

Women in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
Minutes of the AGM

held on 1st November 2008 at Dublin City University

Those present: Claire Williams, Niamh Thornton, Mary Green, Kathy Bacon, Jacqueline Mulhall, Pat O'Byrne, Ann Davies, Par Kumaraswami, Jill Ingham, Raquel Ribeiro, Eavan O'Brien, Suzan Williams, Margaret Anne Clarke

1. Apologies for absence were received from Carmen Herrero, Jennifer Fraser, Kirsty Hooper.
2. 2007 minutes were accepted.
3. Statement from the President
 - a. **Dorothy Severin Research Fellowship** awarded to Abigail Loxham (University of Hull). Next Fellowship will be offered early next year. CW to take over administration and chair committee to choose next Fellow. Thanks to KH for her work on it this year.
 - b. Good relationship with **WiGS** this year – joint Study Day and CW attended their conference dinner as our representative (we should reciprocate in future). Aim to strengthen ties further in future.
 - c. New **logo**. Competition to design a new logo, entries to be submitted by 31 January 2009. Details to be circulated via the WiSPS email list. PK asked if there are any further details re brand, but it was noted that WiSPS members interests are so diverse that it's difficult to specify.
 - d. Numberplate available for £5000 W1 SPS
 - e. 5th Anniversary volume came out February 2008 with Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Very pleased that it has appeared.
4. Treasurer's Report was circulated on paper. Subscriptions slightly down because of change in period of membership. Fee increase has now taken effect. PayPal system now up and running for those who don't have a sterling bank account. Query raised as to why the accounts show retreat fees coming in, but none going out – late payments were received in 2008 but full costs had already been paid out in 2007.
5. Postgraduate Officer's Report – nothing to report. JF standing down. Thanks to her for all her work.
6. Web Officer's Report – KH standing down after long tenure. Thanks to her for keeping web pages up to date.
7. 10th Anniversary Volume. Cambridge Scholars Press had approached PO'B re idea of a volume on 'Transcultural Encounters' – a coherent volume, not conference proceedings. Not intended to be a WiSPS publication. Question over whether this could be the anniversary volume; but this would be rather restricted in scope. CW suggested the two volumes should be separate – PO'B to discuss 'Transcultural Encounters' volume further with publisher and then contact email list. 10th anniversary volume could be divided into thematic

sections according to themes of conferences. NT will coordinate a team to work on this – will liaise by email.

8. Changes to Exec.
 - Nominations for
 - a. Web Officer. Jill Ingham nominated Raquel Ribeiro, seconded by CW. MG nominated Sarah Bowskill, seconded by Par Kumaraswami. Election to be carried out by email, CVs to be circulated. Candidates to contact KH for details of what job involves.
 - b. Postgraduate Representative. PO'B nominated Jacqueline Mulhall, seconded by Ann Davies. KB nominated Ellie Woodacre, seconded by NT. Election to be carried out by email, CVs to be circulated. Candidates to contact JF for details of what job involves.

9. Conferences and events.
 - a. Manchester conference 2007. Great success. Small profit! Many thanks to PK, who suggested the profit could be put towards the numberplate.
 - b. Dublin conference 2008. Huge success, CW said many positive comments had been received, supportive and enjoyable atmosphere. Many thanks to organisers for their hard work. PO'B thanked all participants for their positive attitude. Finances tbc but should break even. CW thanked organisers particularly for arranging sponsorship. Tokens of appreciation (Milk Tray) presented to the 4 organisers, PO'B, JM, NT, and Gabrielle Carty. Postgraduate bursaries awarded to Yolanda Reyes (Galway) and Raquel Ribeiro(Liverpool).
 - c. Liverpool WiSPS/WiGS Study Day took place in June 2008. NT reported it was a very successful event, with about 12 participants across the two organisations. Very fruitful discussions for those in mid-career. Well organised, interesting and worthwhile. Small size of event gave possibilities for dialogue, but also a good range of experiences. Thanks to CW, KH, and Lyn Marven (WiGs secretary, Liverpool) for organising it.
 - d. Future events
 - i. Oxford conference – 2-3 Oct 2009 at Lady Margaret Hall. Organisers are Claudia Pazos Alonso and Xon de Ros. CFP to be circulated soon. Title 'Transitions'. Keynote speakers already confirmed: Professor Anna Klobucka (UMass, Dartmouth) and Professor Jo Labanyi (NYU). Guests attending include novelist Soledad Puértolas, director Isabel Coixet and Portuguese poet Ana Luísa Amaral. Thanks to the organisers.
 - ii. Study Day – request for volunteers to organise and/or give ideas. CW will circulate the list. Aim to hold a study day early 2009.
 - iii. Retreat 2009 – CW to organise.

10. AOB – nothing raised.