

**BAFTSS Annual General Meeting
Friday 22nd April 2022 (online)
Minutes**

The Annual General Meeting of the British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies was held online during the BAFTSS Annual Conference 20th-22nd April 2022, University of St Andrews.

The Annual General Meeting 2022 of the British Association of Film Television and Screen Studies paused to remember [Professor Brian Winston](#), who was a respected founding member of the Association, a key figure in film studies, documentary film making and the formation of BAFTSS itself.

The BAFTSS AGM 2022 then continued:

Minutes from the BAFTSS AGM 2021 were ratified as an accurate reflection of the meeting by an online poll of the association members (Yes: 206 votes. No: 1 vote).

BAFTSS Election for the role Chair of BAFTSS received two nominations, with Dr Liz Watkins elected as Chair. The outcome of the vote was:

Dr Liz Watkins (University of Leeds): 148 votes

Dr Johnny Walker (Northumbria University): 77 votes

BAFTSS Constitution 6.1.4: The election was quorate with over 20% of BAFTSS Members (April 2022)

BAFTSS Constitution 6.3.7: the Executive Committee [EC] subsequently circulated a call for new co-opted EC members to cover two vacancies until the next AGM and election in April 2023:

- Dr Jolene Mairs Dyer (University of Ulster)
- Professor Kate Taylor (University of Sheffield)
- Without other candidates Dr Johnny Walker has been co-opted as Acting Vice-Chair until the next until the next AGM and election in April 2023.

The BAFTSS EC thanks to all co-opted EC members who have contributed to the work of the Association during 2022-23.

Thanks to the University of St Andrews for their work in organising '[Collaboration and Cross Pollination](#)', the BAFTSS 10th Annual 2022 Conference 20-22 April 2022 online.

1. Chair's Report (Dr Liz Watkins)

1.1. BAFTSS EC thanks Dr Sorcha Ni Fhlainn (Manchester Metropolitan University) for her work as Chair of the association from April 2021 until January 2022. Dr Liz Watkins (Vice Chair) became Acting Chair of the Association in January 2022, then elected as Chair in April 2022.

1.2 BAFTSS Advisory Board. The BAFTSS Executive Committee thanked all the past, continuing and new Members of BAFTSS Advisory Board. In 2021-2022 we reviewed the structure of the Advisory Board and invited new members to increase the representation of the diverse perspectives, backgrounds and geographical locations of the Association's membership. Further information on the Advisory Board can be read here. <https://www.baftss.org/advisory-board.html>

1.3 BAFTSS Response to OfS consultation. BAFTSS submitted a response countering the proposed cuts to funding for subjects including music, dance, drama and performing arts; art and design; media studies; and archaeology. BAFTSS response can be read here

https://www.baftss.org/uploads/1/3/9/8/139813734/response_to_ofs_consultation_may_06_2021_-_as_chair.pdf

1.4 BAFTSS Early Career Researcher/ Mid-Career Researcher/ Visiting/ Affiliated and Independent Researcher Conference Bursaries scheme. This new funding scheme was proposed by Liz Watkins and agreed by the BAFTSS EC in April 2022. The aim of the scheme is to facilitate direct representation of Researchers and Hourly Paid Lectures (early or mid-career) who are post-PhD award, yet remain without access to research funding, to be able to present their work at conferences. BAFTSS will offer a £150 bursary to each of 6 members of BAFTSS per annum to support their attendance at a conferences organised by associations, societies and universities outside of BAFTSS. The scheme commenced in April 2022.

1.5 BAFTSS Publications Awards: the new category of 'First Monograph' was added to the BAFTSS Publications Awards in 2022 to recognise the work done by our Early Career Researchers.

1.6 BAFTSS web design: the BAFTSS website has moved to a new platform with an updated design. Thanks to Johnny Walker for his work on this. The archive of BAFTSS work can be found on the former website (e.g. <https://baftss-archive.wixsite.com/website>)

1.7 BAFTSS Conference 2024 and 2025. A new open call for future BAFTSS conference hosts has been written and agreed by the BAFTSS EC. The call for Universities who are interested in hosting the BAFTSS conference in 2024 or 2025 was circulated in May 2022. From April 2023 and beyond we anticipate holding the conference in-person face-to-face, but remain open to the possibility of proposals for online events. BAFTSS Executive Committee noted that it looks forward to welcoming proposals from new conference hosts.

1.8 Call for nominations: new member(s) of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee welcomed new members that joined in 2021 for their outstanding in support and commitment to the association and recognises ongoing work of the Special Interest Groups in organising online events throughout the years affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Treasurer's Report (Dr Bella Honess Roe)

Dr Honess Roe became BAFTSS Treasurer at the AGM 2021 and thanks her predecessor, Professor Kate Ince for facilitating the transition of the role.

2.1 Bank Accounts and Balances. The issue of the current EC not having direct access to the BAFTSS TSB bank account, which occurred as the previous signatories had left the EC between 2017 – 2020 was resolved in October 2021. The EC agreed to close the TSB account, transferring funds to a Lloyds 'Clubs and Societies' account. Both the Lloyds Bank account and PayPal account, which receives BAFTSS membership fees, are in good financial health.

2.2 Event Funding Scheme. BAFTSS runs two events funding schemes. One general and one for SIG events. Over the past year, we have made eight awards, totalling £1780:

General Events:

- 'Suspiras: Covering Trauma, Memory and the Body' at QMUL in June '22 (£300)
- 'Handmade, Unseen, Unreleased Films and Television' at Sheffield Hallam in May '22 (£300)
- 'Kenneth Branagh symposium' at Queen's University Belfast in June '22 (£300)

- ‘South Korean Cinema: Linking Preservation, Distribution and Education’ at University of Glasgow in Sept ’22 (£300)
- ‘From the Sublime to the Marvellous: Cultural Translation versus Cultural Appropriation in Shang Chi’ at Sheffield University in October ’22 (£169)

2.3 BAFTSS SIG Funding Scheme:

- ‘Little Apparatus: 100 years of 9.5mm’ Online Amateur Cinema SIG event in June ’22 (£192)
- ‘Teaching francophone cinema’ French and Francophone Cinema SIG event at King’s College London in Spring ’22 (£219)

Recipients of the awards must submit reports within a month of the event taking place, and these are uploaded to the BAFTSS website here: <https://www.baftss.org/funding.html>, where details of how to apply for general event funding can also be found.

2.4 Other Outgoings: include payments to recipients of other awards (New Connections Speaker Bursaries, the PGR Poster Showcase winner) and BAFTSS regular annual outgoings (website hosting and domain).

2.5 BAFTSS Zoom Account: It was agreed at a recent executive committee meeting that BAFTSS would subscribe to a Zoom account, which can be used by members hosting events (whether or not they have been funded by BAFTSS). This account is expected to be up and running by the time of the April 2022 AGM and details of how to request use of the account will be circulated to members by email in due course.

3. BAFTSS Membership Secretary (Dr Johnny Walker)

3.1 BAFTSS Membership (April 2022):

April 2022: 579 members (315 waged. 228 student/unwaged)
March 2021: 524 members (308 waged. 216 student/unwaged)
April 2020: 336 members (207 waged. 129 student/unwaged)

3.2 BAFTSS JISCmail subscribers (April 2022):

April 2022: 1739 subscribers
March 2021: 1594 subscribers
April 2020: 1503 subscribers

4. BAFTSS Research Network of Special Interest Groups (Dr Liz Watkins)

4.1. BAFTSS’ Research Network of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continues to explore a broad range of research interests, specialisms and methodologies in film, television, screen studies and practice research that are the work of the association’s members. The number of SIGs and members participating in the research network has continued to increase. **2021-2022** has seen two new SIGs. Welcome to the Film/making Education SIG and the Science Fiction and Fantasy SIG. The full list of research groups is on the [BAFTSS SIGs home page](#).

22 SIGs in April 2022

20 SIGs in April 2021.

18 SIGs in April 2020.

15 SIGs in December 2018.

The BAFTSS Conference programme for 2022 includes 13 SIG panel proposals.

4.2 BAFTSS SIG Funding Scheme. The current round of funding remained open and will be renewed for another 2 years after 31st December 2022. [Details of the Funding Scheme and the Application form can be found here](#).

4.3 BAFTSS SIGs Newsletters: a summary of the work undertaken by SIGs can be found in the BAFTSS SIG Newsletters.

[BAFTSS SIGs Newsletter Issue 4 June 2021](#)

[BAFTSS SIGs Newsletter Issue 5 November 2021](#)

End of two year BAFTSS SIG review: began in Spring 2022 and continued until September 2022. Each SIG was invited to update the information on their official [BAFTSS SIGs home page](#). Updates include links to social media to facilitate contact with new members. The review asks each SIG for updates on events organised (online or in-person), an annual SIG Meeting of its members at the BAFTSS Conference, and SIG panel proposals submitted for one or more of the BAFTSS Conferences 2020-2022.

5. Open Screens (Editor in Chief, Dr Andy Moor)

5.1 Publication record 2021-22

Open Screens moved from a rolling basis and moved to a 'Summer' and 'Winter' issue each calendar year.

Volume 4 (2021) Issue 1: includes our 1st Special Collection: 'The Asian-African Film Connection: Cross-Cultural Imaginaries, Shared Sources, Parallel Histories' is guest-edited by Lindiwe Dovey and Kate Taylor-Jones. It also includes our 1st Film Practice publications and an expanded Reviews section.

Volume 4 (2021) Issue 2: includes 3 substantial research articles and 5 reviews.

5.2 Future Plans for publications:

Volume 5, Issue 1 is scheduled for publication in Summer 2022.

The 2nd guest-edited collection ('Teaching Women's Film-making') is in the review stage and should be published in 2022. A 3rd special collection on 'Students on Film' is under consideration.

5.3 Change in Publication Platform: In Summer 2021 the journal migrated away from Ubiquity Press as part of a realignment of the Open Library of Humanities activities. The journal is now housed on OLH's in-house publishing platform, Janeway. OS remains committed to the open access principles of the OLH and encouraged all BAFTSS members to check whether their university libraries currently subscribe to OLH's package of journals.

5.4 Changes to the Editorial Team: *Open Screens* thanked Kevin Fullerton for his work as Social Media Assistant, and welcomed Lisa Duffy, who replaced Kevin in October 2021.

5.5 Call for Submissions: OS encourages submissions of research articles and film practice work. See the [journal website](#) for information on how to submit work: journal articles up to 8000 words; proposals for Special (guest-edited) collections; practice research.

6. PGR Representatives: Emma Morton (University of Warwick) & Billy Errington (University of Durham) In the last 12 months since the 2021 AGM, we have been involved in the following:

6.1 Planning the PGR Workshop at the BAFTSS Conference 2022: Titled 'Decolonising the Field: Curriculum, Research Culture, and the Student Experience'. In a break from the previous workshop format of structured presentations by academics and ECRs, this workshop aimed to approach decolonisation both in its form and content. The workshop has been structured as a conversation that begins before the BAFTSS Conference via Twitter and Facebook, then continues into the workshop where questions are posed and reflected on by the PG community. The conversation then can continue in our dedicated website (<https://baftsspgr.wixsite.com/pgrpage>) which offers an online space to continue these timely conversations. This idea came about following a discussion of how different institutions approach decolonising their courses, either through de-centring

reading lists away from hegemonic Western experiences and philosophies, by organising outreach activities, or by offering additional training resources to staff and students alike. We found “Decolonising the curriculum” to be a broad and fluid term which left us asking: are there any

particularly good examples of how departments across the country and beyond are actively decolonising the field? What does a decolonised research culture look like? And, how can we learn from each other’s experiences with HEIs’ approaches to decolonising (be they successful, or not so successful) to foster a truly decolonised field? **Date held:** Wednesday 20th April at 9:15am

6.2 Social media: We have seen a healthy increase in those engaging with and subscribing to our social media channels. In the last twelve months April 2021 – April 2022:

- Facebook: 31% increase in members (116 to 152);
- Twitter: 35% increase in followers (844 to 1142).

Many thanks again to the Executive Committee for their ongoing support, and those who have engaged with our calls for help with the new PG Workshop format. A reminder of our socials: Twitter: @baftsspg; Facebook: Search ‘BAFTSS PGRs and ECRs’; Instagram: @baftss_pgr

7. ECR/FTC/Affiliated/ Independent Researchers and Lecturers Representative (Dr Eve Benhamou)

7.1 BAFTSS New Connections 2022: The ‘New Connections Programme’ is a BAFTSS scheme supporting early career researchers and academics on fixed-term contracts, encouraging them to broker a fresh relationship with an academic institution. BAFTSS provides bursaries of £100 to enable them to present their research to a new audience. The bursary can be used to cover travel costs and/or academic book purchases. Information about the 2022 New Connections programme is given below (further details on <https://www.baftss.org/new-connections.html>). We would like to thank our ECR members for applying to take part and colleagues at the various host universities for being so welcoming.

- Dr Temmuz Süreyya Gürbüz – ‘Punk Aesthetics on Screen: The Intersections of Punk, Queer and Trash Cinema.’ Dr Gürbüz’s talk is hosted by the University of Westminster.
- Dr Lisa Duffy – “‘You Can’t Stop the Beat’’: John Travolta as an Ageing Dancer.’ Dr Duffy’s talk is hosted by the Department of Film and Television Studies at the University of Warwick, in association with the BAFTSS Performance & Stardom SIG. (online)
- Dr Abigail Whittall – “‘New Nazisploitation’’: Nazi Monsters on 21st Century Screens’ Dr Whittall’s talk is hosted by the Faculty of Media and Communication and the History Research Group at Bournemouth University. (online)
- Dr Karol Valderrama-Burgos – ‘Female Warriors: Action Women in Contemporary Colombian Cinema.’ Dr Valderrama-Burgos’s talk is hosted by the Department of Film, Television and Media, and the Latin American Studies Network at the University of East Anglia. It is part of the UEA Media Research Seminar Series and the UEA Latin American Studies Network Research Seminar Series.
- Dr Daniel White – ‘There and Back Again: Music as Suture and De-suture in the Fantasy Film Franchise.’ Dr White’s talk is hosted by University of Leeds as part of the Music Research Colloquia. (online)

7.2 The ECR/FTC Roundtable: ‘Research Beyond Academia’, BAFTSS conference 2022

Participants: Emily Godden (Virtually There Studio CIC, Anglia Ruskin University), Ania Ostrowska (Screen Scotland), Shreepali Patel (founder and former director of StoryLab, University of the Arts London), Phil Wickham (The Bill Douglas Museum, University of Exeter), Andrew Willis (Films at HOME, University of Salford).

8. BAFTSS Mentorship Scheme and Job Search Support Group (Dr Gábor Gergely)

8.1 Mentorship Scheme: was rolled out in January 2021 after a redesign followed by the initial pilot run in 2019-2020. A formal call for expressions of interest went out in the month before the 2021 annual conference. The Mentorship Scheme offers a 12-month pairing.

By the time of the AGM in spring 2021 a roster of mentors had been assembled, comprising participants in the pilot scheme who wished to continue to offer mentoring, and BAFTSS members who expressed interest in response to the pre-conference call, and following the ECR roundtable at the 2021 conference. There are sixteen mentorships currently in place.

A new call for mentors and those wishing to receive mentorship coincided with the conference. The first pairs were sent a reminder of the end of the 12-month run of their mentorship in the course of April 2022. New matches were made following the new call for expressions of interest.

8.2 Job Seeker Support Scheme: was set up following a strong response from membership to the proposed scheme after the ECR Roundtable at the 2021 annual conference. Membership of the community is open-ended, to last as long as the member feels it is beneficial to remain a member. In the year since the conference a total of 27 eligible members expressed an interest in the scheme, and 9 securely employed academics volunteered to support it. Members met in spring and summer 2021 via Teams where discussions took place around the best platform for a virtual common room where members could exchange ideas, request information, access advice and recollections, ask for comments on applications, CVs or other forms of feedback. After this initial trial run on Teams, the community switched to a Discord server over summer-autumn 2021. There was some interaction via both platforms, but activity has remained relatively muted and the scheme has not yet settled on the best way to facilitate the kind of exchange for which the initial outpouring of interest indicates there is real need. A member-led initiative to move to an email-based exchange was trialled in March 2022.

A new call for expressions of interest will go out to coincide with the conference.

Both schemes will be taken forward by MaoHui Deng after the current coordinator's decision to step down from the role in March 2022.

9. BAFTSS Social Media Report (Dr MaoHui Deng and Dr Sanghita Sen)

Twitter has been primarily used as a platform to amplify the BAFTSS-related activities that have been happening. These include the BAFTSS funding schemes, SIGs events, PGR/ECR events, and the work from *Open Screens*. Like Twitter, Facebook has also been used mostly to notify BAFTSS activities, schemes, SIG events, publication and PGR/ECR events. A few job advertisements were also shared on this platform.

9.1 BAFTSS Twitter (MaoHui Deng)

Twitter as of 6 April 2022: 3,957 followers

Twitter as of 17 March 2021: 3,392 followers

9.2 BAFTSS Facebook (Sanghita Sen)

Snapshot (10 March - 6 April 2022)

841 post reach

126 post engagement

47 page views

1,424 page followers

1,375 Likes

Snapshot (17 March 2021)

1,253 Likes

1,280 Follows

10. Any Other Business?

11. BAFTSS 11th Annual Conference 2023 host welcomed as the University of Lincoln.

(Dr Liz Watkins, Chair of BAFTSS)