

# **Programme Chair & Conference Organiser's Report**

## **March 2021**

In January 2021 the Conference Committee met and agreed that in light of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic - and the uncertainties about what travel and social distancing measures might be in place for September 2021 - the next conference (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021) would be held fully online. The Committee also agreed that the conference should seek to use the platform – CrowdComms – that had been previously demonstrated to the Executive Committee at its November 2020 meeting. Work on this is ongoing.

### **Call for Papers**

The Conference Committee agreed that, for September 2021, a special call should be made seeking new submissions from postgraduate students only (PhD, EdD, DProf, MA, MEd etc). This recognises that postgraduate students have been most significantly affected in a number of ways by the current pandemic, and that a call to this group shows the Society's support for new and emerging scholars.

Papers submitted in response to this call will be subject to the same rigorous process of review as has been used in previous years. Successful papers from this call will be put together in the programme with papers – approximately 25 – accepted for the cancelled 2020 conference (where authors have indicated that they wish to present these online in September 2021). The next open call for papers will be for the March 2022 conference (25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>), which the Committee hopes will be able to be held in person at New College.

The Call for Papers has been made public on the PESGB website, and the details have been emailed to the membership by SAS Events. No changes have been made to the format of submissions for 2021, and the call indicates that full papers are sought, as well as proposal for symposia, interactive workshops, and posters, all of which can be hosted on the platform.

### **Review Panel**

At the January 2021 meeting of the Conference Committee, a revised timeline for the submission and reviewing process was agreed. The relevant dates are as follows:

- Call for papers 1 February 2021;
- Submission deadline 29 March 2021;
- Decisions Meeting 26 April 2021;
- Outcomes released w/c 10 May 2021.

Invitations have been made to those currently on the review panel to review for the September 2021 conference. There were 24 positive responses. Three members of the 2020 panel indicated that they were unable to review in this round because of workload issues. There were also 3 reviewers from whom no response to the invitation (and follow up) was received. There is one new member on the review panel for 2021. As a result, 8 reviewing teams have been formed, and the reviewing timeline and ways of working were communicated to all teams on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2021.

With these figures, it would be beneficial to have some additional reviewers on the panel for 2022. While some enquiries have been received following a call for expressions of interest on the

website, these have been from postgraduate students, some of whom have not had a paper accepted for the conference previously, nor have attended the conference.

### **Invited speakers for 2020 Conference**

The Programme Chair has invited all three plenary speakers from the 2020 conference to speak in September 2021. All 3 have confirmed, and the plenary speakers will be Gordon Bearn, Maarten Simons and Laura D'Olimpio.

### **Pre-Conference**

The pre-conference is postponed in its usual format until March 2022 at New College. However, the Conference Committee will be considering different ways of supporting students on the Friday afternoon prior to the main conference. A decision on the exact nature of this will be considered by the Conference Committee at its next meeting after the Easter break.

### **Conference fees**

Following input from the Treasurer, the Conference Committee agreed that the costs of the September 2021 conference should not be set so as to recoup the costs of the online platform. The Committee were cognisant of the changed circumstances of many likely to be attending the conference (especially PG students). It was also considered important to set the fees in such a way as to encourage membership of the Society. Flat rate fees were suggested (i.e. no day rate available). The fees enable access to the virtual event, papers, and recordings of keynotes. The Treasurer suggested the costs as laid out below, and the Committee were in broad agreement. This means that those who are first time conference attendees and/or unwaged will benefit from the £5 registration offer. Where they are not members, they will receive 1 year's membership of the Society included in the fee.

	Non-member	Member
First-time attendee/unwaged/hardship	£5 (inc. one-year membership)	
Student/part-time employed/retired	25	12
Full-time employed	85	30

### **2022 Conference**

As noted above, it is hoped that the 2022 conference will be an in-person event held at New College from 25-27 March. Paula and her team were very understanding about the potential difficulties of holding an international conference in September, as well as the need to make a decision and clarify our position with delegates as early as possible. On this basis, there was no cancellation fee for the 2021 event.

**Amanda Fulford & Ruth Wareham**  
**March 2021**