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**Matariki Network of Universities Arts and Humanities Colloquium 9th – 12th October,
2017, University of Tübingen**

With this letter, we would like to invite you to the next Arts and Humanities Colloquium in the Matariki Network which will take place from 9th of October to 12th of October 2017.

Introduction

This event is part of a conference series which aims to bring together Humanities scholars from all Matariki Universities, to share their experiences and to encourage common research projects. The series was first planned in 2013 at a meeting in Dartmouth College. Each conference has two branches: The “Academic stream” and the “Library stream” (with own projects) and includes the following events and topics for the Academic stream:

- Otago 2014 (Premodern studies)
- Queens 2015 (Religious Studies)
- Durham 2016 (Literature)
- Tübingen 2017 (Language)
- Uppsala 2018 (final discussion, results)

Academic stream: Language in Matariki Universities

The topic of the 2017 conference „language“ is connected with several core fields in University development and university structure: „Language“ is the object of scientific research in linguistics (including psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics), language studies are in the center of many cultural studies and social sciences (from ancient Egypt studies to modern sociolinguistics), and language politics is an important issue in University development (language training and offers of language courses for national students, language requirements and offers of language courses for foreign students, in non-anglophone Universities: definition of campus language, teaching in English vs. teaching in national languages etc.).



We think that it will be not advisable to mix all these topics without more specific planning. In order to increase the chance that the conference will identify common problems and common research interests in all or some Matariki universities, we would like to propose a slightly different structure for the conference, compared with the events of the last years.

A special session will be committed to the discussions of the role language plays in University politics, in teaching and in study programs. Every university should give a presentation of 15 minutes which answers the following questions:

a) Study programs: Which study programs include language teaching as a central element (eg. Romance studies, Oriental studies)? Which level of language knowledge are students expected to have with their final degree? Are students sent abroad to improve their language skills? How many students are enrolled in these programs? What professions do they tend to have after leaving the university? Which „dead“ languages (Latin, Sanskrit) are taught and in which study programs?

b) University politics: Which language courses are offered to all students for free choice? Which training is offered to students in the national language (e.g. academic writing; presentation courses)? Which language courses are offered to foreign students, and which are the main difficulties for foreign students? For Uppsala and Tübingen (the non-anglophone Universities in the Matariki network): Which is the role of courses and study programs taught in English?

The exchange of this information may help to understand in a better way what is common and what is different in the teaching of humanities in the Matariki Universities, and it may also help to identify some common problems which could be the starting point of some benchmarking projects of the humanities in a more general sense.

Two separate sessions will open the floor for the presentation of research projects and for discussions about concrete research presentations. Since research in the field of language is split into many methodological approaches and covers a wide field of disciplines, it will be suitable to identify possible cooperation partners in advance. As a first step, we would like to ask each partner university to name one contact person who knows the field of language studies and linguistics and who may help to identify the researchers and research projects which are the most promising for a cooperation between some or all Matariki partners. This person may be a participant of the conference or not.

Library stream:

Corresponding to the discussions in Durham the Library Stream will focus on the following topics:

- Subscriptions, Big Deals, Open Access Transformation – Strategies and best practices in the Matariki Member Countries
- Next round of the benchmarking programme: further development and application opportunities of the Library Assessment Capability Maturity Model



Marianne Dörr will get in contact with the members of the library stream in order to establish the concrete programme of talks and discussions.

Provisional conference program:

- 9.10. 17.00 Guided tour
19.00 Informal Dinner
- 10.10. 9.00 Opening addresses, institutional presentations
10.00-13.00 Languages in universities – 7 presentations and discussion
(joint session)
13.30 Lunch
15.00-18.00 Tübingen University library, eScience-Center (joint session)
19.00 Dinner
- 11.10. 9.00-12.00 Academic stream/Library stream: separate session
12.00 Lunch
13.30-16.30 Academic stream / Library stream: separate session
17.00 Guided city tour
Dinner
- 12.10. 9.00-10 Academic stream/Library stream: final internal discussions
10-12 Joint session: presentation of results, farewell
12 Lunch

Time schedule:

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| November 2016: | Contact persons for Academic stream |
| December 2016-March 2017 | Identifying conference partners |
| March 2017 | Conference partners begin to communicate about their research |
| October 2017 | Welcome to Tübingen! |

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