

Matariki Network of Universities Arts and Humanities Colloquium 5th – 8th September, 2016, Durham University

1. Introduction

Following feedback from previous Arts and Humanities Colloquium participants and organisers, we would like to provide you with the following introductory information about the planned event at Durham University. We hope this will interest and excite you, and help you to identify participants for the 2016 event.

2. Background to the Arts and Humanities Colloquia

At a meeting of the Matariki Humanities Network at Dartmouth College in September 2013, colleagues planned a series of events under the broad theme of Arts and Humanities Research for the World. A series of themes was agreed and the purpose of the workshops articulated as:

- Share insights about the current state of their specific disciplines
- Make connections with other specialists in their field
- Examine the resources and best practices at other MNU institutions
- Advance cutting-edge scholarship in the humanities

The proposed themes for these Colloquia were seen as of interest and relevance to the scholars involved. So far, each conference has had two strands; an academic strand and a library strand. Attendance at the library strand has generally been more consistent, largely due to the ongoing Benchmarking project.

3. Durham 2016 on the theme of Literatures: the plan so far

The lead academic organiser for the conference is [Prof. Stephen Regan](#). After considering research areas of partners and strengths at Durham, Prof. Regan proposes the following themes: *English literature in a global context; Literature and interdisciplinary study; Literature and creative writing*.

The lead Librarian is [Dr. Christopher Skelton-Foord](#). His team have proposed two themes of *Partnerships for Research Support* and of *Evaluation and Service Improvement*. Time will also be made available to continue work on the Benchmarking Project, focussing on the pre-agreed theme of Partnerships for Research Support.

Feedback showed an interest in amalgamating the strands for at least one session. We welcome ideas for this session. What kind of joint library and academic session would be useful to you?

It is envisaged that the workshops will be to share research and initiate proposals for future research. Workshops on teaching practices will also be offered.

4. Key logistics

Dates: 5th – 8th September, 2016 **Venues:** [Durham Castle](#), [Hatfield College](#), [Palace Green Library](#)

Format: research workshops, education workshops, viewing of collections, sharing best practice, panel discussions, optional excursions, great North East of England entertainment.