



FIESOLE Group Symposium 2016

European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole (FI)

Monday 29th February-1st March 2016

Transnational perspectives on training early-career scholars for academic practice: Insights from 10 years of the FIESOLE Group and the challenges ahead

2016 marks the tenth anniversary of the work of the FIESOLE Group, an interuniversity network dedicated to developing best practices in training early-career scholars for international mobility and career advancement. In this year's Symposium we aim to bring together a variety of voices – practitioners, academic managers, theorists, teacher-researchers – to reflect on and celebrate the work that we've done in these last ten years, as well as to discuss the kinds of challenges that lie ahead.

Programme

Monday 29th February (Max Weber Common Room, Badia Fiesolana)

9.30-10.00 Coffee

10.00 Welcome: *Karin Tilmans* (Academic Programme Coordinator, Max Weber Programme, EUI)

10.15 **Taking stock: Introduction to the Symposium**

Chair: *David Bowskill* (Language Centre, Humboldt University)

10.20 The FIESOLE Group: History and development

Nick Byrne (Director of Language Centre, LSE)

10.40 Responding to the changing needs of post-doctoral researchers: Ten years in perspective

Nicky Owtram (Coordinator of Language Centre, EUI)

11.00 What the Max Weber Fellows can teach us about international academia: Research perspectives

Laurie Anderson (Professor of English Language & Translation, University of Siena/EUI)

Short break

11.30 Discussion

12.30-14.00 Lunch: Refectory, Badia

14.00 **The changing academic landscape**

Chair: *Mireia Trenchs i Parera* (Vice-rector for Teaching and Academic Planning, UPF)

Early-career teaching *Lynn McAlpine* (Professor of Higher Education Development, Oxford Learning Institute, University of Oxford)

Early-career publishing *Theresa Lillis* (Professor of Language and Applied Linguistics, Open University)

16.00-16.30 Coffee

Early-career development: A chat with *Paul Kelly* (Pro-Director of Teaching and Learning, LSE) – interviewed and moderated by Joyce Kling (Center for Internationalisation and Parallel Language Use, University of Copenhagen)

17.30 Farewell to a founding member: toast to Nick Byrne (Director of LSE Language Centre)

The 10th anniversary of the FIESOLE Group coincides with the retirement of one of the founding members, Nick Byrne, Director of the Language Centre at the LSE. Nick Byrne has made a fundamental contribution to the work and development of the Group and we would like to thank him for all he has done.

Symposium supper

Cafaggi, Via Guelfa, Firenze

(Participants will pay for their own meal)

Tuesday 1st March (Max Weber Common Room, Badia Fiesolana)

10.00 World Café discussion: The challenges ahead

Chair: *Claudine Provencher* (Teaching and Learning Centre, LSE)

Using the World Café methodology, we will have a conversation about the following three questions:

- What are the key challenges that early career scholars will be facing by 2026?
- What could help them to address these challenges?
- How could the FIESOLE Group help address these challenges?

This conversation will be modelled after the idea of a café, with five or six participants seating around tables, equipped with flip charts and coloured pens. After a small introduction to explain the process and setting the context, there will be three 20-minute rounds of conversation during which each table will discuss the three questions in turn, writing down their thoughts on the flip charts provided. At the end of each 20-minute period, the members of each table, minus one 'table host', will move to another table and start working on the next question using the thinking done by the previous group at that table.

At the end of these three rounds, participants will be invited to share their insights with the group as a whole, thus identifying key training challenges in today's global academia and producing suggestions and recommendations for how the FIESOLE Group could best position itself to ensure its relevance until 2026 and beyond.

12.15 Thanks and closing remarks: Nicky Owtram (Co-ordinator of Language Centre, EUI)

12.30 Symposium closes

The [FIESOLE Group](#) came into being hand in hand with the opening of the Max Weber Programme in September 2006, when a group of applied linguists, educationalists and language professionals from various higher education institutions in Europe met to brainstorm ideas about how to give concrete support to the first cohort of Max Weber Fellows. Since then, the focus of the Group's activities has widened to include a concern with developing and disseminating best practices in the field of academic communication, with particular reference to the needs of doctoral and post-doctoral researchers and junior faculty in today's multilingual Europe.

In addition to the members of the EUI Unit for English for Academic Communication and Professional Development, members of the group include faculty and language professionals from the London School of Economics and Institute of Education (University of London), Humboldt University (Berlin), Collège d'Europe (Bruges), University of Siena, Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona), Oxford Learning Institute (University of Oxford), the Central European University (Budapest) and University of Copenhagen.