

# **AHRC Diasporas, Migration and Identities Programme**

## **Director: Professor Kim Knott, University of Leeds**

### **END OF YEAR REPORT FOR 2006**

#### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of the Director's post is to provide intellectual leadership for the Diasporas, Migration and Identities programme. The Director, supported by the Administrator and Steering Committee, develops and manages the programme, conducts outreach, maintains excellence, adds value, raises awareness, and monitors progress within the programme. The end-of-year report is the formal point in the annual cycle where the activities and achievements of the programme team can be presented, and the progress of the programme as a whole evaluated.

##### **1.1 Programme objectives and themes**

The Programme Specification identifies the objectives of the programme, its themes and priorities, and it is in the context of these that the work of the Director and Administrator in 2006 can best be viewed and evaluated. Its objectives are,

- i To stimulate high quality research on diasporas, migration and identities across the arts and humanities which will both draw upon a wide range of disciplinary resources and skills, and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration in and beyond the academy;
- ii To make a distinctive contribution to the theoretical, conceptual, thematic, practice-led and empirical study of diasporas, migration and identities by focusing on cultural, historical and linguistic perspectives and creative practice;
- iii To develop a body of theory, methods and cases to enable a comparative analysis of diasporas, migration and their associated identities to be undertaken;
- iv To facilitate connection, communication and exchange – at both programme and project level – between researchers and a wide range of individuals and organisations who have an interest in their research and its outcomes, including those in the cultural sector, media, government, public and voluntary bodies, and to contribute to the development of public policy;
- v To contribute to public awareness of arts and humanities research on diasporas, migration and identities;
- vi To generate research findings and outcomes of international significance and quality, to disseminate these to an international research audience, and to develop networks of researchers in and beyond the UK;
- vii To develop new connections and approaches that may become embedded in the research agenda and resources of the arts and humanities, and may be built on in future applications to AHRC for funding in responsive mode.

In commissioning the highest quality research, the priorities laid down in the Programme Specification (pp. 4-5) have been met. The twenty small projects, five

workshop series, nine networks and fifteen large projects associated with the Diasporas, Migration and Identities Programme range across its six themes:

- migration, settlement and diaspora: modes, stages and forms;
- representation, performance and discourse;
- languages and linguistic change;
- subjectivity, emotion and identity;
- objects, practices and places;
- beliefs, values and laws.

Although all the themes are being addressed, 'Languages and linguistic change' and 'Beliefs, values and laws' are less well represented in the programme. A 'category map' has been devised and used during the commissioning process to ensure full coverage of the range of disciplines within the arts and humanities and of subjects related to diasporas, migration and identities. It maps projects (by award holder) onto subject areas, and shows the range of subjects covered.<sup>1</sup>

## 1.2 Key achievements in 2006

- The commissioning of large research projects;
- The start of all small research projects, networks and workshops;
- The first programme events: two workshops for award-holders and a postgraduate conference;
- Development of a working paper series (on the website) and a programme book proposal;
- Dissemination of the programme with presentations at events, and meetings with a variety of stakeholders;
- Director's contribution to research council's co-ordinated investments: e.g. AHRC/ESRC 'Religion and Society' programme';
- Collaboration with the Home Office in reviewing arts and humanities research and literature relating to issues of security and terrorism
- Project progress reports show that, in 2006, the programme in total produced 42 printed academic and 11 printed non-academic outputs, some twenty electronic outputs (most of which were for both academic and non-academic audiences);
- 58 academic and 25 non-academic events were held (seminars, conferences, workshops), 8 exhibitions or performances, and 5 artefacts, works of art or installations.

## 2. Report of programme activities

### 2.1 Programme management and delivery

In the first six months of 2006 the main activity was the commissioning of large research projects. Of 157 eligible applications received in January, twenty-five were short-listed at the panel meeting in March. Individual feedback was provided for all those short-listed with an opportunity offered for discussion with the Director before

---

<sup>1</sup> A copy of the subject category map is available from the Programme Director.

the full applications were due in May (taken up by nineteen of the twenty-five). AHRC and AHDS staff were also involved in offering advice. All of those short-listed submitted detailed applications, and at the Commissioning Panel meeting in July fifteen awards were made (subject to various conditions, all of which were later met). The full list can be found on [http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/large\\_research\\_projects.htm](http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/large_research_projects.htm). AHRC granted additional funding to enable more awards to be made (beyond the proposed number of ten) in recognition of the level of interest generated by the programme and the quality and interdisciplinary nature of applications.

Small research projects, and networks and workshops began in 2006 (with various start dates from 1 January onwards). In association with the management of these, project progress report forms were sent out in the summer. AHRC, with input from the Director, prepared 'End of award report' forms for these two schemes, and these began to be sent out later in the year as small projects and workshops were completed.

Discussions were also held with AHRC staff (and other programme directors) on the subject of monitoring and evaluation as a result of which an Annual Report proforma was drawn up and a programme evaluation framework devised based on the objectives and priorities of the DMI programme. Meetings were also held with knowledge transfer and communications staff at AHRC.

Two meetings of the Steering Committee were held, in June and November. In addition to updating members on the progress of the programme, their advice was sought on the role of the committee, monitoring and evaluation, outreach and the draft of the annual report.

The objectives for 2006 set down in the last annual report were achieved, the Director's activities logged, and the programme timetable revised for future years to reflect changes to plans, proposed collaborative ventures etc.

The Director and Administrator have attended the following training workshops: Research Leader's Forum (Director); Essential Skills for Creating Accessible Web Sites (Administrator).

The Director applied to AHRC for additional funding, which was granted, to extend the programme by two months (to Feb 2010) and to contribute to further programme level events and opportunities for award holders. Expenditure has been monitored by the Administrator, and a budgetary statement for 2006 submitted to AHRC.

## 2.2 Liaison with projects/PIs

During the year, those involved in the DMI programme have had considerable contact with award-holders and applicants. AHRC staff have fielded email and telephone enquiries regarding the application process, contractual issues and changes to awards. The Administrator has dealt with day-to-day queries, as well as sending out and receiving completed progress report forms; the Director has held eight face-to-face meetings with individuals or groups of award holders. The two programme workshops were well attended, by 16 small grant researchers and 11 of those involved in networks and workshops. This gave the Administrator and Director

an opportunity to update them about the work of the programme (see <http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/newsandevents.htm>) and to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas between award-holders.

The major period of liaison was in April when, following the distribution of feedback to short-listed applicants (large grants), the Director held nineteen meetings (face-to-face or by phone) with individuals or teams. Notes were kept on each of the meetings.

In addition, it is worth noting the many encouraging and supportive emails sent out by the Director and Administrator to commend or congratulate project PIs on events organized, new websites launched and other achievements, to invite working papers or case studies and to put award-holders in contact with one another.

### 2.3 Problems/issues at the programme level

As DMI is the first autonomous AHRC programme much of the work of the Director has been necessarily 'ground-breaking' and time-consuming (as procedures could not always be 'pulled off the shelf' but had to be set up for the first time). Furthermore, the Director has often been called on to represent AHRC (e.g. in the developmental stages of the 'Religion and Society' programme and the proposed ESRC/AHRC/FCO 'Radicalisation' Initiative, in a workshop of European funding agencies (HERA), and in relation to research in the arts and humanities on security-related issues). Such occasions have been opportunities as much as burdens, but may sometimes have meant that programme-specific duties have been displaced in the order of priorities.

In relation to the programme itself, minor issues can sometimes be problematic, particularly the institutional movement of PIs (we lost one excellent small grant award holder because of her move to a chair in Germany), and, in one case, political events beyond our control (one PI was evacuated from Lebanon at the time of the crisis and was unable to complete her research visit).

### 2.4 Summary of programme-level workshops/seminars/other activities

The first events designed to bring award-holders together have been held (Small Grants in June; Networks and Workshops in November). In providing them with an opportunity to share information about their own research, networking and broader public engagement, the workshops have been successful. The level of excitement and enthusiasm for the programme remains high, and it is evident that the value, in terms of quantity of research, outputs and opportunities to disseminate and engage others in the research, exceeds AHRC's relatively small investment in these two schemes. The events have also provided examples of potential case studies (of knowledge transfer, community involvement, policy-orientation, practice-led research, successful dissemination and international outreach and networking).<sup>2</sup> The Director has advertised the possibility of supporting individuals or small teams to get together

---

<sup>2</sup> Examples include projects led by the following PIs: Pahl (see DMI website case study) and McLoughlin (knowledge transfer/engagement), Pahl and Svasek (community involvement), O'Neill (policy-orientation), Lok and Bell (practice-led research), Baily and McLoughlin (successful dissemination), Berghahn and Tulloch (international outreach and networking).

to share relevant research experience and/or develop future diasporas applications or initiatives.

The Director has given ten presentations about the DMI programme during the year, including at AHRC committees (Research Committee, Postgraduate Committee, AHRC staff), at events organized by DMI networks, and at a workshop in The Hague on establishing and running research programmes (organized by HERA).

Following an approach by a publisher and a follow-up meeting, the Director, with a colleague and potential co-editor, prepared a proposal for an edited book to be compiled in association with the Programme.

## 2.5 Key communication and outreach activities

Early in 2006 AHRC, in discussion with the other research councils, made the decision to take the lead on the Treasury research theme of 'security' in association with which it organized a parliamentary briefing at the House of Commons in March. The Director spoke on the contribution of arts and humanities research to the theme, and made contact with representatives of other bodies engaged in related research (Demos, ESRC 'New Security Challenges' Programme, Home Office). She spoke again at the research councils' press briefing on new research on security issues at the BA Science Festival in Norwich in September.<sup>3</sup>

Throughout the year meetings have been held with stakeholders, including those from the National Archive and 'Moving Here' website, the think-tank Demos and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The Director has also had discussions with Stella Yarrow, of the Department of Communities and Local Government, and Alaster Smith, of the Home Office (Counter-Terrorism Unit [Science]). In August, she was involved in organizing (and then chaired) a consultancy meeting with stakeholders in relation to the forthcoming AHRC/ESRC 'Religion and Society' Programme.

The Director gave a keynote paper at the annual conference of the Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism at Roehampton in association with which she presented a programme update. She was also asked to speak on diasporas, migration and identities as respondent at the first of a series of interdisciplinary seminars on 'Negotiating religious identities' at Lancaster University. She attended conferences in Estonia and Romania, and a scholarly meeting in Berlin, at which she attended papers on subjects related to the programme and made international contacts.

At project level, award-holders have also publicized the programme in association with their research. Several informative and interactive websites have been set up and others are in development.<sup>4</sup> Workshops and networks have been featured in

<sup>3</sup> See Linda Nordling, 'Terror studies: Security could open funding doors', *The Guardian*, 5 September 2006, <http://education.guardian.co.uk/egweekly/story/0,,1864526,00.html>.

<sup>4</sup> e.g. Daniela Berghahn, 'Migrant and Diasporic Cinema in Contemporary Europe', <http://www.migrantcinema.net/>; Encarnacion Gutierrez-Rodriguez, 'Migration and Diaspora Cultural Studies Network', <http://www.llc.manchester.ac.uk/Research/Projects/MDCSN/>; Kate Pahl, 'Artefacts and narratives of migration: Rotherham Museum collections and the Pakistani/Kashmiri community of Rotherham', <http://www.ferhamfamilies.com/intro.html>; Sean McLoughlin, 'Writing British Asian Cities', <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/brasian/>.

AHRC case studies, as well as those on the programme website.<sup>5</sup> Open research-related cultural events have been held.<sup>6</sup>

## 2.6 Postgraduate level involvement and activities within the programme

The Administrator has developed a postgraduate mailing list through which relevant items are sent out. This year the main item has been the Diasporas, Migration and Identities postgraduate conference. A postgraduate working group was established at the University of Leeds in association with this (the first of two planned programme conferences), and the group, involving six students from various disciplines, met with the Director and Administrator five times in preparation for the conference in December.

The postgraduate conference (13-14 December) attracted some forty-five participants from a wide range of UK HEIs, twenty-two of whom gave papers, with a further ten chairing sessions or leading workshops.<sup>7</sup>

In November, the Director spoke to members of AHRC Postgraduate Committee, updating them on the programme, in particular its postgraduate provision. She noted that four of the programme's large research projects have an attached studentship, and raised the possibility of identifying and contacting those funded under the normal AHRC postgraduate scheme working on relevant issues. Once the large research projects are up and running those PGs attached to them will be brought together (perhaps with other AHRC PGs) for a programme workshop.

## 2.7 International collaborations at the programme level

As yet there have been no formal international collaborations at programme level, but the Director has continued to develop international contacts with such collaborations in mind. She was invited to join the International Advisory Committee for a research programme on 'The Religious Lives of Immigrant Minorities: A Transnational Perspective', funded by the American Social Science Research Council (Migration Program) and attended the first meeting in Berlin in June. In association with this research is being conducted in the UK, Malaysia and South Africa.

Through her membership at Leeds of the Institute for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies and participation in recent conferences, the Director has made preliminary contact with diaspora and migration researchers in several World Universities Network (WUN) universities, particular Wisconsin Madison, Utrecht and Illinois Urbana Champaign.

---

<sup>5</sup> Gideon Calder, 'Toleration and the Public Sphere', *Podium*, 4, 2006, p. 8; Desmond Bell, 'Early Cinema and the Diasporic Imagination: The Irish in America, 1890-1930', *AHRC Annual Report and Accounts 2005/06*. See also <http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/index.htm> and [http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/casestudies\\_archive.htm](http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/casestudies_archive.htm).

<sup>6</sup> Susan pui san Lok, live research residency, Beaconsfield, in association with 'Golden', <http://www.re-title.com/exhibitions/Beaconsfield.asp>; John Baily, 'Belquis' (Afghan music concert, November 2006, Goldsmiths College) in association with 'Afghan music in London and its ongoing communications with Kabul and the Afghan Transnational Community'

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/assets/PG%20Event%20Plan.pdf> and [http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/Postgraduate\\_conferences.htm](http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/Postgraduate_conferences.htm).

She has continued to develop links with colleagues in Europe and North America working on diasporas and migration studies, particularly in the study of religions (Switzerland, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, USA).

## 2.8 Collaborative partnerships in HE and beyond

At programme level we expect such collaborative partnerships to be of two types: (a) collaborations between the DMI programme and other research initiatives and programmes funded by research councils and other academic bodies, and (b) those between the programme and non-academic partners of various kinds.

In 2006, the following are worthy of note (a) Director's discussions with AHRC Head of Research and other programme directors about research council links and cross-programme activities (in association with AHRC/ESRC Religion and Society, AHRC Landscapes and Environment, ESRC Identities and Social Action); (b) research commissioned by the Home Office and arising from the AHRC House of Commons Briefing on security research, carried out at the University of Leeds (with the Director as principal investigator), resulting in the report, Knott, K., McFadyen, A.I., McLoughlin, S.M. and Francis M.D. (2006) *The Roots, Practices and Consequences of Terrorism: A Literature Review of Research in the Arts & Humanities* (92pp).

At project level there are many cases of collaboration with non-academic stakeholders. For example,

- collaboration between two local universities in Sheffield with Rotherham museum, a school, Sure Start Centre, visual artist (Creative Partnerships) and local families in Kate Pahl's small research project, 'Artefacts and narratives of migration: Rotherham Museum collections and the Pakistani/Kashmiri community of Rotherham';
- collaboration between those who have been the literary, artistic and civic producers of Bradford, the East End, Leicester and other British Asian cities, including scholars, journalists, novelists and civil servants, in McLoughlin, Gould, Kabir and Tomalin's network, 'From Diaspora to Multi-Locality: Writing British Asian Cities'.

Future collaborations of note include the large research project led by Marie Gillespie and co-applicants, 'Tuning In: Diasporic Contact Zones at the BBC World Service', and joint projects between research scholars in HEIs with those working in AHRC's academic analogues, the V&A (Crang et al) and Tate Britain (Dewdney et al).

## **3. Annual Project Summaries (not provided in this version of the report)**

Basic project data, with information about progress and highlights for 2006, has been provided for small research projects, workshops and networks.<sup>8</sup> Most of the large research projects had not begun at the time of reporting. Considering the total AHRC budget for small grants and network and workshop grants was only £370,000, the achievements, interactions and level of excitement generated suggests significant value for money. In particular, it is instructive to note how many of the projects have

---

<sup>8</sup> See also project summaries on [www.diasporas.ac.uk/research.htm](http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/research.htm).

engaged non-academic stakeholders, either as research partners or in order to disseminate findings and increase public awareness.

#### **4. Timetable and milestones**

The programme timetable (revised) with key milestones has been presented to AHRC (see Appendix 1).

Planned programme activities for 2007 include:

- Director to hold meetings with remaining small grant, network and workshop award holders (who have not participated in events or meetings to date);
- Director's visits to large grant award holders to begin;
- Database of large research project staff to be developed (to enable information and events to be appropriately targeted);
- Four programme events for award holders to be held (networks and workshops; large grants; project RAs; project doctoral students);
- One cross-programme seminar to be held (e.g. with ESRC Identities and Social Action programme), and discussions with other programme directors to continue;
- One co-sponsored seminar to be held (e.g. with University of Oxford COMPAS or University of Leeds Institute for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies);
- Parliamentary and Home Office briefings (March);
- Continue dissemination meetings with stakeholders;
- Planning of series of open Diasporas, Migration and Identities seminars for 2008;
- Development of postgraduate section of [www.diasporas.ac.uk](http://www.diasporas.ac.uk);
- Finalising book project and commissioning contributors.
- Extending size of the DMI Steering Committee and establishing mentor links between committee members and large research projects.

#### **Appendix 1**

##### **Arts and Humanities Research Council DIASPORAS, MIGRATION, IDENTITIES**

##### **Revised provisional timetable 2005/2010**

##### **2005**

January	Start of programme; Director began work.
Feb-March	Steering Committee established; terms of reference drawn up. Final specification drafted.
April	First meeting of Steering Committee; specification agreed with amendments. Programme and specification launched (21 April).
May	First call for (a) Small Research Grants, (b) Network and Workshop Grants.
June	Programme Secretary appointed. Closing date for applications for

	Small Research Grants, and Network and Workshop Grants (24 June).
July	Peer Review College process.
Aug-Sept	Administrator began work; office established; database developed.
October	Commissioning Panel process for Small Research Grants, Network and Workshop Grants.
Oct-Nov	Website developed.
November	Call for outline applications for Large Research Grants. Announcement of outcomes from first call (Small Research Grants, Networks and Workshops).
December	Steering Committee meeting (draft of annual report); Website launched.

## **2006**

January	First start date for Small Research Grants, and Network and Workshop Grants. End of year report (Yr 1) due. Deadline for outline applications for Large Grants (20 January).
Feb-March	Shortlisting by Commissioning Panel and invitation to submit full applications for Large Grants (by early May)
April	Question and answer sessions for those invited to second stage.
May-July	Peer Review College assessments, Commissioning Panel process.
May	Steering Committee meeting
June	Workshop for award holders (Small grants)
July	Announcement of outcomes from second call (Large Grants, 31 July).
September	First postgraduate conference (held 13-14 December 2006)
October	First start date for Large Research Grants.
Nov-Dec	Workshop for award holders (Networks and workshops); Steering Committee meeting (draft of annual report)
End Dec	All small grants, networks and workshops from first call to have begun.

## **2007**

January	End of year report (Yr 2) due.
April/May	Collaborative programme seminar (with Landscape and Environment?)
May/June	Steering Committee meeting Workshops for award holders (large grants; mixed)

End Sept All large research projects from second call to have begun.  
Workshop for project RAs.

Nov-Dec Workshop for award holders (large grants)  
Steering Committee meeting (draft of annual report).

End Dec All small research grants and workshops to have been completed.

## **2008**

January End of year report (Yr 3) due.

February? Series of open programme seminars (x4)?

April? Collaborative event (with Religion and Society?)

May/June Steering Committee meeting  
Workshop for project postgraduates (and other AHRC funded students)

July? Conference or other event to be held jointly with AHRC/ESRC 'Religion and Society' programme

October Workshop for award holders (large research grants)

Nov-Dec Steering Committee meeting (draft annual report)  
Second postgraduate conference.

End Dec All networks to have been completed.

## **2009**

January End of year report (Yr 4) due.

May/June Steering Committee meeting

June/July (or Sept?) Final Programme conference

October Final workshop of award holders (large research grants)

November Day seminar/workshop for stakeholders?

Nov-Dec Steering Committee meeting (draft of annual report and items for Inclusion in final report)  
Most large research projects to have been completed

December End of year report (Yr 5 due)

## **2010**

Feb-March Final report due.