



Draft Minutes
LLS Committee Meeting, 28 June 2018

- 1) **Welcome**
- 2) **Apologies:** Lisa Robertson, Rebecca K. Hahn, Wendy Toole, Daniel Weston, Dassi Elber-Aviram

In attendance: Martin Dines, Eliza Cubitt, Emma Hayward, Flore Janssen, Craig Melhoff, Nicholas Tredell, Nick Bentley, Peter Jones, Sara Upstone, Alex Grafen,

- 3) **Minutes of previous meeting:** Approved
- 4) **Matters arising:** EC was contacted by MD re Twitter; NB has worked on backlog of Journal; promotion of LLRG – especially as numbers have been down. Continue to do so.
- 5) **Items for Report:**

- a) **President:** Conference has occupied MD. New appointments: EC to be Conference Organiser; SU to be Journal Editor; EH as Treasurer. FJ as Reviews Editor; LG and DEA as conference assistants. Update Privacy policy in accordance (CM has done). Treasurer EH will become Data Manager. Names and emails to be on encrypted memory stick (this is all the info we keep).

Conference: NB with help of DEA, LG, NT. NT and PJ will give papers where dropouts have occurred. Laura Schwarz unlikely to be able to attend due to family illness. Probable solution will be bringing final two panels forward (earlier to the pub). Conference committee has worked well, new IES coordinator Katy Thomas has been helpful too.

- b) **Vice President:** Presidents' Prize two joint winners Nicole Schragg (Texas) on Maureen Duffy and Alistair Robinson (UCL) on Wells and slumming. This year: feedback forms (this year) and walks apps not yet done. Bloomsbury walk for this conference went well. (For next year – will discuss with Conf organisers) Adeola

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Solanke (Greenwich) contacted PJ re: possibility of short performance and discussion of her play, 'Phyllis in London'. Possible short performance next year. Collaborative/performance as part of panel related to Black British History.

c) Secretary (By Email): This year, my responsibilities have continued to be mostly replying to email enquiries on all variety of matters and compiling the seasonal newsletter. I've also tried to help out a bit with ad hoc duties, such as conference promotion. I've been very grateful for how this year the society members have stepped up to take responsibilities that weren't always necessarily part of their job description: Nick did a wonderful job getting the journal back on track; Daniel managed to cope with the rather Byzantine situation created by the Co-op bank; and Martin has done a wonderful job stepping into the role of conference organiser this year and with the help of Dassi and Lucie has organised a tremendous conference that I'm very disappointed to miss. I'd also like to extend a warm welcome to all of our newly appointed and elected members.

d) Treasurer: (in DW's absence, NB presented findings). Interim report (not yet at end of financial year). £4484.41. Sufficient funds for the year. 58 current members of 79 last year, 88 2016 (timing of conference and AGM) – may be more in final days of conference. Thanks to members who have helped esp MD, NB, LR. Auditing next year – Nick Hubble will be auditor. EH and DW to liaise. NB will facilitate.

e) Journal Editor: NB explains some problems with backlog from a long time ago, even as far as 2014. These have now been published – this instance we have (Autumn 2016 13.2 and Autumn 2017 14.2 were combined into a single issue, 14.2). Thanks to FJ and CM for help with this. Not much response as yet to the issue. Spring 2018 backlogged issue – will discuss with SU. File articles submitted, 2 of which will probably be rejected, leaving 3 (for special issue on Fantastic London). Is 3 sufficient? 4 other articles but not on the theme. May include in this issue or leave over. Maybe going to one issue per year. SU keen to keep at two if possible, to maintain presence.

f) Reviews Editor: FJ – has inherited reviews from Susie but too many for one issue; roughly by date of book being reviewed, 4 for next edn. Some new too. Possibility of compensation for PGs and ECRs to attend exhibitions and review for us? DW has agreed this, EH agrees also. Reviews on website? (ST idea) Two issues a year might make this unnecessary.

g) Conference Organiser: LG – nothing to report.

h) Web Editor: CM on parity of style with wordpress. Website has been in transitional years since new site launched. Look ahead to content mgmt. system facilitating development.

i) Overseas Rep: RH still running LLRG Tuebingen chapter, open to collaboration.

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j) Postgraduate and Early Career Reps: 3rd person to help organise – Alistair Robinson to help with especially promotion – AR to join as ordinary member and help AG and WT. Last session on Dorothy Richardson (Scott McCracken, QMUL) was well-attended, 20 people. LLS website should be updated with LLRG – postgrad reps to give dates to CM etc – to aid promotion and visibility of LLRG. Wordpress is still working for LLRG. Dropbox archive quite full. NT - Social media – could be more systematic/intensified. PJ - Marketing or communications role? Possibly Alistair Robinson could do this – tweet once a day from LLRG account.

6) Items for Discussion

a) The 2019 Conference: IES deprioritized with regards to dates. For 2019 have been offered 3 sets of dates. Offered 4/5 11/12 18/19 2019 – pencilled 18/19 July – sometimes people dislike July school holidays. Any potential clash? Ask for 11/12 so as not to clash with school holidays. MD will confirm with Katy by end of conference. Better timing for financial year too.

Suggestions for themes – last mtg – Sensory London, Sounds of the City, A Sense of the City, Sensorial city – (potentially inclusive). Tallies with ambition to broaden focus beyond London. Harness conference to announce our broader interests. Other suggestions included London Compared – for framework of comparative approach – or Sister Cities – forge connections with other literary urban societies – suffragism, women’s political histories. London and Europe. Association for Literary Urban Studies. Collaboration with European partners. CM -Creative responses to London in Love show our strengths as a Society – difference between marking historical point versus a theme – if a historical point sub-communicates something restrictive – theme e.g. sensory people can see their own connection to it. Can be useful to have guide. EH – Nylon (New York and London) – neighbourhoods – LG – neighbourly cities – community cities – can bring in European focus without making it purely European and potentially interdisciplinary [Neighbours of Ours] PJ – distinguish from recent eg. Shadow Cities. NT provinces and the cities relationship. Suburbs – periphery have been done before. ALUS second cities. Europe could lead to more publicity for the Society (SU). EC – ‘Neighbours of Ours’ – AG Parochial London – pressures on our own experiences of neighbourliness. Plenaries, events that could augment the theme.

Earlier CFP next year: late Autumn with February deadline (extendable to early March)

b) The Journal: SU is optimistic to bring Journal forward, NT and MD have discussed next issues. Keen to get everything streamlined for efficiency. Hold off on decision to go to one issue. Two issues gives more presence. Content management systems – open access programmes [e.g. 19] streamlines process of peer review; attractive to people submitting, looks more formal (also easy to use). Easier for reviewers. Presentation – PJ asks – SU – it could look more streamlined, more attractive for the kinds of papers we’d like. [SU was attached to *Iris Murdoch Review*]. Make clear academic focus but don’t want to alienate. Slow (mid-term goal) – not at this time,

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gradually we can consider changes. CM – pdf system – it's not necessarily at home in an online world. Embedded links for example would be hard to change. Not necessarily best way. Bringing texts straight to web format. NT – who are readers and how can we get feedback? Most popular articles. Intellectual standing should be indicated.

Costs for content management? Platforms e.g. Open Library of Humanities. SU to put together some possibilities and present to committee. FJ – could have html as well as pdf – as pioneering open-access should be more forward-looking. LG – promotion of these. If we bring in content mgmt., could have a relaunch to introduce.

SU look to advertise for guest-editors to raise quality of submissions. PJ: try to fit special issue to conference. One themed and one journal per year. Pitching at conference for guest editor.

Spring 2018 should be out now. Potentially one this year then start fresh 2019, special issue Spring, general issue Autumn 2019.

NB to work with SU on Spring 2018 issue as handover.

c) Strategies and Priorities: broader focus as LLS – reposition ourselves to reflect broadening. 'Society' – isn't necessarily best description – connotes narrowness? But advantages, cf BAVS, Iris Murdoch Society. Is Association more scholarly, more international? 'London' and 'literary' both helping and hindering us. More interdisciplinary – we have always been. Is there a change of focus away from London in MA studies and PG? risk of dilution? But good reputation which we need to sing more about.

CM – How do we get the word out? Every year contingents from certain international universities implies someone on ground is suggesting people attend. Who are our readers? Who are our attendees? Society appeals or what channel are people finding us through?

SU – a marketing person who could contact course leaders?

LG – building relationships. PJ – need to be better networked. Crisis point with numbers of members. Route to negotiating change of focus? 'Association' reflects network, hub, bringing together particular groups.

NT – British cultural studies are attracted by 'London'

LG – don't want to get confused with *London Journal*

MD – incremental change perhaps – deeds not words –

CM – change to 'Association' would be breaking with anything branded – language carried over from old material [could redo e.g. 'interdisciplinary studies of the stories and histories of London']

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Refer as Literary London while we ponder 'Association'?

7) **AOB:**

ACTION POINTS

President	Confirm 11-12th July 2019 as next conference Give EC conference schedule notes
Vice President	Collect feedback on Presidents' Prize
Secretary	Send out Doodle poll for January meeting
Journal Editor	Content Management systems – investigate costs etc.
PG Reps	
All Members	Promote LLRG. Promote interdisciplinary/cultural studies EC to consider plenaries, events for 2019 conference and discuss with LG, DEA. CFP next year – send out earlier (EC with LG, DEA).

8) **Date of the next meeting:** tbd

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