



Monday, 7 April 2025, 12.15 pm, University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom)

Chair: Sarah Wright (SW), President of the AHGBI

Minutes: Mara Fuertes Gutiérrez (MFG), Secretary of the AHGBI

Attendees: Oliver Baldwin, Catherine Barbour, Mansur Boase, Caroline Boyle, Catherine Boyle, Victoria Carpenter, Lucía Cernadas Varela, David Conlon, Alejandra Crosta, Catherine Davies, Stuart Davis, Keah Amy Dixon, Sarah Ellis, Louise Evans, Ana Fernández, Miguel García López, Stuart Green, Benajmin Griffiths, Inés Gutiérrez González, Matthew Hilborn, Anne Holloway, Aaron Kahn, Hannie Lawlor, Javier Letrán, Eamon McCarthy, Luis Medina Cordova, Catherine O’Leary, Ricki O’Rawe, Tara Plunkett, Sheldon Penn, Victoria Ríos Castaño, Andrew Robertson, Nick Sharman, Cynthia Stephens, Sophie Stevens, Jackie Stirling, Carlos Soler Montes, Mike Thompson, Isabel Torres, Martín Veiga, Aengus Ward, Jennifer Wood, Lesley Wylie

Item	President’s Welcome (SW)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SW welcomes members to the AGM and thanks them for attending this meeting SW congratulates Victoria Ríos Castaño, Carlos Soler and the rest of local committee from Edinburgh for the organisation of such a successful conference.
Actions	N/A

Item	Record of previous AGM
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is agreed minutes are an accurate record of the previous AGM
Actions	N/A

Item	Presentation of eulogies
Discussion	<p>SW asks attendees to observe one minute of silence in memory of members who have passed away this year:</p> <p>Salvador Bacarisse (1923-2024)</p> <p>Peter Beardsell (1923-2024)</p> <p>Victor Dixon (1932-2024)</p> <p>Cara Levey (?-2024)</p>
Actions	N/A

Item	President's Business (SW)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website launch. SW thanks Catherine Boyle for her work in starting the migration of the website, Inés Gutiérrez González (IGG), for successfully leading such a complex project, and Mike Thompson for his continuous support and advice. SW discusses the possibility of members contributing to the website with pictures and other relevant items and encourages attendees to speak to IGG if interested. • SW mentions the letters she has written in the past few months on behalf of the AHGBI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rebecca Fairbairn, Director of REF: Open Access for longform publications ○ Curriculum Review Consultation ○ Cardiff University ○ Bridget Phillipson (Secretary of State for Education) • SW announces the new collaboration with the Spanish embassy, which is the Spanish Embassy/AHGBI Excellence Plenary for mid-career academics. A panel consisting of members of the Spanish Embassy, the AHGBI Exec Committee and the Organising Committee assessed the proposals received. The awardee this year is Dr Jesse Baker. SW thanks MFG for her work in designing and operationalising the award. • The AHGBI has also been working on enhancing international collaborations, signing a memorandum of understanding with Asociación Española de Estudios Literarios Hispanoamericanos (AEELH). Among the advantages, members from both associations can attend each other's conferences at membership rate. • SW also announces she will be present at the Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas (AIH) conference in Santiago de Chile in July, where there will be a meeting of all Hispanists associations across the world. • SW mentions the possibility of hosting Special Interest Groups (SIGs), similarly to what other associations do. She encourages members to come up with ideas on how these could work. • SW comments on the expansion of the AHGBI publications portfolio. There are currently ongoing discussions with two publishers and the Edgar Allison Peers Publication Prize has just been launched. • There is ongoing work going on towards the EDI statement. SW thanks Catherine Boyle for leading this work. • SW reports on the Head of Spanish reps meeting that took place last Autumn and thanks Prof Isabel Torres for delivering a talk on REF, which was very well received by attendees. • In terms of AHGBI executive roles, SW mentions that the new Social Media officer, Lourdes Barquín Sanmartín, is now in place. SW takes the opportunity to mention the QR codes that can be used to upload photographs from the conference to be used in social media. There are further additions to the team: Ricki O'Rawe is the new Membership Secretary, Loreto Romero is the new Treasurer and Miguel García López is the new PGR officer. SW thanks Katie Brown

	and Sophie Stevens for all their work in the Exec. SW also announces that MFG will be stepping down as Secretary as her term is coming to an end after the conference. She also thanks her for all her work.
Action	N/A

Item	Secretary's Report (Mara Fuertes Gutiérrez, MFG)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFG confirms the Charity Commission report was submitted on time and is available on the Charity government website. She encourages members to engage with it should they wish to do so. • MFG mentions all role descriptions for exec members have been updated. • MFG encourages members to approach her should they are interested in the role of AHGBI Secretary. She mentions it is a great opportunity to work with colleagues from other institutions and get informal mentoring from senior colleagues.
Action	N/A

Item	Treasurer's Report (MFG reports on behalf of Loreto Romero)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Association financial situation is as follows. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assets as of 29 Feb 2025: £48,990.44 ○ Income 1/3/24-29/2/25: £13,852.53 ○ Expenditure 1/3/24-29/2/25: £9,450.52 • MFG reminds attendees that the full balance sheet is available on the Charity government website, where it is also reported how funds are used. • MFG reports that currently 132 members have signed up for Gift Aid. She mentions that it only requires to fill in a form to sign up, and at no extra cost for members, the association can reclaim basic rate tax on donations, effectively increasing the value of a donation by 25%. There are forms available for those interested. The only requirement is to be a UK taxpayer.
Action	N/A

Item	Conference Secretary's Report (Victoria Ríos Castaño, VRC)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRC thanks Tara Punkett for her work as AHGBI conference secretary in the past few years. • VRC reports on 2025 conference numbers: 38 panels (32 in person / 6 online); 141 delegates (118 in person / 23 online). She expresses her thanks to the Edinburgh local team, particularly Carlos Soler Montes, for all their work in organising the conference. • VRC highlights all the special academic events that are taking place at the conference: Instituto Cervantes Plenary Address (Gustavo Herrera Taboada), Spanish Embassy / AHGBI Excellence Plenary Address (Jesse Barker) and Host University Institutional Plenary (Sergi Mainer and Ms Roser Vich).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRC also mentions the social events that have taken place: drinks reception in honour of ECRs, a PGR workshop, and a series of events sponsored by the Cátedra Cervantes: the Inaugural Plenary Address (Prof Luis García Montero, Instituto Cervantes); a Cervantes Chair Spanish Classical Music Concert (Ricardo Gosalbo and Jorge Navarro); and a conversation with Spanish writer María José Solano. • VRC announces the host institutions for the 2026 and 2027 conferences: University of Lancaster and University of Oxford respectively.
Action	N/A

Item	Website Officer Update (Inés Gutiérrez González, IGG)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IGG reports on the new website, successfully launched in March 2025. It has involved migrating to a new web hosting company and new domain company. There is also a conference website within the website. • In terms of the JiscMail List Management, IGG mentions it is working fine, with no major issues reported by users. She reminds members that all of them can send emails directly to the distribution list without having to send them to her first, using the address Hispanists@jiscmail.ac.uk. She moderates the messages received to make sure they are appropriate for the website. • Among the upcoming projects, IGG mentions the collaboration with the Social Media officer in setting up new accounts in social media, setting up a new web storage solution, having a new official email account or accounts and replacing the current forms for web forms.
Action	N/A

Item	Social Media Officer Update (IGG on behalf of Lourdes Barquín)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new social media accounts are being used at the conference and so far there has been great engagement. IGG reminds members to use the following hashtag: #AHGBI_2025_Conference_at_Edinburgh • IGG mentions that relevant academic job postings and research fellowships in the field of Hispanic Studies across the UK and Ireland will be shared via social media, as well as upcoming professional development events, workshops, and webinars organised by AHGBI or its members. • IGG mentions that the social media accounts are also a tool to share members' news with the broader AHGBI community — from calls for papers to project launches. The Social Media officer is happy to help circulate information through our networks.
Action	N/A

Item	Membership Secretary update (Ricki O'Rawe, RO)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RO confirms membership continues to grow and encourages colleagues to ask new PhD students to join the association. Currently, there are 110 institutions represented, with Oxford (36), King's College London (23) and Cambridge (19) being the most represented universities. • Membership is distributed as follows: 324 full members, 92 PhD students and 59 retired members. The location of PhD students include Oxford (12), Liverpool (7) and King's College London (6). Ireland I represented as follows: University College Cork (12), University College Dublin (9), Queen's University Belfast (6), Trinity College Dublin (6). • RO comments some work is still required in updating the membership list. RO will continue the work VRC began to make the membership list more accurate. He would like to make the records of membership of the association more robust.
Action	N/A

Item	ECA/PG/Irish and Fellowships Officers' updates (Miguel García López, MGL)
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MGL thanks his predecessors in his role, particularly Sophie Stevens, for all the hard work and the successful handover. • MGL mentions the amount allocated to the grants has been updated and announces the Dorothy Severin mentorship is available and would like to encourage colleagues to apply to be mentored. He also reminds membership about the international fellowship deadlines. • All prizes awarded this year are announced. Full details can be found on the website.
Action	N/A

Item	AOB
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron Khan Reiterates the importance of GiftAid, explaining how it works. He highlights it has been one of the reasons of being able to increase the amount allocated to prizes and awards. • Matthew Hilbourn mentions the importance of using images that represent diversity. He also encourages Trustees and Exec to consider expanding the prizes currently sponsored by the AHGBI. For example, there could be a prize for best article published by PhD student, or a prize for best public engagement initiative. This could be a way to encourage a wider pool of applicants for prizes. • Isabel Torres explains a new prize for PostGraduate students, sponsored by <i>Bulletin of Hispanic Studies</i> and <i>Bulletin of Spanish Studies</i>. There will be a call after the summer. The two best papers

	<p>will be published in each journal and will be presented at the next conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Carpenter asks if the AHGBI has considered how AI might impact research in Humanities. SW mentions this could be a relevant topic to discuss at the Spanish reps meeting in Autumn 2025. • Catherine Davies indicates there are only two members from the University of Glasgow, claiming conference attendance is becoming expensive, including conference fees. She mentions there could be a “First Time Attendee” fee as a tester to encourage attendance. • SW mentions the online day, that we keep for • Catherine Barbour suggests the conference fee could be different depending on days of attendance, with a cheaper fee for those attending just one day. • SW reminds colleagues there is an online day and the conference fee is different for those attending just online.
Actions	Action: SW to speak to Victoria Carpenter about AI