

**AHRC RESEARCH TRAINING NETWORK IN MODERN LANGUAGES
NORTH OF ENGLAND GROUP
SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

**TRAINING SEMINAR PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH STUDENTS FROM
OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS 2007-2008**

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR (Semester One): DR. DIANE NELSON

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR (Semester Two): PROF. DAVID LOOSELEY

Aims and Objectives

- To provide modern languages postgraduate research students at all levels with training in research skills and issues, by means of workshop-style seminars offering a forum for discussion, exposition, experimentation and the exchange of ideas.
- To complement—not substitute for—the training provided by supervisors, subject-specific seminars and any other University facilities.
- To help generate a regional modern languages research community and provide a forum where research postgraduates can meet each other and academic staff, for their mutual benefit.
- To give research postgraduates a forum in which to present, discuss and defend their work and their ideas.
- To explore the areas of commonality and difference within the diverse research interests of the field of modern languages.

Structure

Seminars will take place throughout semesters 1 and 2, as part of a rolling programme spread over two years to avoid annual repetition, though occasional core sessions recur annually.

The programme for semester 2 and year 2 will be finalised in due course, with the help of participant feedback. The content of sessions will range from empirical to theoretical, practical to conceptual.

Participation

Your own institution will have attendance requirements which you will need to check with the staff concerned.

NB. Unless otherwise stated (see below), all seminars will take place in the Arts Faculty's new Leeds Humanities Research Institute (LHRI) building at 29-31 Clarendon Place, Seminars Rooms 3 and 4. To find this building, carry on past the Students Union and Psychology and take the second left. For a map, see: <http://webprod2.leeds.ac.uk/campusmap/detail.asp?ID=546>

For any other information please contact Rachel Haworth: r.a.haworth00@leeds.ac.uk

Other useful e-mail addresses:

Diane Nelson (Semester One): d.c.nelson@leeds.ac.uk

David Looseley (Semester Two): d.looseley@leeds.ac.uk

Useful website addresses:

AHRC Research Training Network - Postgraduate Online Research Training Site:
<http://port.igrs.sas.ac.uk/>

2007 -2008 Programme

Thematic abbreviations

LCS: Language, culture and society

WRS: Writing, reading, speaking

Monday 1 October 2007, 4-5.30pm

David Looseley and Diane Nelson: Introduction to programme: approx. 1 hour

Heather Sears: Introduction to postgraduate study and training issues: 30 minutes

David Looseley's talk will introduce the aims, objectives and structure of the training programme.

Heather Sears will talk about personal development, skills and training opportunities in Leeds and elsewhere. She will give an outline of what is on offer at the Graduate Training Centre at SDDU in the Parkinson Building and also opportunities open to postgraduates through the UK GRAD scheme.

Monday 8 October 2007, 4-5:30pm

Melinda Whong (LCS, WRS): Formulating research questions

This session will focus on the way in which postgraduate students need to think about the kinds of questions they wish to answer as part of the research they are undertaking. It will also consider how to identify the most appropriate way of answering those questions. Such explicit reflection on so-called research questions (RQs) is not only an important part of the research process itself, it can also help with the structuring of the thesis in the writing up stage.

Monday 15 October 2007, 4-5.30pm

Paul Rowe and Stuart Green (WRS): Bibliography and EndNote

In this session we shall be discussing some of the issues surrounding bibliographies. What are they for? What should be included in them? What shouldn't? How do you know when to stop reading? We shall also be familiarising ourselves with EndNote, bibliographic software which should ease the pain of keeping track of your reading while preparing

your thesis, and of formatting your footnotes and bibliography once you have finished it.

Monday 22 October 2007, 4-5.30pm

Serge Sharoff (LCS): Using corpora in SMLC research

Linguistic research can rely on empirical evidence (which phenomena are there in the language(s) we study) or on introspection (native speakers can make judgements about what is possible and what is not on their knowledge of the language). This opposition has long been well known, but recently it has acquired a new dimension: now empirical evidence can be gathered from large text collections (known as corpora). In this session we will talk about the principles of corpus-based research and skills needed to make queries to corpora.

Monday 29 October 2007, 4-5.30pm

Diane Nelson (LCS, WRS): Introduction to text analysis

Introduction to and preparation of text presentations for the student-led workshops in weeks 18 and 19.

Looking ahead to student-led sessions in semester 2.

Wednesday 31 October 2007, 2-4pm

N.B. This seminar will take place in the Level 11 training room in the Edward Boyle Library and *not* the LHRI.

Maureen Pinder: Library Session (WRS)

This session will aim to raise students' awareness of the range of library services available in Leeds and beyond, and will focus on improving techniques for information retrieval from a variety of resources such as subject-specific databases, more general databases and other e-resources such as e-journals. Approximately half the session will be devoted to hands-on practice of 3-4 key databases (MLA, LLBA, Web of Science, Lexis-Nexis). The session will also include an overview of other types of material (newspapers, microfilms, rare books and manuscripts, theses etc) and provide information on further training opportunities such as the Library's Information Literacy programme. The importance of efficient management of information, including correct referencing, will be stressed.

Monday 5 November 2007 Reading week: no seminar

Monday 12 November 2007, 4-5.30pm

N.B. This seminar will take place in room 134 in the Michael Sadler Building and not the LHRI.

Cecile Brich (LCS): Foucault: Issues and Applications

Foucault's thinking has had a significant impact on many academic disciplines, and it can be usefully applied to a wide range of research questions. This seminar will help clarify some of Foucault's key concepts, such as 'Discourse', 'Panopticism' or 'Subjectivation', and provide a forum for discussion of the different ways in which participants draw on Foucault in their own research. In order to help tailor this session to participants' needs, PGs may feel free to contact Cecile in advance with any specific Foucault-related questions they wish this session to address: C.Brich@leeds.ac.uk

Monday 19 November 2007, 4-5.30 pm

Flemming Christiansen and TBA (LCS): Occidentalism and Orientalism: Issues and Applications

The talks will examine the cultural and political construction of the "East" as fundamentally different from the "West" and address some of the implications for research.

Monday 26 November 2007, 4-5.30 pm

Diane Nelson, Diana Holmes and Heather Sears (tbc) (LCS, WRS): Student-led text workshops

*This and the following week's workshop are given over to mini-presentations by postgraduates, two or three per week. The week before the presentation, each presenter distributes to all members of the seminar a short extract (*very* short: around 200-250 words), translated into English if necessary (you may wish to provide the original as well), which is in some sense important to their research. It may come from a primary or a secondary source. The presenter talks for 10 minutes about the importance of the text and how s/he reads it, the problems it poses and so on. This is followed by 10 minutes of open discussion with the group: ideas for different interpretations, suggestions for tackling problems, etc. NB. Depending on numbers in the group, not everybody will necessarily have a chance to present this semester. But if the group wishes, further sessions could perhaps be arranged in semester 2. Watch this space.*

Monday 3 December 2007, 4-5:30pm

Diane Nelson and Barry Heselwood (LCS, WRS): Student-led workshop 2

This is the last seminar of Semester one. Full details for all the Semester two seminars mentioned below will be distributed nearer the time.

Monday 28 January 2008, 4-5.30pm

Clara Davies and panel (WRS): PG Teaching

Monday 4 February 2008, 4-5.30pm

Bethan Davies (LCS): Discourse Analysis: Issues and Applications

Monday 11 February 2008, 4-5:30pm

Ingo Cornils, Sarah Waters, Lin Yang (LCS): 1968 and the Concept of Cultural Revolution: Issues and Applications

Monday 18 February 2008, 4-5:30pm

Flemming Christiansen (WRS): The Structure of the Written Work

Monday 25 February 2008, 4-5:30pm

Workshop led by Diane Nelson (WRS): Conferences and Conference-going

Monday 3 March 2008, 4-5:30pm

Annual PGR Training Lecture TBA

Depending on student preference and the number of volunteers, the following slots have been booked for student-led seminars of the kind we ran in semester 2 this year, i.e. the mini-conference parallel sessions on student work-in-progress papers:

Monday 10 March

Monday 14 April

Monday 21 April

END OF PROGRAMME