

BAFTSS Psychoanalysis and Film Special Interest Group

Report on Activities 2016-2018

Convenors (2019 – current) Ben Tyrer and Marlo de Lara with Agnieszka Piotrowska (2016-2018).

- The SIG held a very successful conference in collaboration with the University of Gdansk (see below and attached photographs).
- The SIG's partner network, Psychoanalysis in Our Time, will publish the edited collection, *Femininity and Psychoanalysis*, with Routledge in 2019. It contains contributions from SIG members Caroline Bainbridge, Allister Mactaggart, Agnieszka Piotrowska and Ben Tyrer, as well as a significant new work by Prof. Elizabeth Cowie.
- The membership remains the same as last year.
- We are very pleased with the level of support BAFTSS is currently offering SIGs.

Psychoanalysis, Nationalism and Ideology Conference

Sopot/University of Gdansk, Poland. 5th-7th October 2018

The conference was a joint venture between the BAFTSS Psychoanalysis and Film SIG, the Psychoanalysis in Our Time research network, the Nordic Summer University and the University of Gdansk. It was attended by artists, academics and psychoanalysts from 15 different countries (including the UK and Poland, Turkey, Zimbabwe, India, South Korea and Argentina), who explored a range of topics addressing the conference theme of “Psychoanalysis, Ideology and Nationalism”. The first day featured papers on the critique of contemporary capitalism, narcissism and neoliberalism in cinema and new media, before Prof. Alenka Zupančič's keynote presentation, “Love Your Neighbour as Yourself?!” which addressed the Bible's “greatest commandment” and the problems it poses to conservative Christian ideologies. This was followed by a screening of Dr Agnieszka Piotrowska's new film, *Repented*, and a Q&A session led by Prof. Thomas Elsaesser. The day closed with the launch of Prof. Elsaesser's new book in Polish, *Kino – maszyna myślenia. Refleksje nad kinem epoki cyfrowej (Cinema – Thinking Machine: Reflections on Cinema of the Digital Era*. Gdansk University Press, 2018). The second day began with Prof. Elsaesser's keynote presentation, “The Ideologies and Ethics of Proximity: Neighbours, Guests and Strangers”, which explored the idea of Europe as thought-experiment through the cinema of the Dardenne brothers. The day continued with papers on intersectionality, transference and

protest in film, and examinations of the contemporary political landscape in Poland. The third day concluded the conference with a rich selection of papers on Turkish identity, screen satire, and rethinking Orientalism, colonialism and world cinema through Lacanian psychoanalysis.

See the BAFTSS Funding Report on the SIG home page for further details on the conference.