutions was slightly different. The total number of submitted essays was 41, up by 6 from 35 in 2017, with most institutions submitting two or three essays.

Each submitted essay was allocated for assessment to two members of the Executive Committee over the summer. In the second round the judging committee comprised Judith Still (President), Bill Burgwinkle (Vice-President), Michael G. Kelly (PG Gapper Essay Prize co-ordinator), Kevin Inston (Editor, *French Studies Bulletin*) and Oliver Davis (UG Gapper Essay Prize co-ordinator), with the committee seeking further input from Emma Cayley for one submission where a potential conflict of interest had been identified.

Submissions spanned the full range of periods in French Studies, from Medieval to the contemporary, with just over half focused on post-1900 material. Similarly, a wide range of areas and approaches were represented, including literature, language and linguistics, thought and theory, politics, cinema and history.

The 2018 winner was:

- Kathleen Mitchell Fox (Cambridge), 'Talking Holes and Meaningless Sex: Exploring gender and signification in the Old French fabliaux'

The other shortlisted entries were:

- Felix Zadek Ewing (Bristol), 'Francoprovençal, the label given to a grouping of Gallo-Romance varieties spoken transnationally in eastern France, Italy, and Switzerland is often considered to constitute a transition zone between the *langue d'oïl* and *langue d'oc* dialect areas. To what extent can Francoprovençal be considered an independent variety of Gallo-Romance?'
- Alex Grunnill (Newcastle), 'Assess the claim that over the history of French, clitic pronouns have replaced inflectional suffixes for personal marking'
- Isobel MacLean (Durham), 'Explore the Role of Sexuality and Gender in Representations of Witches'
- Grace Bentham (Durham), 'Discuss the representation of the victim-perpetrator dialectic in Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah* and David Olère's drawings and paintings'

ii) The 2019 round

The competition opened on 30 April 2019 and details were advertised on Francofil and H-France. The closing date for entries this year is midday on Saturday 29 June 2019.

The Society records its grateful thanks to Claire Gapper for her continued generous support of this Prize.

Oliver Davis
26 April 2019

Report on R Gapper Postgraduate Essay Prize (2018)

Twelve essays were received this year (as compared with 17 in 2017, 14 in 2016, 16 in 2015, 22 in 2014, 20 in 2013). A total of six institutions were represented in 2018 (10 in 2017, 8 in 2016, 9 in 2015, 14 in 2014, 13 in 2013), with three universities supplying more than one entry. The distribution of entries was as follows: three from King's College London, University of Cambridge and University of Oxford; and one each from University of Sheffield, University of St Andrews and University College London.

Procedure:

Each anonymised entry was evaluated and scored by two readers in Round 1 of the evaluation process. A total of twelve readers were involved in Round 1 evaluations. Thanks to all Executive Committee members who contributed to this process. Five out of the twelve essays were shortlisted following this round.

The judging panel for Round 2 of the evaluation process, all of whom evaluated and scored each shortlisted essay, was drawn from the Executive Committee as follows: Judith Still (SFS President), Bill Burgwinkle (SFS Vice-President), Oliver Davis (R. Gapper Undergraduate Prize coordinator), Luke Sunderland (pp. Editor *French Studies Bulletin*), Michael G. Kelly (R. Gapper Postgraduate Prize coordinator).

Outcome:

The recommendation of Round 2 judging panel was that the R Gapper Postgraduate Essay Prize for 2018 be awarded to Madeleine Chalmers (University of Oxford) for an essay entitled 'The Surreal Technics of André Breton and Gilbert Simondon'. An essay by Rebecca Sugden (University of Cambridge) entitled 'Sand and Rancière: Artisan Socialism and the Inadequacies of Idealism', was selected as by the panel as runner-up for the prize. Awardee and runner-up were informed of the outcome in early February, and the result announced through the usual channels (SFS website and Twitter account; Francofil distribution list) shortly thereafter. In addition, the authors of the three further shortlisted essays – Michael Grace (University College London), Eileen Jakeway (University of Oxford), and Hanna Paasivirta (University of Oxford) – were informed of their having made the shortlist and congratulated on this achievement.

Acknowledgements:

Sincere thanks to Jennifer Rushworth and Katherine Shingler for their work on the publicity for the prize throughout the annual cycle. This will be commencing again shortly, under the stewardship of Finn Sinclair, with a deadline for submissions at the end of October for the 2019 prize.

The Society again records its sincere thanks to Claire Gapper for her continued support of this Prize.

Michael G. Kelly

Report on the Gapper Book Prize 2017

Submissions received

A total of 26 books were received for the 2017 prize as follows:

11 (OUP); 5 (Legenda); 3 (Palgrave MacMillan); 1 (Amsterdam UP); 2 (Bloomsbury); 1 (Princeton UP); 1 (Zone Books); 1 (University of California Press)

Period coverage

Medieval - 4; Early Modern - 3; 18th c. - 3; Modern (19th and 20th c.) - 12; post-2000 - 1; spanning a range of periods - 3

Jury

Prof. Julia Dobson, Prof. Jean Duffy, Prof. John O'Brien, Prof. Patrick O'Donovan, Prof. Catriona Seth, Prof. Margaret Topping (Chair)

Evaluation process

- First round of evaluations completed by December 2018: each book read by one panel member taking account of any conflicts of interest
- New grading system piloted: A/B/C grades rather than 1-4, with B indicating the first reader would welcome a second opinion on the possibility of shortlisting
- Shortlist confirmed in January 2019 and read by all jury members
- Meeting to discuss shortlist and identify winner: 9 May 2019

Shortlisted books

Conan Fischer, *A Vision of Europe: Franco-German Relations during the Great Depression, 1929-1932* (OUP)

Tom Hamilton, *Pierre de L'Estoile and his World in the Wars of Religion* (OUP)

Shirley Jordan, *Marie Ndiaye: Inhospitable Fictions* (Legenda)

Julian Swann, *Exile, Imprisonment or Death: The Politics of Disgrace in Bourbon France, 1610-1789* (OUP)

Recommendation

The Jury noted that the quality of the submissions had been very high for this round, with many excellent books that could not ultimately be included in the shortlist. The shortlisted books were also all of exceptional quality, but in terms of range, intellectual ambition,

originality, likely impact, and depth of scholarship, the consensus of opinion was that the 2017 Gapper Book Prize should be awarded to:

Julian Swann, *Exile, Imprisonment or Death: The Politics of Disgrace in Bourbon France, 1610-1789* (OUP)

Changes to jury members

Prof. O'Donovan will be stepping down this year, having served for 6 years as a jury member. We would wish to record his very significant contribution to the work of the panel.

M. Topping, June 2019

Report on the Malcolm Bowie Prize

The Malcolm Bowie Prize is awarded annually for the best article in any area of French Studies, published in French or English, by an early career researcher.

The judging panel for this year (essays published in 2018) consisted of five members: The President and Vice-President of the Society (Judith Still and Bill Burgwinkle), Christie McDonald (Harvard), Ian Maclachlan (Oxford), and Judith Miller (New York University).

Twenty-four essays were nominated and submitted for consideration, up four from the previous year, and they came from a number of international sources:

UK (Oxford, Birmingham, Cambridge, SOAS)
UK-Scotland (Glasgow, St Andrews)
USA (Bentley, Harvard, Chicago, New York University, Louisiana, Manchester, Michigan, Florida, Dickinson, Missouri)
France (Bordeaux)
Germany (Munich)
Ireland (Dublin)

The range of publications in which the articles appeared also ranged widely and included:

French Studies, Studies in French Cinema, French Review, French Cultural Studies, Contemporary French Civilization, PMLA, Research in African Literatures, Bulletin des amis d'André Gide, Montaigne Studies, New Literary History, Renaissance Drama, Paragraph, Culture and Theory, Exemplaria, L'Esprit créateur, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Performance Research, Nineteenth-century French Studies, MLN, Nottingham French Studies, and Monde français du dix-huitième siècle.

Nominations were received from both journal editors and university departments, almost equally.

This was a very strong year indeed and seven essays were forwarded to the panel as an extended shortlist.

Outcome

The prize was awarded to Laura Hughes, from New York University, for her essay, 'In the library of Jacques Derrida: manuscript materiality after the archival turn', which appeared in *New Literary History*, volume 49, no. 3. Summer 2018, pp. 403-424.

The runner-up, who receives our commendation, is: Yan Wang, from the Université Bordeaux Montaigne, for the essay, 'L'écriture et le problème de l'ancienne histoire chinoise', which was published in *Monde français du dix-huitième siècle*, vol. 3, issue 1, 2018, pp. 1-20.

The Society would like to thank and congratulate the authors of these extraordinary essays, the nominators, for their interest in our studies, and the panel of external judges who offered so freely of their time and expertise.

Report on Prize Fellowship 2019

The highest ranked application was Lucy O'Meara (Cork) with Ruth Cruickshank (RHUL) a very close second. The decision was ratified by the Executive Board at its 11 May meeting. We are pleased therefore to congratulate Dr O'Meara on the award of the fellowship which covers leave in the academic year 2019-10 to work on a project entitled 'Interrogating the Encyclopaedia in European Fiction and Autobiography 1870-2020'. It will examine attitudes towards the encyclopaedic organisation of knowledge in mainstream and experimental fiction and a range of types of memoir. While O'Meara argues that the distinctively French theoretical and literary interrogation and integration of the reference-work formats of dictionary and encyclopaedia are symptomatic of the ways in which Western attitudes towards the organization of knowledge have fluctuated in this period, the project will also examine German and British works, since each country produced a specific literary response to the Enlightenment ideal of the encyclopaedic classifying of knowledge.

The fellowship covers the cost of a one-semester replacement lectureship at the lowest point of the Junior Lecturer scale (to include gross salary, National Insurance, superannuation and a London allowance where applicable) to enable the successful candidate to take research leave.

All applications were read by all members of the jury who have all served in previous years: Judith Still (qua President), Bill Burgwinkle (qua Vice-President), Richard Trachsler (Zurich), Tom Conley (Harvard), Nadine Berenguier (New Hampshire). Although good quality, the number of applications was again relatively low. This does make the case even more compelling for introducing a post-doctoral fellowship in alternate years.

JS

Post-doctoral fellowship proposal

To be offered every 2 years, alternately with Prize Fellowship. The latter covers the cost of a one-semester replacement lectureship at the lowest point of the Junior Lecturer scale (to include gross salary, National Insurance, superannuation and a London allowance where applicable) – so that is the sum of money that would be available (approximately £25K).

Original proposal to Exec committee in May – to offer one semester post-doctoral fellowship – the alternative was proposed that candidates could choose to spread the money over 12 months affiliation with an institution.

Eligibility

Applications will only be accepted from those who are not full-time permanent employees of a Higher Education Institute, and who have not already received a fully-funded early career fellowship (e.g. British Academy, Leverhulme or Institutional JRF) of a period exceeding one year.

Applicants must be within five years of the award of a doctorate in the field of French Studies (this means being awarded via a viva voce examination between xxx and xxx).

The Society will make allowances for special circumstances e.g. documented periods of maternity or sickness leave.

Applicants must be supported by the UK host institution in which they wish to hold the Fellowship.

Applicants must be a member of the Society.

Applicants must be either a UK/EEA national, or have completed a doctorate at a UK university.

Criteria

The overriding criteria for selection are (i) the potential of the proposed research to result in a major contribution that will enhance the standing of French Studies; (ii) the academic standing and achievements of the applicant, taking into account their current career stage, supported by reference and examiners' report; (iii) institutional support.

The research may involve bringing to publication all or parts of the doctoral thesis *and/or* post-doctoral work.

Applicants are invited to send a research proposal with a maximum length of 1,500 words, together with a CV, to xxx. This should specify the timetable for production of outputs, **and the choice to take one semester fully-funded or to spread the award over 12 months.**

All applications must be accompanied by:

- one reference plus the PhD examiners' report;
- a letter of support from the Head of Department, Dean or other managerial post-holder to specify that the Fellowship can be taken up in their department and that they will provide appropriate support including mentoring, access to training courses, office accommodation and facilities. It is assumed that candidates who choose to take one semester fully-funded will not do more than 2-3 hours teaching per week; while those who are choosing to take the award over 12 months may be invited to do more as long as this is compatible with the demands of the research and writing specified in the application.

Those seeking exemption from the 'within 5 years of PhD' eligibility criterion should also supply a covering letter explaining the relevant circumstances.

The support of the Society for French Studies should be acknowledged in the publication(s) produced on the basis of the work carried out during the period of the award.

Decisions are made each year in April, for grants which begin in October.

Feedback is not a feature of French Studies schemes, and the Society is, regrettably, unable to enter into correspondence regarding the decisions of the awarding committee. Please note that by applying to this scheme, applicants undertake to accept the terms under which applications are assessed.

Research Support 18/19

Emmanuelle Labeau, Aston University

The Scheme proved very popular this year with 23 applications received for a total of £7.140.32 as of 31.05.19.

Period	Applications	Amount
07/18 – 10/18	6 ¹	£1,987.50
11/18-01/19	3	£1003
02/19-04/19	13	3771.42
05/19-	1	378.40
	23	7.140.32

The applicants ranged from an MPhil to retired colleagues (MPhil: 1; Unemployed: 1; PhD Students : 11; Post-Doc: 1; Lecturers without research funding: 5; Emeriti: 5.

The vast majority of applications come from UK colleagues (19/23), except 2 from France (Le Mans, Paris 3-Sorbonne Nouvelle), 1 from Belgium (Liège) and 1 from South Africa (Stellenbosch). Applications tend to be concentrated in certain institutions, which indicates that the scheme may not be as widely known as we would wish. SFS Members are therefore invited to disseminate the opportunity among relevant colleagues nationally and internationally.

UK Institutions	
Cambridge	1
Durham University	1
Edinburgh	2
Kent	1
King's College	7
Leeds	1
NA	1
Nottingham	1
Oxford	3
Queen's University Belfast	1
	19

¹ 1 rejected late + non-member.

Conference Grant and Workshop Awards Scheme 2018-19: Report for the AGM 2019

The budget available to support the Conference Grant and Workshop Awards Scheme is currently £7,500 per annum. Applications for the Scheme are made via the online Application Form on the SFS website. This ensures a greater consistency and clarity in the format of the bids.

The Scheme has a rolling deadline and awards are reviewed by the scheme's officer and submitted for approval to the President and Vice-President of the Society. These decisions are then recorded, monitored and discussed at the Executive meetings over the course of the year.

Applicants are nonetheless reminded of possible delays in getting the results of their applications and should submit applications **at least two months** in advance of the planned research activity. The Executive Committee decided in Nov 2018 that this should be a condition of the award.

The maximum sum of an award is set at £1000. The other criteria for the scheme, in terms of eligibility to apply and conditions of award, are set out on the Society's website.

2018-19 has been a very active year for the scheme. As a result, I will not list here all the applications received; these can be viewed in my earlier reports to the Executive Committee over the course of the year. Here are the headlines:

- The scheme received **21** applications July 2018-May 2019 of which 18 were funded (most to the full amount requested). There are also 2 more applications outstanding at the time of writing this report. This compares with 9 applications funded last year.
- The geographical spread of applications is good: Exeter, St Andrews, Durham, Oxford (2), KCL (2), QUB, Cambridge (3), Stirling, Warwick (2), Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Warburg Institute, Birkbeck, Edinburgh, Trinity College Dublin.
- There was also good representation from PGR/ECR applicants: 3 conferences were specifically badged as PGR while PGR/ECR involvement was incorporated into other events.
- Only negatives were confusion in applying to this scheme for individual PGR bursaries which were redirected to the Society's Research Support funding scheme which caters precisely to this need; and occasional applications being made last-minute and so falling foul of the two-month advance on the event to meet the scheme's criteria.
- At the time of writing this report, the scheme has spent **£10,689.25** (against its nominal £7,500 budget), compared to a total of **£6,110** last year. Two applications are still to be approved (possible further expenditure of £1,430).

Overall the scheme is clearly working very well. But with much increased outlay comes much closer scrutiny of the applications. For this I am very grateful to Judith and Bill, as well as to the Executive Committee, for their diligence, fairness and swiftness in making decisions.

Recipients of grants are also reminded to send a copy of the conference report, post-event, to the Editor of *French Studies Bulletin*, and a copy of their final conference accounts to the Society Treasurer.

One last point: at the behest of the Executive Committee, I also tabled an outreach and schools' liaisons funding scheme for the Society on the model of the one successfully run by the ASMCF. It was agreed that it would be better not to duplicate the Association's scheme but to see whether we could pool resources and administration to better fund school-based activities in French or on Francophone subjects. I am still in discussion with colleagues in the ASMCF about this possibility.

David McCallam
27 May 2019

Society for French Studies
Report on Visiting International Fellowship scheme 2019/20

The sixth round of the SFS Visiting International Fellowship (VIF) scheme for Fellowships during AY 2019/20 closed for applications on 1 April 2019. Two applications were received, involving a total of nine institutions from the UK and Ireland (five in one application, four in the other). One application was for a Fellow from Australia, the other for a Fellow from the United States. It was pleasing to see continued interest in the scheme on behalf of colleagues from Australia, which follows a decision in 2016/17 to increase funding for the VIF scheme in order to extend its global reach, and the award of the VIF for AY 2018/19 to Professor Natalie Edwards (University of Adelaide).

The selection panel for the competition comprised the following members of the Executive Committee: Judith Still (SFS President), Kevin Inston (editor of the *French Studies Bulletin*) and Edward Welch (VIF Co-ordinator). They awarded the Fellowship to Martin Munro, Winthrop-King Professor of French and Francophone Studies and Director of the Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies at Florida State University. Professor Munro's research interests are in the literature and culture of the Francophone Caribbean, ecocriticism and the writing of disaster in the Caribbean, postcolonial theory, and literary translation. The aim of Professor Munro's fellowship will be to enhance the visibility of Francophone Caribbean French Studies through collaboration with a range of university partners and other organisations.

The Fellowship is scheduled to take place from 1-20 March 2020. Queen's University Belfast will be lead host, in partnership with the universities of Liverpool and Glasgow, University College, Cork, and the International Slavery Museum, Liverpool. Details of the planned activities are as follows:

- **QUB:** teaching contributions on UG and PG programmes in French & Francophone Studies and Translation Studies; career development workshops with PGR and PGT students; flagship conference on Caribbean history and culture (precise theme to be confirmed)
- **Liverpool:** day conference at the International Museum of Slavery on Professor Munro's work on Haiti and the French Caribbean, with plenary lecture by Professor Munro
- **Glasgow:** teaching contributions at UG level, guest lectures at the university and the Alliance Française
- **UCC:** research seminar and teaching contributions; regional outreach event on Francophone culture to include participation of Guadeloupean singer Ines Khai

Outcomes and outputs

- The fellowship will include a travelling exhibition on Haitian literature and culture, to be housed in temporary exhibition space in university libraries

Edward Welch
23/05/19