



The Society for the
Study of French History

**Agenda for SSFH Committee Meeting,
8–14 Abercromby Square, University of Liverpool
Thursday 29th June 2023, 1.00 p.m.**

Agenda

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Minutes of previous committee meeting
- 3) Matters arising & Chair comments
- 4) Report from the Secretary
 - a) Decision on UG Dissertation Prize (viz MAB)
- 5) Report from the Treasurer
 - a) Discussion on inflation related adjustments
- 6) Report on ‘Studies in Modern French History’ Series at MUP
- 7) Report from the Journal Editors
- 8) Equality and Diversity
- 9) Suggestions for New Activities
 - a) Proposal for first book prize
- 10) Report from Events Officer
 - a) Future Douglas Johnson Memorial Lectures
 - b) Conference Matters
- 11) Report from Postgraduate representatives
- 12) Report from Website Editor
- 13) Report from Social Media Officer
- 14) Report from Membership Secretary
- 15) Date of next Committee Meeting
- 16) Any Other Business



**Minutes for SSFH Committee Meeting,
6 Cromwell Place SW7 2JN
Monday 16th January 2023, 3.00 p.m.**

The meeting was temporarily joined by:

- *From 2pm by Florence Ferran and Minh-Na Pam, ESRI to welcome the meeting as host (summarising engagement – venue for DJ lecture, collaborator on York Festival of Ideas, Attendance at Annual Conference and MoI);*
- *a representative from Oxford University Press (Katie Pryce, Publisher, Humanities Journals) at 3pm for a discussion about the journal;*
- *representatives from the British Library at 4pm (Teresa Vernon, Lead Curator, Romance Collections; Sophie Defrance, Curator, Romance Collections)*

Attendance:

Penny Roberts
Andrew Smith
Claire Eldridge
Stewart McCain
Julie Kalman
Aoife Miralles
Luc-Andre Brunet
Joseph Clarke
Tom Hamilton
Jessica Wardhaugh
Dan Power
Alison Carrol
Sara Barker
Máire Cross
Jackie Clarke

Agenda

Florence Ferran and Minh-Na Pam from ESRI welcomed the committee and introduced their work. They noted that they were seeking suggestions for speakers for the York Festival of Ideas from the committee.

ACTION:

Committee to offer suggestions

- 1) Apologies for absence

Will Pooley, David Andress, Laure Humbert, Glenn Richardson, Joseph Bergin, Munro Price, Daniel Baker, Owen Coughlan, Jack Rhoden, Karine Varley, David Hopkin, Ludivine Broch

2) Minutes of previous committee meeting

The committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting

3) Matters arising & Chair comments

PR discussed new committee appointments:

- Luc Brunet incoming Secretary, (as of conference in July)
- Ludivine Broch as incoming Events Officer (as of this meeting, to be handed over)

4) Report from the Secretary

AS presented report. The committee welcomed the report.

Máire Cross said that she will no longer serve as adjudicator for UG Dissertation Prize, Trustee, and on Editorial Board. The committee thanked Máire for her generous, wise and hugely valued service for the society

ACTION

AS/PR/Luc Brunet – to look for new trustee, new member for UG diss panel

JC/CE to look to MC role on editorial board

5) Report from the Treasurer

PR presented report submitted by KV. The committee welcomed the report.

PR noted that KV has served for a long time as Treasurer and her contribution was highly valued. The committee was asked if anyone would like to volunteer to serve as Treasurer. DP suggested looking to collaborate with other societies where training for Treasurers might be offered.

ACTION

Committee to volunteer to serve as Treasurer

PR/AS/LB to explore if it is possible to coordinate training for Treasurer with other societies

6) Report on ‘Studies in Modern French History’ Series at MUP

JW and JK presented a report. The committee welcomed the report.

There was discussion about encouraging the interdisciplinarity of submissions – and a suggestion was made about approaching either editors or authors presenting at French studies conferences (ASMCF, SFS). There was also discussion about the viability of Society funding image permissions and translation (AS mentioned that society did fund initially).

MC suggested that we could do more to promote book launches, whether that be discrete events or conferences. JW suggested that this could also feed into the work of the FHN blog. TH suggested that we ought to look at Society for Renaissance Studies book launches conducted virtually (which use Crowd Cast platform), and AC mentioned the IHR seminar.

ACTION:

Editors to explore more on book launches with new Events Officer
Editors to put forward specific proposals relating to funding request

7) Report from the Journal Editors

JC and CE presented a verbal report. The committee welcomed the report.

JoC proposed a stipend for the journal’s associate editors

ACTION:

8) Representative from Oxford University Press – Katie Pryce, Publisher, Humanities Journals

KP provided an update on the journal in conversation with the committee. Issues discussed were:

- Read and Publish agreements;
- Growing journal copy;
- OUP marketing strategies;
- Journal production timelines and procedures.

9) Equality and Diversity

AC presented report of the EDI working group's activities. The committee welcomed the report.

The EDI working group proposed:

- Inclusion of childcare expenses in funding schemes;
- Covid support grants – discussion about tweaking wording to encourage smaller bids, careful wording needed.

ACTION:

LB to work with KV on spending, budgeting and what looks possible – on both covid support and other grants

10) Suggestions for New Activities

- a) Discussion with representatives from the British Library

TV and SD introduced their roles at the British Library in Romance Collections, printed collections and manuscripts. SD mentioned collaborative projects, including study day on French collections in the UK incorporating printed collections and manuscripts. PR mentioned the possibility of working together around 2025 Paris conference.

ACTION:

PR to continue to discuss study day and society collaboration/conference participation

- b) Proposal around 'The French Historian' newsletter

AS discussed this project with reps from BL

ACTION

AS to send on to TV

- c) Proposal for first book prize

TH presented proposal. Committee welcomed the proposal.

Committee suggested self-nomination was likely more useful, as well as potential for colleague nomination. SMC said we need to discuss whether digital copies of books were eligible for submission.

ACTION

TH to refine proposal based on discussion

11) Future Douglas Johnson Memorial Lectures & Conference Matters

CE presented report. The committee welcomed the report.

JaC asked about surplus indicated – CE suggested that we might underwrite rather than provide funding

12) Report from Postgraduate representatives

AM presented verbal report. Committee welcomed report

13) Report from Website Editor

AS provided an update on the website redesign, which has been commissioned and is underway.

ACTION

AS to manage website redesign project

14) Report from Social Media Officer

AS presented the following report sent on by DB

“As always, Journal Article Jeudi will return soon to advertise Journal articles. I will be sending out the Conference Call for Papers on Monday. I have set up automatic reminders before Grants, Prizes and Bursary deadlines, according to those listed on the website. If these deadlines change, please let me know. In the meantime, let me know if you want anything sharing, I’m happy to share on Facebook and Twitter.”

The committee welcomed the report.

15) Report from Membership Secretary

AS presented a report received from JR. In addition, he noted JR stated there are three Schools' liaison fund deadlines to make members aware of in 2023:

- 31 January 2023
- 31 May 2023

- 29 September 2023

The committee welcomed the report

16) Date of next Committee Meeting

Annual conference

17) Any Other Business

There was no other business

Secretary Report

I will be passing over the Secretary position to Luc Andre Brunet at our 2023 Annual Conference. Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to serve as secretary for the society since 2015.

The following funding has been granted since my last report in January:

Name	Affiliation	Amount Requested
<i>Research Grants</i>		
Bridget Hardiman	St Andrews	1000
Emily Lalande	Sussex	1000
Chloe Mayoux	LSE	1000
Hanna Sinclair	Oxford	1000
Ellie Strangways	Loughborough	644
Zara Kesterton	Cambridge	340
<i>Conference and Speaker Grant</i>		
Paul Huddie	UCD	500

Ralph Gibson Bursary

Thank you to the prize panel for considering applications for the Ralph Gibson Bursary: Kevin Passmore, Sara Barker, and Tom Hamilton. Announcements on awards are forthcoming.

Upcoming Deadlines for Society Funding Schemes

Research Grant: Friday 22 March 2024

Conference & Speaker Grant: Friday 15 September 2023, Friday 22 March 2024

Conference Bursary: Friday 15 September 2023, Friday 22 March 2024

Postgraduate Panels: Friday 22 March 2024

Ralph Gibson Bursary (Board of Assessors): Friday 26 April 2024

Undergraduate Dissertation Prize (Board of Assessors): Friday 26 July 2024

Visiting Scholars: Friday 22 March 2024

Andrew Smith, June 2023.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Income				
OUP profit-share	36,936.00	38,512.00	36,671.00	36,667.00
Total	36,936.00	38,512.00	36,671.00	36,667.00
Expenditure				
Prizes	12,800.00	12,000.00	12,400.00	400.00
Research/Conference Bursaries	5,030.00	7,480.59	11,176.83	3,640.00
Conference Grants	800.00	£499.65	1,385.00	-
Conference Support (incl. Douglas Johnson Lecture)	2,612.12	8,593.61	5,760.40	3,506.70
French History expenses (incl. annual prize)	£996.76	4,015.44	2,641.65	-
Committee expenses	598.90	-	567.22	762.41
Audit fee	100.00	100.00	100.00	-
Bank charges	63.25	62.60	58.50	30.00
IHR project	£5,372.00	-	-	-
Website				2,500.00
Covid support scheme	£0.00	£17,695.45	-	-
Total	28,373.03	50,447.34	34,089.60	10,839.11
Cash in TSB account as at 16.06.23	£60,943.74			

Treasurer's Report

After regular rises in the OUP profit share in previous years, since 2022, it has settled at around £36,000. Nevertheless, since the Society's funds remain healthy, the committee may wish to consider whether some of the grants currently awarded should be raised to take into consideration rises in inflation and the fall in value of the pound. This might be targeted at PG grants in particular, or a more general increase. The accounts for the year ending 31

December 2021 were audited, signed off and submitted to the Charity Commission in October 2022. The balance in the TSB current account is £60,943.74. The balance in the investment account is £38,282, giving a current total of £99,225.74.

Karine Varley (Strathclyde)

STUDIES IN MODERN FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE HISTORY (MUP) SSFH Report, June 2023

NEWS

We are delighted to have a wide range of books recently published and forthcoming in the series, and we continue to progress towards our strategic goals of attracting submissions from more established scholars and expanding the remit of the series to include colonial and postcolonial histories (proposals in these areas are currently under review). We are particularly pleased to have forthcoming publications from returning authors Helen Davies and Andrew Smith.

We continue to explore ways in which to encourage submissions from as wide a range of scholars possible, and we invite colleagues to promote the series and of course to consider submitting proposals themselves. We are also interested in publishing edited volumes: do keep the series in mind for publications arising from research networks and workshops on modern French and Francophone history.

Thanks to the initiative of Alison Carroll and the IHR Modern French History Seminar, we had a very successful book launch for Susan Foley's *Republican Passions* on 15 May. This was a fantastic event, and further launches are planned for other books in the series. We would like to express our gratitude to the organizing committee of the IHR Seminar for making this possible, and to Susan Foley, Andrew Smith, Máire Cross, and Tim Verhoeven for their contributions on 15 May.

Alun Richards, our commissioning editor, will shortly be moving to a new role with MUP: we warmly thank him for his expert management of the series and wonderful collegiality. We also look forward to working with his successor, Meredith Carroll, and will be meeting with her in the autumn.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Promoting the series

At our January SSFH meeting we discussed the possibility of promoting the series with interviews on the French History Network blog. Would this be possible for Alex Paulin-Booth's book around the time of her IHR book launch (date tbc, in the autumn term)? Are there are other suggestions for promoting the series to potential authors and readers?

2. SSFH Book Prize

Also in January meeting there was mention of a possible SSFH book prize, for which authors in the MUP series could be encouraged to submit their books. Is there a date for the launch of the prize?

Recent and forthcoming titles:

- Susan K. Foley, *Republican Passions: Family, Friendship and Politics in Nineteenth-Century France* (April 2023)
- Alexandra Paulin-Booth, *Time and Radical Politics in France: From the Dreyfus Affair to the First World War* (May 2023)
- Talitha Ilacqua, *Inventing the Modern Region: Basque Identity and the French Nation State* (Feb 2024)
- Jackie Clarke, *Generation Moulinex: Work, Consumption and Deindustrialisation in France* (2024)
- Helen Davies, *Herminie and Fanny Pereire: Elite Jewish Women in Nineteenth-Century France* (2024)
- Andrew Smith, *Make Cheese not War: Transnational Resistance in the Larzac Protest* (2025)
- Margaret Andersen, *Fertile Expectations: Family Formation, Involuntary Childlessness, and Demographic Policies in France, 1920–65* (2025)

<https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/series/studies-in-modern-french-and-francophone-history/>

Note: Members of the Society for the Study of French History are entitled to a 35% discount on orders for personal use on all Studies in Modern French and Francophone History series titles, and many of our earlier titles are now available in paperback edition at around £20.

Julie Kalman, Jen Sessions, and Jessica Wardhaugh, Co-Editors

The Editorial Team

As announced in our last editors' report, Erika Graham-Goering (Durham) and Will Pooley (Bristol) began their terms as associate editors of *French History* in January, and they have been hard at work since on a number of important initiatives for the journal, which we will discuss in more detail below. In December 2023, Joseph Clarke will be standing down as co-editor after six years in post. The Society and OUP will be recruiting a new co-editor with responsibility for pre-1815 content this autumn to begin work on the journal in January 2024. As in the past, this position will be advertised internationally.

The Editorial Board

In March, the editorial team held its first annual meeting of the editorial board (online) to introduce existing and new members, to discuss developments at the journal, and to solicit suggestions for new initiatives and directions the journal might wish to explore. We had a very productive discussion, and we would like to thank colleagues on the board for making the time to attend and for contributing many useful ideas for generating submissions and broadening the journal's reach internationally.

Prizes

The 2022 *French History* Article Prize. We are delighted to announce that Lionel Laborie's article from the September issue has been awarded the annual article prize for 2022. Congratulations to Lionel for an impressive interrogation of 'fake news' in early modern France in ['The Treaty of Nîmes \(1704\): fake news, propaganda and diplomacy during the War of the Spanish Succession'](#). As with all our prize-winning articles, Lionel's work will be available on open access indefinitely on the journal's website.

Other Awards. Two other *French History* articles from 2022 have also received recognition in recent international competitions. Miriam Franchina's ['A transatlantic battle of the robes: French priests in the Haitian Revolution'](#) from the March issue received honourable mention in this year's French Colonial History Article Prize competition, while Jennifer Ngaire Heuer's ['Neither cowardly nor greedy? Buying and selling escape from conscription in revolutionary and post-revolutionary France'](#) from the June issue also received honourable mention in the Society for French Historical Studies' William Koren Jr. Prize for an outstanding article on any period of French history by a scholar in the United States or Canada.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Developing our relationships with, and encouraging submissions from, under-represented scholars and subjects in the field is a key concern for the journal and this featured prominently on our agenda in meeting with the editorial board this spring. As part of this work, we have commissioned several pieces that will highlight new perspectives and voices which we anticipate will appear in the next six months. We hope soon to be able to draw upon OUP's new data collection system for authors submitting to the journal with a view to informing other new initiatives to further our ED&I goals.

Production Initiatives

The *French History* style guide. The editorial team has been working on updating and expanding the journal's style guide over the past months. We are particularly indebted to Erika Graham-Goering for taking the lead on this herculean task, and we are confident that this will provide our contributors with a detailed and very comprehensive guide to preparing their work

for submission in *French History*. We are currently finalizing the details of this with the journal team at OUP and expect to have our new style guide in place by the end of the summer.

Peer review guidelines. A robust peer review process is fundamental to *French History's* operations, and we are enormously grateful to the scholars around the world who contribute their time and expertise to providing our authors with carefully considered and constructive commentary on their submissions. However, we are also conscious that the journal, like many of its peers, does not provide its reviewers, and especially its first-time reviewers, with much in the way of guidance as they embark upon the review process. The editorial team has prepared a set of guidelines for all its reviewers, and special thanks are due to Will Pooley for drafting this, and we will begin incorporating these guidelines into all our invitations to review this summer.

FH's Social Media Presence. We have now set up dedicated social media handles for the journal on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and Mastodon. We have also been taking advantage of the French History Network blog to promote new issues of the journal with author interviews which you can find tagged under 'Hors d'oeuvres'.

Production Delays

Although the online publication of articles continues to schedule, we are experiencing ongoing delays in the production of print copies. We are working with the journal production team at OUP and with colleagues at Newgen, the typesetting and printing company that handles the journal, to resolve these issues and we are making progress. We hope our readers will bear with us as we work with the press to resolve these issues and we encourage readers to continue to access new content via the journal's advanced access webpage.

Open Access

Previous editors' reports have raised the prospect that OUP's transition towards an 'Author as Customer' financial model in response to the introduction of Open Access publishing in the UK and across the EU will have significant implications for the journal and consequently for the Society's income. This new financial model is now in place and those implications are beginning to take effect in practical terms. Alongside a projected 5% drop in revenue over the coming five years, the most immediate consequence of this model is that the journal's finances are now solely predicated upon the publication of new research articles as the Read-and-Publish agreements that the press has concluded with research consortia in the UK and EU only apply to this type of publication. Previous editors' reports have detailed the editorial team's concerns about this new financial model's implications for the journal's activities, and we do not propose to revisit those concerns here. However, we would like to assure the Society that we are in regular discussions with OUP to ensure that these changes do not undermine the journal's activities and ethos, and we are grateful to the Society's president, Penny Roberts, officers and steering committee for their firm support in our conversations with the press.

Special Issues

Our special issues have contributed some of our most widely read articles over the past few years. Most recently, the journal marked the 450th anniversary of the Saint-Bartholomew's Day massacre with a special issue edited by Mark Greengrass and Penny Roberts in December 2022, and we have several more exciting issues in various stages of preparation. These include collections on the Capetian aristocracy (Dan Power), French socialism in international context (Talbot Imlay and Jean-Numa Ducange), material culture in France (Ludivine Broch, Will Pooley and Andrew Smith), music and resistance in France (Christy Pichichero), and a

collection reflecting on Colin Jones's work on Revolution, art and medicine in French History (Cathy McClive and Charles Walton). As ever, we would welcome suggestions for themed issues from colleagues.

Virtual Special Issues

Sophie Heywood's collection of curated articles on 'Popular Piety and the State in Modern France' recently appeared on the journal's homepage and Keith Rathbone's VSI on 'Imagining the Body in Modern France' is due to appear later this year. Sadly, these may be the last virtual special issues *French History* publishes as OUP's new financial model means that the press is no longer willing to resource the production of VSIs.

Reviews.

The flow of new publications into our reviews section was significantly disrupted by the global pandemic that began in 2020. The pressures the pandemic placed on academic publishers, and on the academic community as a whole, led to a fall-off in the number of books publishers submitted for review and compromised potential reviewers' ability to commit to the review process. Despite these difficulties, and some pressure from OUP to curb the publication of non-revenue-generating items such as reviews, we are anxious to see our review copy restored to its pre-pandemic levels. We believe that reviews play a vital role in the production and dissemination of knowledge and the exchange of ideas within our global community, and we have made this case clearly to our publisher. We do aim, however, to diversify our review content to better reflect the full variety of scholarly activity in our field and we will now be reviewing a wider range of outputs – exhibitions, digital works, films and other media – than in the past. With this aim in mind, we would encourage colleagues to contact our reviews editor, Stewart McCain, with any suggestions for events or outputs that they think might be of interest to readers of *French History*.

Joseph Clarke and Claire Eldridge,
June 2023

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Society Events

1. Alison Carrol will organise an in-person EDI session at the ECR event to be held at the IHR in the 2023/2024 academic year.
2. We will work with the new Society Events Officer Ludivine Broch and the Manchester Conference Organising Team to develop an EDI event at the Manchester Conference

At the January committee meeting, we proposed that the society include :

1. The inclusion of childcare amongst the expenses which the Society is prepared to fund for its various grants and support.
2. A Covid Support Grant, open to Society members at any career stage (in recognition of the fact that colleagues are still working to recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic). Following discussion in the January meeting, we revised the Covid support grant along the lines suggested by the Committee:

SSFH Covid Support Grant

The Society acknowledges the inequalities that the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated, and recognises that the impact that it continues to have upon colleagues at all career stages is likely to be long-lasting. In an effort to mitigate this impact for colleagues who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic it is offering grants of up to £1500.00 to colleagues working on the history of France and the Francophone world (grants can be any amount up to this total, and applications for smaller amounts are very welcome). The objective is to support colleagues in the development of a research project, or in the production of a publication, knowledge transfer activity, or application for further funding. The award may be used to cover the costs of undertaking a research trip, assistance with research to cover some relief from teaching or administrative duties, or to cover childcare. This is not an exhaustive list, and we will consider applications for a variety of costs arising from research.

Applications will be assessed on the basis of how far the applicant's research has been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, and on their justification of how the funds will be spent. The scheme is open to all colleagues in the UK and the Irish Republic, including those who have already received some form of Covid-related support. Applicants can be at any career stage but should be members of the Society at the time of making the application. We offer a reduced membership rate for the unwaged and precariously employed.

Applications should be made using the following [form](#) and should be received by 15 September 2023. It is a condition of award that successful candidates present a short report on their research and on the trip funded by the Society. A 200-word report should be sent to the Society's News Editor, Dr Jack Rhoden at wilfred.rhoden@bishopp.ac.uk and copied to the Secretary of the Society, Dr Luc-Andre Brunet at luc-andre.brunet@open.ac.uk. Reports may be reproduced in French History and in the News section of the website

The EDI Working Group

Alison Carrol, Dan Baker, Sara Barker, Claire Eldridge, Laure Humbert, Penny Roberts, Jack Rhoden (June 2023)

The Society for the Study of French History Book Prize

Overview

The Society for the Study of French History Book Prize offers an annual award of £1,000 for a work by an author based in the UK and Ireland, on a topic related to the history of France and the Francophone world in its broadest global context, which is the author's first sole book publication.

Eligibility

Entries published in 2023 must be received by 1 March 2024 to be eligible for that year's competition. The winner will be announced at the Douglas Johnson Annual Memorial Lecture the following January. To be eligible for consideration for the prize, the book must:

- be on any historical subject that is related to the history of France and the Francophone world, defined in its broadest global context;
- be the author's first sole book publication;
- be an original and scholarly work of historical research by an author who received their doctoral degree from a British or Irish university, or who is currently or most recently affiliated with a British or Irish university;
- have been published in English during the calendar year 2023 (for the 2024 award).

The winner is selected by the Book Prize Jury, appointed by the Society for the Study of French History Committee. Their decision is then proposed to the Society for the Study of French History Committee and Trustees, who jointly award the prize.

Criteria

The criteria for judging the prize are the book's scholarly distinction, the quality of its writing, and its potential significance for historical debates.

Notes for submissions

Authors and/or publishers are invited to submit books published in 2023 for the 2024 award.

The Society is committed to upholding values of equality, diversity, and inclusion. It welcomes eligible submissions from the widest possible range of authors and publishers.

Authors and publishers are asked to ensure submissions comply with the eligibility requirements. Any questions may be sent to: ssfh.book.prize@gmail.com or equivalent address].

To complete the submission per title, authors and/or publishers are required submit a pdf of the completed eligible book by 1 March 2024. Submissions should be sent to: ssfh.book.prize@gmail.com or equivalent address]. We would be grateful if authors and/or publishers would also complete and attach this [insert link](#) submission document. All information will be held confidentially.

Postgraduate Representatives' Report, June 2023

On Saturday 11 March we held the annual ASMCF-SSFH Postgraduate Study Day online. The day saw four panels with presentations from thirteen postgraduate researchers, two keynote lectures, and a Professional Development Panel featuring the indefatigable Andrew Smith. It was a rewarding and fruitful day, which generated genuine conversations across disciplines. The feedback we received was good, and two presenters from the final panel of the day have even gone on to organize a workshop together, having met through the Study Day. For future reference, we note that the volume of presentations made the Study Day quite exhausting; few participants remained until the very end of the day.

In our previous report, we mentioned the existence of a joint ASMCF-SSFH 'Postgraduate Support Group' on Slack (a messaging platform). The group still exists, but it is only visited regularly by c. 3-4 users. However, it remains a useful place for exchanging information about conferences, seminars, and funding sources. Future postgraduate representatives may consider ways of amplifying the group further.

Owen Coughlan and Aoife Miralles