

UBIAS into Impact: Networking our academics to meet global challenges

Draft schedule for UBIAS Directors' Meeting June 2016, University of Birmingham, UK (10 May 2016)

Events on 20 & 21 June will be held at Hornton Grange, 53 Edgbaston Park Rd, Birmingham B15 2RS, adjacent to the main University Campus.

Sun 19 June

19.00-21.00 Informal get together and light supper
[Café OPUS at the IKON Gallery](#), 1 Oozells St, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

Mon 20 June Day 1 will focus on the UBIAS network and the challenges and opportunities we face.

08.15 Transport leaves Brunswick Square, Birmingham B1 2HW, Hilton Garden Inn Hotel

08.45 Coffee and Registration

09.00 Welcome and Introductions

09.15-10.15 **The importance of UB-IASs and potential benefits of networking them**
Session leads: Mike Hannon (Birmingham IAS), Bernd Kortmann (FRIAS Freiburg)

10.15-10.45 Coffee

10.45-11.25 **Institute Presentations: Sharing and Showcasing New Approaches 1**
Institutes may present their concepts, academic pursuits and updates. (5 mins. each)
Please contact Sue Gilligan (s.gilligan@bham.ac.uk) if you would like to make a presentation.

11.25-12.40 **IAS Challenges**
Session co-ordinator: Mike Hannon (Birmingham IAS)

12.40-13.40 Lunch

13.40-14.40 Free time. Opportunity to visit the [Barber Institute of Fine Arts](#) or have a campus tour (TBC)

AMPLAB

14.40-15.00 Coffee

15.00-17.00 **Intercontinental Academia (ICA)**
Discussion of 'Time' and 'Human Dignity' and the concept and future of the ICA
Panel: Valtteri Arstila (participant Time); Martin Grossmann (USP); Cai Dapeng (Nagoya); Vanessa Hellmann (participant Human Dignity); Michal Linial (HUJI); Eliezer Rabinovici (HUJI); Michael Röckner (ZiF)

- 17.00 Walk to Chancellor's Court building for photograph
- 17.30 Drinks in the Aston Webb Rotunda
- 18.15 Walk to Barber Institute
- 18.30 Transport to city centre
- 19.00 Dinner (city centre – venue to be confirmed)
- Tue 21 June** **Day 2 will have a prime focus on future research agendas around the globe and how UBIAS can capitalise on these.**
- 08.15 Transport leaves Brunswick Square, Birmingham B1 2HW, Hilton Garden Inn Hotel
- 08.45 Coffee available
- 09.00-10.00 **Finding Intellectual Energy in Interdisciplinarity: Arts and Science, impact and opportunity**
Professor Bill Chaplin
[Caroline Devine](#), Sound Artist and Composer.
[Jacob van de Beugel](#) Ceramicist.
- 10.00-10.40 **Institute Presentations: Sharing and Showcasing New Approaches 2**
 Institutes may present their concepts, academic pursuits and updates. (5 mins. each)
 Please contact Sue Gilligan (s.gilligan@bham.ac.uk) if you would like to make a presentation.
- 10.40-11.10 Coffee
- 11.10-12.30 **UK Higher Education Research Environment and Government impact agenda; Global Challenges Fund**
- 12.30-13.30 Lunch
- 13.30-15.30 **EU Landscape and how it will look in the future. Internationalisation of research**
Keynote from Malcolm Harbour (former MEP). Panel with representatives from the European Commission and from EU Joint Research Centre, including Dr Jutta Thielendel Pozzo (Centre for Advanced Studies JRC)
- 15.30-16.30 Free time. Opportunity to visit [Winterbourne House and Gardens](#) (TBC)
- 16.30-16.45 Coffee
- 16.45-18.00 **UBIAS Topic of the Year: Media and data control in the 21st century**
 Lecture and discussion. *Speaker: Professor Mark Ryan (University of Birmingham), Chair: Bernd Kortmann (Freiburg IAS).*

Wed 22 Jun **Day 3** will focus on how we can improve and strengthen the UBIAS network and most effectively apply its knowledge and approaches within our own IASs. This day will be hosted at the [Shakespeare Institute](#) in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

09.30 Leave for Stratford-upon-Avon (30 miles; 60mins). Rendezvous point TBC.

10.30-11.45 **Creating Intellectual environments** (Incorporating a brief coffee break)
Session leads: Tim Softley (PVC Research Birmingham), John Hepburn (Vice-President, Research of the Canadian Institutes for Advanced Research (CIFAR); Vice-President, Research at University of British Columbia), Veronica Strang (Durham IAS).

11.45-12.30 **Institute Presentations: Sharing and Showcasing New Approaches 3**
Institutes may present their concepts, academic pursuits and updates. (5 mins. each)
Please contact Sue Gilligan (s.gilligan@bham.ac.uk) if you would like to make a presentation.

12.30-13.15 Lunch

13.15-13.45 **Equality and Diversity – the UK Athena Swan agenda**
Session lead: a Birmingham Equality and Diversity champion

13.45-14.45 **IAS Challenges**
Presentation from sub-groups and discussion of their challenge solutions

14.45-16.30 **Directors' Meeting** (including coffee)

- Planning the way forward.
- New network memberships.
- UBIAS theme of the year.
- Location of next Directors' meeting.

All delegates welcome to attend. Voting restricted to UBIAS member IASs only.

16.30-18.00 Free time

18.00 Dinner at The [Royal Shakespeare Theatre Rooftop Restaurant](#)

19.30 Royal Shakespeare Theatre performance of [Dr Faustus](#)

21.30 Performance ends and coach leaves for Birmingham

23.00 Arrive in Birmingham

Thu 23 Jun Excursion to [Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site](#)
Transport will leave at 09.30, lunch will be provided and coach will arrive back in Birmingham no later than 16.00
Lead: Professor Mike Robinson, Director of the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage

Further detail of our thinking for each session and the overall programme

Over-arching themes: The meeting will focus on how IASs can work together, both by exchanging knowledge and ideas and by joint research working, to maximise their impact and effectiveness. Creating “Impact” from research is a key agenda in the UK system and is something that being watched carefully in a number of other countries. The meeting is an opportunity for the UBIAS network to explore this agenda, consider its benefits and dangers and establish where IASs can harness and contribute to such an agenda.

Sharing and showcasing new approaches. We plan to embed this within each day, setting aside 40 minutes for up to five IASs per session (capacity for 20 in total) to make a 5-minute presentation about their IAS and an exciting change they have recently introduced and how it has (or had not!) worked. The 5-minutes of presentation will be strictly adhered to (!) but there will be some space on the sessions for discussion too. We hope that these sessions will lead to further detailed discussions in the coffee breaks.

Presentations of the IASs in the network and other attending IASs In addition to this Sharing and Showcasing we propose that each IAS brings a poster detailing what their IAS is about that can be viewed during the coffee breaks. Ideally if everyone could submit an A4 summary (in poster-like format) we can create a booklet....we would suggest that the booklet or posters might also form part of the UBIAS website.

The importance of UB-IASs and potential benefits of networking them. This session will set the scene for the meeting and establish what the different IASs would like to get out of the meeting, and what the potential for our network is. Ideas emerging from this session will be picked up during the other sessions and informal discussions throughout the meeting and will hopefully lead to defined actions in the Directors meeting. This session will principally be focused around the UBIAS network members.

IAS Challenges

In this session we will select key topics that present a challenge for many IASs and then break out into smaller sub-groups to discuss these. Over the course of the meeting, the sub-groups will share best practice and consider novel solutions/approaches that they will present to the full meeting for discussion on day 3. Through discussions with IAS Directors, we have identified a selection of potential topics to choose from (further ideas are welcome!):

Making fair evaluations and decisions when supporting activity; encouraging risky, high potential projects, blue skies, beyond borders; measuring the impact and success of institutes; the University of the future; IAS as part of the development of interdisciplinary academic leaders inside and outside universities; engaging with and making the most of our IAS alumni and former fellows; where and when bi-lateral programmes are effective; Independent research institutes inside and outside universities; UBIAS theme of the year; communication and engagement – could a virtual IAS succeed?

Intercontinental Academia

An exploration of and report on the Intercontinental Academia projects and suggestions for how this can develop and future topics.

Equality and Diversity – the UK Athena Swan agenda

A key driver in the UK Higher Education landscape is to ensure Equality and Diversity, with all the major research funders now having policies and strategies around this. Nowhere is this agenda more relevant than in Birmingham, the UK's second most populous city (1.1 million citizens inside the city boundaries in a wider conurbation of 4 million): not only is this multi-cultural city the fastest growing city in the UK with one of the youngest populations but is on course to be the first European 'super-diverse' city by 2024, when there will be with no single ethnic group in a majority. Cultural diversity brings diversity in ways of thinking and this represents an enormous opportunities for the IAS movement. In this short session, some of the thinking in this area will be discussed, including how we can tackle unconscious bias.

UK Higher Education Research Environment and Government Impact Agenda

This session will start by exploring the local UK higher education system and the pressures and challenges it currently faces, as well as the opportunities arising from those. The 'Impact' agenda has attracted much interest in other countries and its effects and potential will be discussed along with the opportunities from the new 'Global Challenges' initiative; a new fund to promote research that supports developing countries as part of the UK Government's Overseas Development Aid. The session will expand into sharing similarities and differences in the research agendas and policies of international research agencies across the globe.

EU Landscape and how it will look in the future: Internationalisation of research

The European Union has become a key player in supporting and enabling research and networking academics, industrialists and policy makers. Yet this UBIAS meeting takes place on the eve of a vote in the UK on whether to remain or leave. This momentous decision could shake the EU to its very foundations and potentially change the pattern of international collaborations in ways that stretch across the globe. This session will explore the key role that the EU has come to play in academic research, how it interacts with external countries, and whether the current instability represents an opportunity or a threat.

UBIAS Topic of the Year

Professor Mark Ryan (Computer Science, University of Birmingham) will deliver a lecture on our UBIAS topic of the year *Media and data control in the 21st century* followed by a discussion.

Creating intellectual environments

In an increasingly connected and busy world with its many deadlines and pressures, universities are increasingly realising that they need to pay attention to making the time, space and environment for their academic staff to be intellectually creative, and the IAS movement is a reflection of this. In this session different needs and ways of creating intellectual environments will be explored and the role that IASs play within that.

Finding Intellectual Energy in Interdisciplinarity: Arts and Science, impact and opportunity

This short session will focus around a specific problem/challenge, that of how to harness the interface between Arts and Science, and how and why this challenge is important and what work has been done in this area in Birmingham and how it might more forward within the UBIAS network.

Directors meeting - planning the way forward

This closing part of the meeting will discuss the way forwards and the actions we can take together as a network, picking up from the ideas that have emerged during the meeting.