

The Contribution of Learned Societies to the Humanities: Past, Present, and Future

***A symposium to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the International Federation
for Modern Languages and Literatures (FILLM)***

Held at the University of Vienna (Erika Weinzierl Hall), 13 July 2018

PROGRAM

This draft program sets out the proposed schedule of discussions, including the thematic focuses of the sessions and the alignment with particular papers submitted by presenting authors.

Each session has a facilitator, whose job it is to lead the discussion through the various contributions, to keep the symposium on schedule by making sure sessions stay within time limits, and to keep each session on-track with its thematic purpose. We anticipate that each facilitator will develop something of a timed running sheet for her or his session to manage this, and we shall actively assist facilitators who have questions about how to design the order of discussions with their sessions. Chief among their interventions, the session facilitators will invite contributions from those with an evident contribution to offer — including the authors of the relevant ‘aligned papers’ in sessions 2, 3, and 4. For those sessions, it will be important that at least 40 minutes (preferably 45-50) be taken up by discussion from the floor of questions and issues raised.

Please note that the format of this symposium rests on papers distributed well in advance of the event, so participants may be assumed to have read those. Session facilitators and presenters should certainly proceed on this assumption. Facilitators should invite each presenting author or team to speak for 7-10 minutes about how their paper contributes to the thematic questions of the session and of the symposium overall. After the authors have presented, facilitators should then invite a respondent (identified several weeks before the symposium) to lead the session’s discussion of how well the session’s papers integrate, and what sort of challenges might face the editors pulling such ideas together into a *FILLM Studies* collection. The sessions thus fulfil a supplementary function as peer review for the papers, before their subsequent publication.

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8.30-9.00 Arrive

9.00 Session 1 (facilitator Adams Bodomo).

Welcome and Introductions

Includes a discussion of the published outcomes from this symposium.

9.30 Session 2 (facilitator Li Cao).

‘Learned societies and their legacy for teaching and research in the Humanities.’

A thematically focused discussion of how learned societies have contributed to the present-day outlook of scholars in the Humanities disciplines.

Aligned papers:

- Margaret R Higonnet, 'Gender in the Structure and Intellectual Field of Two Learned Societies (MLA and ICLA).'
- Shin-Ichi Morimoto, 'Horizontal + Vertical: My Activities in Two Learned Societies.'
- Lenzemo Constantine Yuka and Adams Bodomo, 'Towards the Development of Linguistics in West Africa: the Contribution of the West African Linguistic Society (WALS)
- Petra Broomans, 'Views on Translated and non-translated "World Literature" since 1945. Case study of China, Netherlands and Sweden.'

11.00 Morning tea.

11.30 Session 3 (facilitator Adam Borch).

'Present challenges and opportunities for the learned societies and the Humanities.'

A thematically focused discussion of how learned societies are presently contributing to the Humanities, as well as to reshaping the environment in which the Humanities operate.

Aligned papers:

- Roger Sell, 'History and Prophecy: A Janus-Faced Account of FILLM from 1990 to 2050.'
- Philippe-Joseph Salazar, 'Rhetoric's Duty.'
- Geoff Hall and Li (Lily) Cai, 'Learned Societies and Humanities Research in China: a Survey and Some Modest Proposals.'
- Liliana Sikorska, 'Associations and Academies: their roles in the contemporary world.'

13.00 Lunch.

14.00 Session 4 (facilitator Liliana Sikorska).

'Imagining transformative changes to benefit the learned societies and the Humanities.'

Exploring how learned societies might be placed to initiate catalytic changes for the benefit of students, teachers, and researchers in the Humanities.

Aligned papers:

- Luiz Oosterbeek, 'Beyond anxieties: challenges of the Humanities in face of uncertainty and how learned societies may serve them.'
- Meenakshi Bharat, 'Looking to the Past: Cues for the Humanities from ancient Indian learned societies.'
- Adam Borch, 'Learned Societies and the New Media.'
- Tom Clark, 'Education leads us up and out: might learned societies sharpen their focus on *learning*?'

15.30 Afternoon tea.

16.00 Session 5 (facilitator Margaret Higonnet).

'Conclusion: building an action agenda for FILLM, its members, and other learned societies.'

This mandates a focus on concrete steps and timelines over the coming decade. It may culminate in a joint statement from the participating delegates, for FILLM to promote through UNESCO and other relevant bodies.

Aligned papers:

- The FILLM Committee will propose a communique for endorsement by the participating delegates, if they are so minded, which FILLM will then promote through UNESCO and other relevant agencies.

17.00 Close.