

END OF YEAR REPORT FOR 2007

Kim Knott, Programme Director

1. Introduction

The purpose of the Director's post is to provide intellectual leadership for the Diasporas, Migration and Identities programme (2005-2010). 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 can best be evaluated. The objectives continue to be met by the programme as a whole and its associated projects, and this process is monitored through the submission of annual project progress reports and end-of-award reports.

1.2 Key achievements in 2007

- The start of all fifteen large research projects;
- Conclusion of many small research projects and workshops (with 14 end-of award reports submitted as satisfactory);
- Co-ordination with other programmes (AHRC/ESRC Religion and Society, AHRC Landscape and Environment, ESRC Identities and Social Action);
- Programme events: two workshops for award-holders and planning for open events in 2008 (including joint programme conferences);
- Diasporas book commissioned by Zed Books and internationally renowned contributors from within and beyond the programme secured;
- Dissemination of the programme with presentations at events, and meetings with a variety of stakeholders;
- Production of posters for exhibit (all large projects and networks);
- Director's contribution to research council activity (commissioning of research, DMI presentations, representation of AHRC at meetings);

- New awards and developments for programme award holders.

2. Report of programme activities

2.1 Programme data, management and delivery

Information about the gender, age, ethnicity, grade and subject area of Principal Investigators was collated by AHRC, and the number of applications and awards by HEI tabulated. In particular, these show that the majority of both applicants and award holders were female. More than 40% were in the age range 35-44, with smaller number in other age ranges. Although the majority of applicants and award holders were 'White', 18% of applicants and 14% of award holders were from other ethnic groups. Using data only for PIs, it is possible to say that at least twenty-four different subject areas were represented in the applications, with awards being made in eighteen. The highest number of awards was made to PIs in anthropology, languages and linguistics, history and sociology. It was gratifying to see awards made to applicants from philosophy/law, religious studies, archaeology, museum studies and education. Researchers from two independent research organisations (non-HEI) were successful co-applicants.

Focusing solely on large grants, programme data in the *AHRC Review of the Year 2006-07*, showed that applications had been received from 73 HEIs, with 14 successful in obtaining awards. With 157 applications in this competition, 15 of which were funded, the success rate was 10%. The funding for large grants totaled £5,227,009.

A major activity in 2007 has been the monitoring of awards, through meetings with award holders, attendance at events, and the reviewing of progress and end-of-award reports. All fifteen of the large research projects began between October 2006 and July 2007, and meetings were held during the year between the Director and the majority of award holders, with all but one project team attending a programme workshop in Leeds. A mentoring scheme was devised linking Steering Committee members to large projects with a role description and template for meetings drawn up. Funded from the programme budget, this will facilitate direct communication between the Committee and projects, and provide a mechanism for award holders to report on the work of the programme team (should that be necessary). Project mentoring will be discussed annually at the May meeting of the Steering Committee.

An access database for large research grants (personnel, contact details, project information, students and RAs) was developed.

The majority of small research projects and workshops came to an end in 2007, and satisfactory end-of-award reports were received from fourteen award holders.

Meetings were held with AHRC staff and other programme directors on monitoring and evaluation, knowledge transfer, event planning and communications.

The size of the Steering Committee was increased and two meetings were held, in April and December. 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 planned objectives for 2007 as set down at the end of the last annual report were met, with two exceptions. The planned event for project RAs and research students (scheduled for January 2008) did not take place because of inadequate enrolment. The planned cross-programme seminar was deferred to 2008. Plans were made to ensure these take place in future (see below). The Director's activities were logged (Annex 2) and the programme timetable revised for future years to reflect changes to plans, proposed collaborative ventures etc.

The Director and Administrator attended the following training workshops during the year.

- AHRC Director's Away Day (Director);
- Research Leader's Forum (Director);
- Briefings on European Framework 7 and other international research funding opportunities (Director);
- Training for Staff Reviewers (Director);
- Knowledge Transfer: Strategic Partnerships (Director);
- Programme and project media and communications strategies (Director);
- Essential Skills for Creating Accessible Web Sites (Administrator);
- Career Development Skills (Administrator).

A new staff review and development scheme was introduced at the University of Leeds in which the Director and Administrator participated.

Annual expenditure has been monitored by the Administrator, and a budgetary statement for 2007 was presented.

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 fielded email and telephone enquiries regarding changes to awards and end-of-award reports. The Administrator dealt with day-to-day queries, as well as co-ordinating text and images for posters, and sending out and receiving completed progress report forms. The Director held ten face-to-face meetings with individuals or groups of award holders, generally in their home institutions, and attended five project lectures/events. The two programme workshops held in Leeds were well attended, by forty-four participants in total (mostly award holders, with some co-applicants, RAs, one PG, and one AHRC representative), and this gave the Administrator and Director an opportunity to update them about the work and priorities of the programme and to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas between award-holders. End-of-award reports have been read and placed on file for completed small projects and workshops.

Much of the communication between the Director and Administrator and award holders took place by email: answering queries and commending them on events

organized, new websites launched and other achievements. We have also put award holders in contact with one another where interests are shared, and supported the attendance of several at events organized by other projects or networks.

2.3 Problems/issues at programme level

In general, communications with project award holders and participants have been good, though in a minority of cases repeated reminders for information have had to be sent out. We were disappointed that the planned event for project RAs and PGs could not go ahead as planned for January 2008 due to poor take up. Many RAs and PGs were involved in fieldwork at home and abroad and few could make the dates we proposed. However, quite a number of them have attended programme workshops during the year. This has suggested to us that a more successful strategy would be to embed sessions for RAs and PGs in the two-day award holder event scheduled for November 2008.

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

Two events designed to bring award-holders together were held (Large Grants workshop in June; Large Grants and Networks in November). In providing them with opportunities to showcase their research and meet others involved in the programme, the workshops have been successful. The level of excitement and enthusiasm remains high. The events have continued to provide good examples for the development of case studies (of knowledge transfer, community involvement, policy-orientation, practice-led research, successful dissemination and international outreach and networking).¹

The Director has given eight presentations about the programme during the year, including at AHRC Research Committee and at events organized by DMI award holders and other diasporas researchers. She has publicized the programme at a number of conferences in Europe, South East Asia and the US.

A proposed edited book to be compiled in association with the programme, entitled *Diasporas: Concepts, Identities, Intersections*, has now been commissioned by Zed Books, for delivery in 2009 and publication in 2010. The editors (the Director and Dr Sean McLoughlin, University of Leeds) have met repeatedly to discuss reviewers' reports, the book's contents, the publisher's contract, international contributors and a book symposium (to be held in April 2008 in Leeds). About forty scholars, who have accepted the invitation to contribute, are in the process of being contracted by Zed. The book outline and templates for its four parts have been drawn up and circulated, with a timetable. This is seen as having major international outreach potential for the programme both during and after its five-year life span.

¹ For example, on community outreach and participatory-based research, O'Neill, 'Making the connections: Arts, migration and diaspora regional network', http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/ss/global_refugees/; on international outreach and networking, Tulloch, 'Dress and the African diaspora', on regional outreach, Jesch, 'Viking identities network', <http://vin.nottingham.ac.uk/english/csva/vin/>, and on knowledge exchange, Brown, 'Mapping migrant communities in Manchester 1880-2000' in which GIS is used with community groups to digitally map people's life experiences.

2.5 Key communication and outreach activities

Presentations were given in March at an AHRC parliamentary briefing at the House of Commons (on diasporas, identity and religion), and at the Home Office (on the review of arts and humanities research on terrorism).

Several meetings have been held during the year with stakeholders, including Paul Wiles and Alaster Smith, of the Home Office, and Tina Golton from the Ministry of Justice. In December, the Director represented the programme, and an arts and humanities perspective, at the four-day Wilton Park conference (in association with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) on 'Understanding and Engaging with Diasporas', attended by government advisors, diplomats, NGO representatives and academics from seventeen countries.

The Director gave the Modern Languages Northern Training Network Annual Lecture in March, in which she presented the programme (particularly its postgraduate opportunities) and spoke on diasporas and the contemporary politics of faith in Britain, and gave a keynote lecture on the programme at the 'Diasporas, Migration and Media' conference of the European Communications Convention. She gave keynotes and other lectures on diasporas, religion and space at conferences in Stockholm, Bergen, Bremen, Tilburg, San Diego and Odense, in Denmark, and discussed the programme, its projects and activities, with colleagues on the SSRC/Ford Foundation International Advisory Group of 'The Religious Lives of Migrant Minorities in Britain, South Africa and Malaysia' at meetings in London and Kuala Lumpur.

At project level, award-holders have also publicized the programme in association with their research. A good example was at the November workshop at Queen Mary College, University of London, on 'Diaspora and the City', at which two DMI project teams gave papers, and a further five were represented in the audience.² This connection, with the Leverhulme funded project on Diaspora Cities (and with the AHRC Landscape and Environment programme), will be developed further in 2008.

A number of informative and interactive websites have been set up and others are in development.³ Projects and networks have been featured in AHRC case studies, as well as those on the programme website.⁴ Open research-related cultural events have been held, including an exhibition in February on 'Ferham Families' at Rotherham's Walker Art Gallery which received extensive local and regional media coverage, theatre and musical performances, and reading groups.⁵

² See <http://www.geog.qmul.ac.uk/diasporacities/workshop.html>.

³ See Dewdney et al, 'Tate Encounters', <http://www.tate.org.uk/research/tateresearch/majorprojects/tate-encounters/>; Meinhof, 'Diaspora as social and cultural practice', <http://www.tnmundi.com/>.

⁴ Daniela Berghahn and Claudia Sternberg (Sarita Malik), 'Migrant and diasporic cinema in Europe', *Podium*, 7, 2007, pp. 8-9. See also <http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/index.htm> and http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/casestudies_archive.htm.

⁵ Kate Pahl, 'Artefacts and narratives of migration: Rotherham Museum collections and the Pakistani/Kashmiri community of Rotherham', <http://www.ferhamfamilies.com/>; Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, 'Exhibition celebrates Asian life in Rotherham', <http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/graphics/YourCouncil/Press+Releases/Exhibition.htm>;

2.6 Postgraduate level involvement and activities within the programme

Following the successful postgraduate conference (held 13-14 December 2006) which attracted some forty-five participants from a wide range of UK HEIs, and after discussion with the Director, a small group of London-based postgraduate researchers formed a working committee to establish a blog.⁶ The Programme supported a launch event and the initial costs of buying webspace. The blog was launched in April with monthly updates. Issues such as Irish migration, Malaysian refugee stories, and human rights and refugees have been explored.

A postgraduate page was developed on the programme website, and information about opportunities and events continued to be circulated on the diasporas postgraduate list.⁷

Four postgraduate awards were made in conjunction with large research projects, to Samantha Connolly (now withdrawn, Brown, 'Mapping migrant communities in Manchester'), Benji Zeitlyn (Gardner, 'Home and away'), Shivani Derrington (Cragg, 'Fashioning diaspora space'), and Janine Givarti-Teerling (King, 'The second generation returns home').

2.7 International collaborations at programme level

The Director participated in the work of the International Advisory Committee for 'The Religious Lives of Immigrant Minorities: A Transnational Perspective', funded by the American Social Science Research Council (Migration Program) and attended research meetings in London and Kuala Lumpur. Discussions were held about the possibility of a joint programmes conference (with AHRC/ESRC 'Religion and Society) in the US.

The Director continued to develop links with colleagues in Europe and North America working on diasporas and migration studies, particularly in the study of religions, and was invited to participate in the development of future research programmes in Europe (in association with a Norface project and application to Framework 7) and Canada (in association with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council).

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.

(a) In 2007, discussions were held with the AHRC Head of Research and other programme directors about research council links and cross-programme activities.

BBC News South Yorkshire, 'Town's Asian history investigated', http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/low/england/south_yorkshire/6375709.stm. Meinhof, 'Diaspora as social and cultural practice', <http://www.tnmundi.com/>; Procter, 'Devolving Diasporas', <http://www.devolvingdiasporas.com/>.

⁶ See <http://intersections.wordpress.com/>

⁷ See <http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/Postgrad%20page.htm>.

As a result, a joint conference has been planned, 'Encounters and Intersections: Religion, Diasporas and Ethnicity', to be held in Oxford in July 2008 (in association with AHRC/ESRC Religion and Society and ESRC Identities and Social Action). In addition, a joint session will be held at the annual conference of the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers in London in August 2008 (in association with AHRC Landscapes and Environment and Leverhulme Diaspora Cities project).

The Director sat on the Advisory Board and Commissioning Panel for the ESRC/AHRC/FCO programme on 'New Security Challenges: "Radicalisation", A Critical Reassessment'.

(b) The research review commissioned by the Home Office on the roots, practices and consequences of terrorism, and reported in the 2006 annual report, is now available online.⁸

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

- between academics at Royal Holloway and researchers at the V&A across disciplinary boundaries (cultural and historical geography, cultural history, fashion studies, textile history and curating, visual arts practice) on 'Fashioning diaspora space', the presence of South Asian clothing textiles in British culture in both colonial (1850s to 1880s) and post-colonial (1980s to 2000s) times;⁹
- between academics at the universities of Newcastle and Stirling, working on 'Devolving diasporas: Migration and reception in central Scotland', with reading groups in the UK, Africa, India, the Caribbean and Canada (in conjunction with the British Council), the MacRobert Youth Dance Company and the Scottish writer Jackie Kay.¹⁰

Other collaborations of note include Gillespie, 'Tuning In: Diasporic Contact Zones at the BBC World Service', Dewdney, 'Tate Encounters: Black and Asian Identities, Britishness and Visual Culture', and Gardner, 'Home and Away: Experiences and Representations of Transnational South Asian Children'.

Maggie O'Neill ('Making connections') successfully followed up her network award with an AHRC Knowledge Transfer Fellowship on 'Transnational communities: Towards a sense of belonging'. As a development of previous network activity on arts, migration and diaspora in the East Midlands, the fellowship aims to enhance the lives of recent arrivals; to stimulate high-quality inter-disciplinary research and the production of art works; to facilitate connection, communication and feed into public policy; and to contribute to public awareness of the issues facing new arrivals.¹¹

⁸ 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*, <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/trs/irpl/research.htm>.

⁹ See Crang et al, 'Fashioning Diaspora Space', <http://www.gg.rhul.ac.uk/FSD.html>.

¹⁰ See Procter et al, 'Devolving Diasporas', <http://www.devolvingdiasporas.com/>.

¹¹ See O'Neill, AHRC award listings, http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/awards/award_detail.asp?id=326692.

2.9 Sustaining 'Diasporas, migration and identities' beyond the life-time of the programme

O'Neill's successful fellowship is just one example of attempts made by award holders and co-applicants within the programme to further their research following the end of their award. In their progress and end-of-award reports, several note the submission of related applications to AHRC and other funding bodies (including their own institutions).¹² Directors of Networks have paid particular attention to exploring future developments.¹³

3. Project Summaries and programme performance data (see Annex below)

Basic project data, with information about progress and highlights for 2007, was summarized and presented for large research projects, workshops and networks (see 'Progress and Highlights 2007',

http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/large_research_projects.htm and <http://www.diasporas.ac.uk/networksandworkshops.htm>).¹⁴

Data for these summaries was collected in November 2007 from annual progress reports. End-of-Award Reports were received by the end of 2007 for fourteen small grants and workshops.

Data on programme outputs and outcomes for 2007 are presented (see below). They show the range and scale of academic and non-academic dissemination that the programme has given rise to in 2007, reflecting the work of small grant, workshop and network award holders, and those involved in the early stages of large projects (as well as the Director).

4. Timetable and milestones

Planned programme activities for 2008 include:

- Monitoring of large research projects (meetings with Director, Steering Committee mentor, progress reports etc);
- Oversight of End-of-Award reports for remaining small grants, workshops and networks;
- A two-day programme event for large grant award holders and associated researchers;
- A joint-programme conference (with ESRC Identities and Social Action and AHRC/ESRC Religion and Society);
- A co-sponsored session (with AHRC Landscape and Environment and Leverhulme Diaspora Cities) at the annual conference of the RGS/IBG;
- A two-day symposium for contributors to the programme book;
- Continued outreach meetings with stakeholders; policy briefings;

¹² Examples include Pahl, McLoughlin and Carroll (Jesch). O'Neill also obtained an additional grant from the Arts Council.

¹³ See, for example, Bell, Berghahn.

¹⁴ See also project summaries on www.diasporas.ac.uk/research.htm.

- Planning of further open seminars for 2008/09, of final conference and stakeholder meeting for 2009;
- Further development of postgraduate activities;
- Receipt and editing of articles for book; editors to prepare own entries;
- Finalising of programme posters for exhibition;
- Further development of international links and collaborations;
- Exploration of output featuring the programme's achievements in practice-led research.

(For Annex, see following page)

ANNEX

Data for AHRC Performance Management Framework 2007

The first table refers to the work of the Programme Director, and the second is a total number of outputs/outcomes across the whole programme. The information in table two is a summation of data from project progress reports.

Outputs/Outcomes completed (Programme Director)	Number of outputs/outcomes	
	Academic audience	Non-academic audience * B C P
Paper/printed outputs e.g. books, journal articles, exhibition catalogues	3	
Electronic outputs e.g. software, databases, websites	4	4 (P)
Events 1 e.g. seminars, conferences, workshops	13	3 (P)
Events 2 e.g. exhibitions, performances	1	1 (P)
Creations e.g. artefacts/works of art, design, compositions (scores, choreography, creative writing)		

* Please indicate the audience as follows:

B – business/industry

C – charity/not-for-profit

P – public

Outputs/Outcomes completed (totals across programme)	Number of outputs/outcomes	
	Academic audience	Non-academic audience * B C P
Paper/printed outputs e.g. books, journal articles, exhibition catalogues	120	19 (P) 7 (B) 10 (C)
Electronic outputs e.g. software, databases, websites	31	20 (P) 2 (B) 4 (C)
Events 1 e.g. seminars, conferences, workshops	188	28 (P) 13 (B) 8 (C)
Events 2 e.g. exhibitions, performances	14	18 (P) 14 (B) 1 (C)
Creations e.g. artefacts/works of art, design, compositions (scores, choreography, creative writing)	5	7 (P) 1 (B) 1 (C)