

To all Postgraduates and Supervisors

A French Postgraduate Workshop was held on Saturday 16th May 1998 in the Department of French of Sheffield University. Our host was Professor David Walker, and the organiser was Christine Fiandino, who is in charge of AFLS Postgraduate Affairs. The Conference was very interesting and ran particularly smoothly. *Well done Christine!* 26 people came and, given its success, it is hoped the first in a series.

In the morning the main issue was that of methodology. Dr Máire Cross spoke about research from an organisational point of view while Professor Anthony Lodge demonstrated how a particular topic (colloquial French) could be approached using different methodologies, each leading to somewhat different results. The afternoon was devoted to the presentation of papers by Postgraduates describing their subject matter, their methodology, their findings and problems. Their experience could be useful to others embarking on this path, or having run into similar problems. Thus, if experiencing difficulties in the field of “accents” please contact Michael Pickles at the University of Lncaster, and Christine Fiandino at Sheffield for matters involving phonostylistic variation at the intonation level; Victoria Kelly, at the University of Limerick, Ireland, if embarking on a corpus-based project; for the use of CALL in the field of text grammar for research and didactic purposes, consult Catherine Pope at Goldsmith’s College, London University; and for a semiotic approach as method for getting into a difficult text, contact Catherine Wenkeler at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Finally a useful document was sent in by David Hornsby, detailing in very general terms problems encountered when doing his own Ph.D. — all possible problems it would appear, but his story has a happy ending and his advice in terms of Does and Don’ts is excellent. Copies may be obtained from Christine Fiandino. If you have any requests for other Research Days or ideas on their format and content, please contact Christine. We are all here to help.

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