

FORUM

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Addendum

The Latest Learning Colloquy was a one-day training conference open to all postgraduate students in the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures (LLC). It was the culmination of the “Getting Over the Fear” project, which aimed to demystify the conference process, and to offer Masters and PhD students in LLC a chance to present their research in a friendly and supportive environment. The Latest Learning Colloquy was open to all postgraduate students working within the diverse research fields of LLC, including European Languages and Cultures, English Literature, Film Studies and Theatre Studies, Asian Studies, Celtic and Scottish Studies, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, Translation Studies, Comparative Literature, and Creative Writing.

As the Colloquy was designed to reflect “what’s new in LLC,” the event was made as welcoming and unthreatening as possible. Many of those who took part were Masters students or first year PhD students giving their first ever papers.

The day began with the methodology panel, in theory the starting place for research projects. The first paper eased people into the day at the cutting edge of research (suitably for the Latest Learning Colloquy) with a 10-minute look at the trendiest subject in academia, the Digital Humanities. There followed a film panel, in which each paper took a different approach to conveying their research into this visual medium.

The political panel was the most diverse. The first paper, with its focus on politics via written documentation, brought out the political themes of the other, literary papers, which focused, conversely, on the impact of wider political events upon literature. The panel had an interesting chronology (and wide-ranging geography). It took us

from late twentieth-century Palestine, to twentieth-century Iceland and nineteenth-century Russia, to eighteenth-century England, and finally to Shakespearean England viewed through the prism of early twentieth-century Britain, which in turn brought us up to date (and place), to the issue of Scottish independence. The reception panel, the last of the day, was small but perfectly formed. Two papers from very different cultural and linguistic arenas posed a similar question: how texts are received and how their reception relates to the texts' content and context. Both illustrated their points excellently – and fascinatingly – with quotes from their respective texts.

We closed the day with a bonus panel, while the judges deliberated over whom to award prizes to, Pecha Kuchas reprised from LLC Blethers. Ultimately, the disparate papers turned into one cohesive and continuous conversation about everyone's research, as we had hoped when we named our conference project the LLC Colloquy. The Latest Learning Colloquy succeeded in its stated aim of bringing postgraduates within LLC together, stimulating discussion, and celebrating the diverse range of research going on in our School.

The two papers included in this Addendum both began life as papers at the Latest Learning Colloquy. 'The Shakespeare death tercentenary celebrations in England and Scotland: how British was Shakespeare in 1916?' and 'Exploring the Enlightenment from Intellectual History and Critical Theory: a case study of hybrid methodologies' are representative of the fantastic scholarship and ongoing research of the postgraduates in LLC.

Thank you to the committee:

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