

# AILC-ICLA Standing Research Committees

## 1. Description

Standing research committees concern themselves with substantial research areas of ongoing importance (examples from among the current standing committees are 'Literary Theory' and 'Translation'). A standing committee may be formed *ex nihilo*, or by conversion from a short-term research committee. In either case, application is made to Research Development Committee. After a standing research committee has been established, it reports annually to the Executive Council.

Typically, an application to form, or convert to, a standing research committee will come from a group of 12 or more academics. It is expected that at least one third of this founding group will be early-career academics, and that the committee's plans will include provision for involving postgraduate students in its work. A standing research committee should have bylaws making clear how the Chair and any other officers are nominated or elected, and how ICLA members can apply to join.

The committee will need to submit an annual report on its activities to the ICLA Executive Council.

A standing research committee may pursue its research through a variety of means, including physical workshops, conferences and seminars, sessions at the ICLA triennial convention, and online fora for discussion and collaboration. A standing research committee should aim to have a key role in its area of the discipline: it might, for instance, establish connections with related ventures, give recognition to outstanding work, or offer periodic accounts of the state of the field or new developments within it.

The committee should have strategies in place for enabling members who are not able to attend physical meetings to participate in its work. The committee should also have a plan for disseminating the results of its research as openly as possible to ICLA members and the wider academic community: this might include the use of a website and social media. The ICLA strongly encourages its research committees to embrace open-access publication where possible.

To support its standing research committees, the ICLA offers: publicity via its website and newsletter; the ability to reach the world-wide community of ICLA members; bespoke sessions at its triennial conventions; advice from Research Development Committee and the Executive Council when required; the prestige of association with the ICLA.

## 2. Criteria for assessing an application to form a standing research committee

- I. [a] Does the application address a substantial research area of ongoing significance, one that is likely to generate a series of research questions?  
  
[b] If the application is to convert from a short-term committee to a standing committee, does the short-term committee's record give confidence that conversion to a standing committee is justified?

- II. Is the composition of the research team appropriate? Are at least one third of its members early-career academics? Is there provision for involving postgraduate students in the committee's work?
- III. Is there a compelling plan of research for the first three years, including projected outcomes and timeline? Is there a convincing prospect that new research questions will arise in later years?
- IV. Are there satisfactory bylaws for the committee, including processes for electing the Chair and any other officers, and for members of the ICLA to join?
- V. Are there strategies in place for enabling members to participate in the work of the committee if they are unable to travel to physical meetings?
- VI. Is there a plan for disseminating the results of the committee's research as openly as possible to ICLA members and the wider academic community, including the use of open-access publication where appropriate?