

The London French Project

Update

Friday 6th May 2011

The London French Update

- British Academy Funded Seminar Series
- Submission of Book Proposal
- British Library Web Archiving Project
- AHRC Funding Bid

British Academy Funded Seminar Series

Objectives:

- To review and conduct research on the historical legacies of the French in London from late 17th to late 20th centuries;
- To analyse the impact of the French on contemporary London (from 1980s to present day);
- To produce an innovative and up-to-date socio-cultural history of the contributions made by the French to London

British Academy Funded Seminar Series

- Methodology:

A Workshop Series to bring identified contributors together for presentation and discussion of ongoing research (such discussion may also involve members of the Advisory Group and interested users)

Conduct survey and interviews with contemporary French London residents

Collaborative process of drafting conclusions

- Outcomes:

Edited book with individual chapter contributions; journal articles, conference papers

British Academy Funded Seminar Series

Workshop 1 May (April) 2011

- Hear contributions relative to the historical topics
- Assess ongoing research data collected on the London 'French'
- Milestone 1: finalise scope of book and identify gaps

British Academy Funded Seminar Series

Workshop 2 September/ October 2011

- Report on progress
- Discussion with interested parties, including interviewees (cross section of French residents/associations)
- Milestone 2: assess progress and refine research to date

British Academy Funded Seminar Series

Workshop 3 April 2012

- Report on progress
- Hear contributions relative to historical topics
- Assess progress on contemporary research
- Milestone 3: report to Advisory Board and to Publisher

Workshop 4 July or September/October 2012

- Report on Progress
- Initial Public Dissemination Event

British Academy Funded Seminar Series

- Role of Participants

Chapter contributors will provide ongoing advice regarding the progress of the project and write a chapter as agreed with the co-editors of the book; and contribute to scholarly and public dissemination via the workshops and in print

Project Researcher will continue to carry out desk research/literature review as well as conduct interviews, carry out surveys, analyse data, etc., and contribute to the book

Advisory Board

Representatives of French Embassy and Consulate; Media Contacts; French Chamber of Commerce; French Associations and other community associations; other academics

The London French Book Proposal

- Title:

The London French: A Temporal and Spatial Mapping of the French Presence in the British Capital from the Seventeenth Century to the Present Day

A History of the London French? + Subtitle?

Other suggestions?

The London French Book Proposal

- Rationale (extract on handout with abstracts)

Some additional information is provided on evidence of contemporary presence and consideration of the London French in relation to other migrant communities

'Research Questions'

- Have 'France's Children' been, or are they now, 'at home' in London?
- What has been/is the real and symbolic impact of their presence on the life of the capital in socio-cultural, political and economic terms?
- Have/do French migrants 'integrate' or is their presence a form of urban neo-colonialism, for example?

The London French Book Proposal

- Content (on handout with abstracts)
- Table of Contents (as above)
- Chapter Title and Abstracts (as above and to be completed)
- Audience and Market (to be discussed)
- About the Authors/Editors (Editors' CVs to be attached/Affiliations of all contributors on handout as above)
- Timetable for Submission of Completed Text (to be discussed; early Autumn 2012? Earlier?)
- Production:
 - Word Length: 120, 000 words maximum/chapter maximum of 10, 000 words
 - Illustrations and copyright permissions for print and perpetual on-line publication (all our own responsibility)
 - Hard back; approx £40; print run of between 150 and 200; print on demand a possibility thereafter

The London French Book Proposal

- Audience and Market

Students, Scholars and Researchers with a main focus on History, but it will also be of interest across a number of disciplines: Modern Languages, Sociology, Cultural Studies, Politics and International Relations, Migration Studies, Memory Studies, Urban Studies.

It will also appeal to a wide-ranging General Readership – Francophile British and a cross-section of French residents in London (past and present) for professional and personal interests.

- Level of Readership

Undergraduate, Taught and Research Postgraduate, Scholars and Researchers, a wide-ranging educated general readership

Contemporary section will also provide information on the economic, social and cultural contributions of the French to London; of interest to business and government in Britain and France

- Considerable media interest already attracted (e.g *Le Monde*, French Radio London, TV5) and French in London more generally reported on (*London Evening Standard*; BBC, *The Economist*, etc.)

Identifying Gaps and Other Issues

- First World War period, 1920s, 1930s?
- Add Chapter on History of the French Institute and Alliance Française? (referred to in Philippe's chapter)
- Post Second World War, 1950, 1960s, 1970s; anything specific needed here?
- Culinary Historian!

Other 'French in London' News

- 'French Capital: A Study of French Highly-Skilled Migrants in London's Financial and Business Sectors'

Funded by ESRC; University of Middlesex:

Dr Jon Mulholland

Dr Louise Ryan

Project Report; Academic and Public presentations; policy seminar; media releases; journal articles

Dissemination expected to commence November 2011

- Consulat Général à Londres 'Newsletter': feature and contact details

The British Library Web Archiving Project

The finished product offers options such as a virtual 'street' of thematically linked websites – in this case *Les Français de Londres* – whose homepages constitute the bordering façades which you can either choose to speed past or enter... Just like a real street, these sites will form part of the British Library's, and by extension cyberspace's, permanent landscape, they will be open to all those who wish to explore this significant community, there for posterity and as a marker of the socio-ethnic reality upon which they were founded.

In order to reflect all aspects of the vibrant, contemporary French population in London – from associations to academia, blogging to banking, cafés to communications, discos to doctors, education to estate agencies (and the list could, and should, go on) – we need your contributions. Any websites, web-pages, blog-spots, online directories, e-magazines, video-clips, educational zones or social networks, in French or English, that are linked to the French community in the UK are potentially of interest to us. Once we have permission from their creators, these internet resources will be saved in the digital archives of the British Library as a lasting testimony to the French presence in London. Whether entire sites or a single page/document accessible via a separate website: the aim is to paint as faithful a picture as possible of this very real presence through virtual means, whose ethereal quality will now for the first time in history be awarded an enduring existence

Arts and Humanities Research Council Funding Bid

Placing the contemporary French presence
in its historical context

- Edited Book and other print publications
- Website
- Project Partners: British Library and French Radio London