

Reports for UACES AGM

Tuesday 2 September 2008
University of Edinburgh, UK

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CHAIR'S REPORT

Introduction

This is my second Report to the AGM as Chair of UACES. It covers what has been a very active year for the Association, which has seen us become entrenched as the largest European Studies body worldwide in terms of membership numbers, as well as the most dynamic in terms of our range of activities.

Operational Matters within the Association

I am delighted to report that thanks to a healthy financial situation we have been able to employ a third member of staff in the UACES office, to help manage and administer our increasing range of activities. Yolana Pringle joined the UACES team in August 2008, and will, in addition to playing a role in our ongoing administrative work, concentrate her activities on UACES' external relations and profile.

Building on last year's re-evaluation of the committee structure and functioning, including the creation of 'job descriptions' for all UACES officers and committee members, over the last year I have overseen the development of two new positions on the UACES Committee. These are the posts of Practitioner Liaison Officer and ExpertonEurope officer. These posts will be active from September 2008, and will enable us as an Association to work more effectively to harness practitioner and media input into, and take-up of, our work. They should thereby help academic members to increase their 'knowledge transfer' work, as increasingly required by research funders and universities, while also bolstering the external profile of the Association.

External Links

Externally, I have concentrated on building up the Association's links with three key stakeholder groups: practitioners, other European Community Studies Associations (ECSAs), and other learned societies/disciplines. As with last year, the driving force here has been the development of more productive and sustained contacts with interested third parties, be they other learned societies and ECSAs, policy-makers, or the media.

Links with practitioners have been deepened through several means, such as:

- the ongoing series of lunchtime seminars in Brussels, held at and with the support of The Centre, Brussels' first 'think-do tank';
- the active involvement of policy-makers and other practitioners in our flagship events;
- the production of policy- and media-friendly 'plain English' summaries of UACES-funded events;
- the recruitment of a high-profile range of Patrons for the Association;
- the launch of events specifically aimed at bringing our academic members and the Association generally together with practitioners, such as the media prize for 'Reporting Europe'.

Links with other learned societies have followed two different trajectories. Deeper links with other ECSAs are being sought, and UACES *News* will contain a page for news and contributions from our fellow ECSAs worldwide. EUSA members have been offered free inclusion in www.ExpertonEurope.com on a free trial,

time-limited basis. We are also in negotiations with certain fellow ECSAs regarding the proposal to host their web-sites.

Developing links with other learned societies outside EU studies is both a priority for our new office colleague and an ongoing aspect of our work. Co-opted members of the UACES committee in recent years, and also for 2008-9, will help us make contacts in area such as Security Studies and Sociology to complement our existing, and highly-prized, multi-disciplinarity.

Future Challenges

For the time being, UACES' financial situation is healthy. However, in an economically volatile climate, complicated further for the Association by the reduction in potential funding opportunities from the European Commission (certain Jean Monnet budget lines, such as funding for research student fellowships, have in the last two years been removed altogether), we must continue actively to seek opportunities to diversify our sources of income.

Over the next year, the Officers, UACES staff and I will develop a strategy for managing the changing EU financial context after meetings with officials in the Commission. This will be presented to the Committee, and also to members, as appropriate and when possible over the next twelve months. UACES has many assets to use in this context, but until the parameters are clear it is not possible to develop a meaningful onward development plan.

However, one aspect of the development plan has already been announced (UACES News, August 2008): we have placed a call to tender for a new journal aimed primarily at the practitioner and teaching 'markets'. The deadline for proposals is 31 October 2008, and I hope, after a selection process involving my fellow Officers and some of our Patrons, to be able to negotiate a contract with the winning publisher over the next twelve months.

To channel our ability to support members' research more effectively, over the next year we will be establishing new special interest groups. These groups will bring together members with shared research interests, and will be able to bid for support from a dedicated UACES budget stream. We hope that these groups will facilitate networking, generate new research, and help members by 'pump-priming' bids for group projects from the major research funders.

Highlights of the Year 2007- 8 (a personal selection)

- The launch of our new Media Award for Reporting Europe, in partnership with *ThomsonReuters*, in May. This generated much interest in the Association, and has helped to bolster our profile as well as that of www.ExpertonEurope.com;
- The 2007 Annual Conference in Portsmouth was a major success, drawing a high-profile set of speakers from almost thirty different countries and a wide range of disciplines;
- Our conference on Energising Europe, on the EU's future environmental and energy security policies, was held at BERR in May. It attracted a transatlantic, multi-disciplinary range of speakers and delegates, from both the 'hard' and social sciences, and was widely considered to be a landmark event by the rich mixture of academics and policy-makers who attended. I would like to thank the organisers of this event, Jenny Fairbrass and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán;
- The Brussels Seminar Series, which has continued to attract a range of interesting speakers; I would like to thank The Centre, and Justus Schönlaue, for their work in organising these events;
- The increasing profile and reputation of the *JCER*, thanks in no small part to its editor, Eamonn Butler;
- The launch of our Special Interest Groups, whose first preparatory meetings take place at this conference;
- The entrenching of the CES book series with Routledge, which has now produced almost a dozen volumes;
- UACES is delighted to note the increase in this year's income from its joint-ownership of the *JCMS*. Thanks go to the editors and their team for their hard work in achieving this success leading to increased revenue.
- Evidence of our ability to attract institutional support beyond the UK, via the successful bids to host our Annual Conferences in France (Angers, Loire Valley, 2009), and Bruges (2010).

Conclusions

UACES thus continues to be in good shape, managing a growing and impressive range of tasks with continued success. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this, not only Sue Davis and Luke

Foster, but also my fellow Officers, the Patrons, and those such as William Horsley who have played a key role in many of the activities outlined above.

Sir Stephen Wall has been incredibly helpful since he became UACES Honorary President. An excellent source of counsel, and extremely generous with his time, he has made a far greater contribution to the Association than could reasonably be expected, and I am extremely grateful for his support.

I must thank Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borrágán, who steps down at this AGM after three years as UACES Secretary. Nieves has made a lasting contribution to the development of the Association, and has performed what is an increasingly demanding and multi-faceted role with dexterity and aplomb. Thank you, Nieves.

Finally, I would like to welcome Amelia Hadfield as Nieves' successor, and Yolana Pringle to the UACES Office team. I look forward to working with them both, and with the rest of the team, over what will doubtless be a very busy coming twelve months.

Alex Warleigh-Lack, Brunel University
UACES Chair, August 2008

TREASURER'S REPORT

Period Covered: 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008 (financial year ends 30/9/08)

1. This report covers the period August 2007 to July 2008 The last Treasurer's Report for the period August 2006 to 2007 was presented to the UACES AGM at the Annual Conference in September 2007.
2. In line with Charity Commission requirements, the consolidated accounts for 2006-2007 of the association – which include those of the JCMS editorial budget and the Standing Conference of Heads of European Studies – have been independently audited. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

	2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008	
	Estimate (a)	Actual	Estimate (a)	Actual	Estimate (a)	Current (b)
Income	191,500	227,355	263,000	283,398	255,000	166,199
Expenditure	238,500	23,475	274,000	246,991	255,000	133,586
Balance	-47,000	-4,120	-11,000	36,407	Nil	32,613

Notes

(a) Estimates for UACES Business Plan

(b) These figures are for the period ending 19/06/08.

3. For the current financial year (to 30 September 2008), turnover is budgeted to be lower than for 2006-7 with an anticipated zero balance.
4. The Association continues to maintain a range of services for its members. During the period covered, Student Forum activities have continued, UACES scholarships have been offered for a seventh year. Conferences, workshops and study groups continue to be sponsored.
5. Although in previous years UACES has been successful in bidding for Commission funding, the competition has become increasingly competitive and this source cannot be relied upon.
6. Despite a relatively secure and growing income from publications, memberships and investment income, it has been decided that the policy of diversification referred to in last year's report will continue to be actively pursued by the UACES Executive. This will continue to encompass:
 - a. An on-going search for sponsorship for the work of the association from foundations and institutions
 - b. The pursuit of income generation opportunities afforded by ExpertOnEurope.com
 - c. The introduction of a new journal

7. As reported in previous years, on the advice of the auditors, internal transfers of funds between UACES, JCMS & SCHES are recorded to avoid income and expenditure being overstated. Similarly, on the advice of the auditors, the financial statements distinguish between 'restricted' and 'non-restricted' income. Restricted income is essentially grants that can only be allocated for specific purposes.
8. Membership fees continue to provide approximately 10% of income. The decision of last year's AGM to raise and restructure fees in 2007 has not had any adverse effects on income generation or membership levels. There has been an overall increase in this type of revenue.
9. The range of investments undertaken by UACES remains unchanged. Investment income rose to £7,832 during the 2006-07 financial year. Investment income is projected to be £6,000 for 2007-8, but had already reached £8,777 as at 19/06/08.
10. Income from JCMS and membership fees allows the Association to maintain a Secretariat and fund a range of activities (e.g. newsletter, sponsored conferences, Student Forum). Given UACES' currently healthy financial situation and the financial security provided by publications, memberships and investment income, it has been decided to employ an additional member of staff in the Secretariat. Accordingly a Publicity & Administrative Officer (Yolana Pringle) was appointed in July 2008.
11. I would particularly like to thank the secretariat staff Sue Davis and Luke Foster for all their help during my first year as Treasurer. I also wish to thank my fellow officers – Alex Warleigh-Lack and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán – for their invaluable encouragement and support. I would also like to welcome Yolana Pringle to the staff.

Jenny Fairbrass, School of Management, University of Bradford
UACES Treasurer, August 2008

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. Introduction

The remit of the Secretary's activities includes chairing the European Studies and the Annual Conference subcommittees and liaising with the UACES office. This report summarises key activities during the period October 2007 to September 2008.

2. Key Activities October 2007-September 2008

2.1 Chair of the European Studies Subcommittee

Within the remit of my functions I have been involved in the decisions regarding the award of funding for scholarships, workshops and study groups and sponsored conferences:

-Scholarships. Established since 2002, the Scholarships support study visits by postgraduate students and others working on European integration, allowing them to continue their research in another country. In 2008 six UACES Scholarships were awarded. These were funded solely by UACES. Themes and content clearly reflected the vibrant and outstanding research culture of our members (for details see www.uaces.org). The call for the 2009 scholarships is already available on the UACES website.

-Conferences and Workshops. UACES provides funding for conferences and events (typically workshops) on a competitive basis. Each event is expected to feed back into other existing UACES activities. Interdisciplinary proposals which encourage the participation of younger academics are particularly welcome. There are three deadlines for submission each year (see www.uaces.org for more details). This year's sponsored conferences included events on a number of varied themes such as: EU Dimensionality; Gender, Equality and Politics: European Futures; The Right to Strike in a Comparative Perspective; European Spring Institute on the Future of Europe 2008; and The Treaty of Rome, the European Parliament and the Regions. The workshops focused on themes such as: Cleavages in Europe's Political Economy; European Neighbourhood Policy; a Roadmap for the Western Balkans; and The European Commission White Paper on Sport. Biotechnology, European Law and Citizens takes place on 9 September 2008.

-Study groups. Study Groups are intended to provide an opportunity for a longer period of collaborative research activity, focusing on a specific project with a clearly defined output. This initiative will be

discontinued this year. There are two ongoing study groups: A study group on “The EU and Sustainable Development: Defining Sustainable Development within the EU” which is coming to a close; and a recently created study group on “Values and the European Union”.

The European Studies Subcommittee has led the creation of the UACES Study Networks. The aim of new Study Networks is to reach out to disciplines that UACES does not normally attract. In its bid to become an increasingly multi-disciplinary forum, UACES will support and encourage the creation of collaborative networks across disciplines. The networks will develop research and policy-relevant activities with an aim to widen the participation of a varied array of users. This initiative will be formally launched at the Edinburgh Conference with a networking session on Wednesday afternoon. This will be followed by a formal call for funding. I am particularly grateful to David Galbreath and David Howarth for their leading involvement in this initiative.

The remit of the Subcommittee’s work also includes seeking closer relations with other associations. UACES is an active member of the Academy of Social Sciences; there is a strategy for closer cooperation with associations such as EUSA, PSA and the ECPR. UACES is committed to reach the wider European Studies by ensuring an interdisciplinary membership of the UACES Committee. The ‘author-meets-reader’ discussion sponsored by the European Law Journal at the Edinburgh Conference reflects such commitment. I am very grateful to Kenneth Amstron for leading this initiative.

Additionally, I have collated on behalf of UACES, opinions on research and policy matters issued by the ESRC and the British Academy. UACES has actively contributed to an Academy of Social Sciences/ESRC Project on “Learned Societies in the Social Sciences: Strengthening Knowledge Transfer and Public Engagement”. UACES regularly provides expertise to committee hearings in Parliament.

2.2 Chair of the Annual Conference Subcommittee

The Subcommittee decides on the venue for future UACES annual conferences by selecting the best candidate from the submissions received. It also organises the relevant research panels for each annual conference. In addition to chairing the Subcommittee, my role also includes accompanying Sue Davis to site visits and contributing to the drafting of the conference’s programme.

Last year’s Annual Conference in Portsmouth was a fantastic success for the Association. The UACES Lifetime Achievement in Contemporary European Studies was made to Prof. William Paterson. The prize for the best thesis was awarded to Thomas Larue, for his doctoral dissertation entitled *Agents in Brussels: Delegations and Democracy in the European Union*. The prize for best book was awarded jointly to two books: Andrew Jordan and Adriaan Schout’s *The Coordination of the European Union: Exploring the Capacities of Networked Governance*, and Lynn Dobson’s *Supranational Citizenship*. The conference could not have been successful without the hard work of the UACES Secretariat, the support of our local hosts, particularly Tony Chafer and Wolfram Kaiser, and Jenny Fairbrass and Karen Smith’s superb organisation of the research panels.

Next year’s conference will take place in Angers, Loire Valley in France. In 2010, coinciding with UACES 40th Anniversary, the Annual Conference will be hosted by the College of Europe in Bruges. The Association will soon be looking for a partner to host the 2011 conference (for more details on the application process see www.uaces.org)

2.3 The UACES Office

The Secretary takes particular responsibility, in partnership with the Executive Director, for matters pertaining to the running of the UACES Office. In addition to the scheduled meetings, I keep a regular contact link with the UACES Secretariat to exchange information and discuss more immediate matters.

The Secretariat is located at the School of Public Policy, University College London where two permanent members of staff, Sue Davis and Luke Foster ensure the smooth running and development of the Association. Sue Davis, as Executive Director, has responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Association. Luke Foster, as Senior Administrator, has responsibility for financial matters and certain development aspects of UACES. The Office’s work is structured around a rolling work-year plan, drafted by the Executive Director. The plan identifies routine ‘events’ in the UACES year and highlights particularly busy times for the Office. It also serves as a prompt for both the Officers and the staff of the Association. To ensure that the level of staffing of the Secretariat remains roughly in balance with the workload of the Association a new Publicity and Administrative Officer has been appointed by the Association after a competitive process. Yolana Pringle is UACES’ new Publicity and Administrative Officer and we look forward to her active contribution to the Association. Temporary staff has been hired to cover periods in which the work of the Association peaks. The Officers rely very heavily upon the staff of the Secretariat. The Officers and Committee remain committed to ensuring that UACES provides appropriate staff development to Sue Davis, Luke Foster and Yolana Pringle. An annual staff review formalizes this commitment.

2.4. UACES conference “Energising Europe: Climate Change, Energy Security & Europe’s Next Big Project”

In collaboration with Jenny Fairbrass I lead the organisation of the UACES conference “Energising Europe: Climate Change, Energy Security & Europe’s Next Big Project” (16th-17th May 2008). This successful conference gathered one hundred international experts from industry, academia and the public sector in London to reflect on the European Union’s policies on climate change and energy security. The Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) was a fitting venue to exchange ideas on the key strategic challenges, commitments and responsibilities facing the Union and its Member States. UACES is very grateful to the European Commission for co-funding this event. The conference’s success owes much to the support provided by Sue Davis, Luke Foster and Alex Warleigh-Lack.

An edited volume based on a number of the presentations made is being compiled for publication in 2009. In the meantime copies of some of the presentations can be accessed via the UACES website at <http://www.uaces.org/EnergisingEurope.htm>. The Journal of Contemporary European Research has just published a special issue on ‘Energy Supply Security in the New Europe’ that features some of the contributions to the conference. The JCER can be accessed at www.jcer.net.

3. Final Note

This is my last report as UACES Secretary. UACES is an extremely dynamic association which is anchoring itself as The European Studies Association, I am very proud to have contributed to its development. During the past few years I have learnt a lot and I have had the opportunity to work with extremely professional and friendly individuals. I am very grateful to my fellow Officers, Sue Davis, Luke Foster and all Committee members for their professionalism and generous advice.

Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, University of Bristol
UACES Secretary, August 2008

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Membership

The number of new UACES members has increased this year by almost exactly 100 people. Some 37% of the membership are based outside the UK making UACES an increasingly internationally based association. Current totals per type of membership stand at 1025 members with 289 Student members, 641 Individual members and 95 Corporate members. Publicity at various events worldwide have helped to attract new members and to encourage those whose membership had lapsed to rejoin. A copy of the updated UACES Membership leaflet is enclosed in your conference packs and members are invited to request further copies for events they may be organising.

UACES Website: www.uaces.org

The website contains regularly updated information on forthcoming events. Abstracts of research papers given at several recent major UACES conferences are included and for the first time conference papers have also been included this year. Plans are afoot to extend the facilities offered on the website – watch this space!

UACES Online Resource: www.ExpertOnEurope.com

www.ExpertOnEurope.com is now being widely publicised. It currently holds details of 370 people. All Individual and Student members are encouraged to submit their details.

UACES News and the UACES Members’ Email List

The content of the quarterly newsletter has been further expanded to include more in-depth articles. Members’ news is always welcome, and we are increasing the opportunities to market members’ courses and events in the newsletter. Backcopies of the newsletter are also available on the website. The UACES Members’ email list, currently with over 1000 members, continues to be a popular and key communication tool for members.

Thanks

Grateful thanks go to the officers with whom I have enjoyed working closely, particularly to Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán as outgoing Secretary. Finally my thanks to my well-established colleague Luke Foster, for his excellent help and a welcome Yolana Pringle, our new colleague.

Sue Davis, UACES Secretariat, August 2008

UACES CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN STUDIES SERIES REPORT

The Contemporary European Studies series continues to grow in strength, with an encouraging flow of proposals throughout the year. As in previous years the primary objective of the **Contemporary European Studies Series** is to provide a research outlet for scholars of European Studies from all disciplines. Our objective is to maintain high standards through a rigorous two-stage process of review, both by the series editors and external reviewers. Although essentially a Politics/IR series, the series editors continue to encourage books that are interdisciplinary, adopting perspectives and approaches that bring together political science and cognate disciplines.

In 2006-07 we published the first two books in the CES Series:

- Nathalie Tocci *The EU and Conflict Resolution: Promoting Peace in the Backyard*
- Clive Archer (ed) *Security Issues in Northern Europe: the Nordic and Baltic States and the ESDP*

This year, 2007-08, the following books have been published:

- Lucia Quaglia *Central Banking Governance in the European Union: A Comparative Analysis*
- Maurizio Carbone *The European Union and International Development: The Politics of Foreign Aid*
- Paul Taylor *The End of European Integration: Anti-Europeanism Explained*
- Amichai Magen and Leonardo Morlino *International Actors, Democracy and the Rule of Law. Anchoring Democracy?*
- Natalia Chaban and Martin Holland (eds.) *The European Union and the Asia-Pacific: Media, Public and Elite Perceptions of the EU*

A number of books are in the pipeline for 2008-09, including:

- Wolfram Kaiser, Brigitte Leucht and Morten Rasmussen (eds.) *The History of the European Union: origins of a trans- and supranational polity 1950-72*
- Anwen Elias *Making Sense of Europe: Minority Nationalism and the Challenges of European Integration*
- Karen Heard-Lauréote *Efficiency and Legitimacy in European Union Committees*
- Paul W. Thurner and Franz U. Pappi *EU Foreign Policy and Intergovernmental Conferences*
- Rainer Eising *The Political Economy of State-Business Relations in Europe*
- Richard Whitacker *The European Parliament's Committees: national party control and legislative initiative*

As series editors we are as always grateful to our editorial board members for their continued support. We realise that we have called up some individuals this year more than others, but expect that this will not be a recurring pattern in 2007-08. We also owe a debt of thanks to our Routledge editor, Heidi Bagtazo, for her work on the series.

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Michelle Cini

August 2008

JCMS: JOURNAL OF COMMON MARKET STUDIES REPORT

The JCMS editorial team remained stable during the year. The Journal editors would like to thank the outgoing Annual Review editors, Ulrich Sedelmeier and Alasdair Young, for their imaginative and scholarly editorship over the last three years. The editors of the Annual Review as from 2009 edition are Nat Cosey and Tim Haughton, both of Birmingham University.

We also wish to thank Ray Barrell of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research warmly for his service as a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal. We welcome as new members of the Editorial Board Prof Michelle Cini, (University of Bristol), Prof Mark Pollack (Temple University) and Dr Waltraud Schelkle (LSE) to the Editorial Board.

Finally on personnel it is with some sadness and many thanks we record that William Paterson has decided to stand down from the editorship of the Journal as from October 2008. Willie has been a distinguished editor of the Journal and the other members of the editorial team have profited greatly from his expertise and guidance and will miss his contribution. William, while Chair of UACES was instrumental in bringing the Journal into the UACES fold to the great benefit of both. He deserves the thanks of Europeanists of all disciplines for that farsightedness as well for his contribution more recently as editor. Daniel Wincott has been invited to take over as joint editor alongside Jim Rollo for the last 18 months or so of the current team's remit.

The prize for the best article in the Journal in 2007 was won by John Bachtler and Carlos Mendez for 'Who Governs EU Cohesion Policy', vol 45(3). Congratulations to them and thanks to Mike Smith, Iain Begg and Michelle Cini for judging the award.

There were two hundred and sixty two submissions in the year and in all sixty nine articles were published, making an overall publication rate of 26%. There are 59 articles currently in the pipeline with referees. A major administrative change took place in May 2008 with the adoption of an on-line submissions procedure for articles. This is beginning to have a positive impact on the average time articles spend in review. Advertisements have just been placed calling for bids to edit the next two special editions of the Journal.

JCMS articles were downloaded 72,940 times between January and May 2008 – a 30% increase on the same period in 2007. Total downloads for the whole of 2007 were 169,429 which itself was a 21% increase on 2006.

The top three cited Journal articles in the past year were:

Authors: Follesdal, A; Hix, S

Title: Why there is a democratic deficit in the EU: A response to Majone and Moravcsik, JCMS 44(3)

Author: Meyer, C

Title: The Europeanization of media discourse: A study of quality press coverage of economic policy co-ordination since Amsterdam, JCMS, 43 (1)

Authors: Szymanski, M; Smith, ME

Title: Coherence and conditionality in European foreign policy: Negotiating the EU-Mexico global agreement, JCMS 43 (1)

The 2008 JCMS Lecture will be given by Maurizio Ferrera at the ECPR conference in Riga in September.

The team is delighted to announce the completion of the on-line archive of the Journal's entire catalogue of past articles. All editions of the journal back to 1962 are now available on The Wiley Interscience site. There is now an opportunity to trace the development of scholarship on European integration from its beginning. The editors look forward to submissions. Completion of the project was marked at a dinner held to celebrate the 80th birthday of Professor Uwe Kitzinger, founder of the Journal, in April at which the guest speaker was Lord Patten of Barnes.

We are also proud to note the launch of a JCMS scholarship which is designed to provide mobility to existing post-doctoral scholars or postgraduate students from India or China in order that they can undertake research in an EU member state or candidate state. The first of the scholarships has recently been awarded and the second will be selected in the autumn.

As always, thanks go to the Editorial Board, the Editorial Advisory Board and the officers and staff of UACES and to colleagues at Wiley-Blackwell's for their support throughout the year. Above all, our thanks go to the authors and reviewers without whose contribution the Journal could not succeed.

William Paterson
Jim Rollo
Charles Lees
Daniel Wincott

August 2008

JCER | JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN RESEARCH REPORT

The JCER has had a successful 2008 so far. The journal continues to grow in subscriber numbers and articles received. It is also on track to publish the planned 4 issues during 2008.

Issues:

- March 2008 (3 articles, 2 research notes, 4 book reviews) PUBLISHED
- June 2008 (1 editorial, 4 articles, 1 guest commentary, 3 book reviews) PUBLISHED
- September 2008 (TBC: 5 articles, 2 research notes, 4 associated research notes reviews)
- December 2008 (TBC: 5 articles, 1 guest articles, 3 book reviews)

Subscribers (Registered readers):

975

Research Articles: as of 28th August 2008

- Rejected – 6
- Under Review – 13
- Accepted subject to revisions – 4
- Accepted and revised ready for publication – 3
- Competition entrants – 4 qualified

Research Notes:

- 1 to be completed in September 2008 issue
- 2 other research notes ongoing

Book Reviews:

Liz Monaghan(Hull) has taken over as book reviews editor and is currently updating database of reviewers and publishers.

Website:

Update of software to be completed in September 2008. www.jcer.net

Printed Copy:

A printed copy of the JCER has been produced as a marketing tool and distributed at UACES Edinburgh Conference and to be distributed at EUSA conference in 2009.

Journal Secretary:

Department of Central and East European Studies at University of Glasgow now provide some part-time administration (Miss Hazel Mackenzie) to help with review process. Will continue while Eamonn Butler remains editor (December 2009).

Issues to be careful of:

- Consistency with number of articles and book reviews published in issues
- Slippage of publication dates - could be resolved by having seasonal as opposed to monthly dates?

If anyone wants further information please contact: Eamonn Butler e.butler@lbss.gla.ac.uk

Eamonn Butler,
JCER Editor, August 2008

STUDENT FORUM REPORT

The UACES Student Forum has been active in organising the two main conferences that took place in November 2007 and April 2008.

Both the November 2007 and April 2008 Conferences have been successful. There has been an attendance of approximately 50 postgraduate students on both occasions.

The Student Forum will be looking for a venue for its next Annual Conference in 2009, and welcomes expressions of interest.

The UACES emailing list which is managed by the Forum has seen an increase in the number of persons enrolled. www.uacesstudentforum.org provides updated details of the Student Forum's events and activities.

Already various announcements have been made about the four Student Forum Committee posts that are up for election at this year's November conference. SF committee members encourage as many students as possible to stand for elections and become active.

Priorities for the future:

The UACES Annual September Annual Conference is a good opportunity to meet new students, and for students to become involved in UACES and in turn the Student Forum.

Please visit our site for the programme of our November Research Students' Conference. This one-day conference is aimed at research students of all levels who are engaged in the field of EU-related studies. It offers practical information on a range of topics and will be hosted by the European Commission UK Representation Office and the European Parliament Office in London on 10 November 2008.

Vasilis Margaras
UACES Student Forum Chair, August 2008

STANDING CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF EUROPEAN STUDIES (SCHES)

SCHES held its annual general meeting on Friday 14 December 2007 at the School of Public Policy, University College London.

Paul Furlong stood down as chair due to the pressures of RAE work. The following officers were elected: Sue Milner (Chair), Mike Newman (Secretary) and Alison Harcourt (Treasurer). Other committee members were elected, as follows: Martin Bull (University of Salford), Damian Chalmers (LSE), Tom Dyson (University of Surrey), Roberto Espindola (University of Bradford) and Carol Tully (Bangor University). Past Chairs Paul Furlong and Mike Smith (Glasgow Caledonian) would be co-opted.

The AGM considered a report by the outgoing chair, Paul Furlong, on the role and mission of SCHES. This report followed a broad-ranging discussion at the previous committee meeting. Although SCHES is the biggest single grouping within area studies associations in the UK, its membership has shrunk considerably as a result of the disappearance or absorption of many European studies departments following the last research assessment exercise. We anticipate that further shifts will take place after the current research assessment exercise and see SCHES as playing a significant role in helping to map and evaluate these changes. This might include the organisation of a conference in 2009 to look at the future of European studies in the UK. In future SCHES will need to continue to work closely with other professional associations in the broad field of area studies to defend the position of those European studies institutions that remain.

It was agreed that SCHES's main role was to represent institutions in the changing higher education landscape, in particular in relation to the changing framework for research and research funding, and to uphold the distinctiveness of European studies. SCHES' mission had included setting up and maintaining a European Studies subject panel in the RAE for the discipline to be properly recognised. European Studies remained the largest of the sub-panels in the main panel "L". In the delivery of teaching quality, European Studies was distinguished from most other disciplines by the year abroad and the maintenance of language teaching.

A major focus of SCHES's activity over the last year or so has been the EU's Tuning Project which seeks to enhance the quality and comparability of teaching. Michael Newman, Honorary Secretary of SCHES, has followed the tuning agenda very closely and been involved in the organisation of a number of workshops and conferences on the theme. For further information contact Mike directly at m.newman@londonmet.ac.uk.

SCHES was represented by Sue Milner on a panel set up by the UK Area Studies Association to submit its response to the consultation process on the Research Excellence Framework and contributed to the joint report which was submitted on behalf of areas studies associations.

The next committee meeting will be held in London on 19 September 2008 and will prepare the AGM, to be held in December 2008 (date to be confirmed).

Sue Milner
Chair of SCHES, University of Bath