

Carmen Graduate School/research training programme

Minutes

CARMEN proposes a new distant learning research training programme, to which all CARMEN members can contribute with courses and programmes.

1. The perceived need and discussions to date (Cristina Pimenta)

C – Need to provide skills that are lacking in universities, such as old languages and cultural studies that are not taught as main stream subjects. CARMEN began to discuss a graduate school in 2008 at the annual meeting in Poitiers where a bureaucratic framework was discussed. This has been further discussed since and less formal framework is now proposed. The first public presentation of the framework was at the Leeds IMC in July 2012 and received positive reaction.

2. Where we go from here (Marianne Ailes)

a) Procedures

Marianne – simple set of procedures has been proposed. Courses would be proposed to a board of studies that CARMEN will set up who would then decide if the course was appropriate to be included within the auspices of the graduate school.

b) Delivery:

a. Summer Schools (Martine)

Martine (Ghent) – Set out how summer (vacation) schools have been organised through co-operation between three universities – Ghent, Bruges, Lille. These include an Introduction to documents and objects associated with urban Flanders. Lectures by specialists (Jim Murray) and access to objects/documents for discussion. Historical languages will be the next summer school – old and middle French. The goal for these courses into the future is to preserve courses that are under threat in universities. Stimulate exchange of knowledge between students and scholars and thus create a network. Funding is required to cover costs but no profit is sort. Now seeking contributions from CARMEN colleagues and partners to participate in the summer school. Such summer schools can be a model for vacation schools which could be included in the CARMEN programme. The host institutions run the schools, perhaps with further input from colleagues recruited through the CARMEN network, with CARMEN, as an umbrella organisation advertising them to its members as approved courses. There was a brief discussion of terminology (as we are talking of a world-wide network) and ‘vacation schools’ or ‘short residential courses’ were deemed more appropriate terms.

b. Distance Learning (Marianne)

In presenting distance learning MA drew attention to its limitations as well as its advantages: face to face contact is very important but there is still a lot of scope for distance learning and can give students in remote areas access to courses that would otherwise be out of their reach. Australian colleagues expressed more familiarity with this model than the Europeans.

The discussion was led by Marianne Ailes (Bristol) and Cristina Pimenta (Porto)