

## **BAFTSS LGBTQ+ Screen Studies SIG Report of the 2021 Seminar Series**

The BAFTSS LGBTQ+ Screen Studies Scholarly Interest Group (SIG) launched its first monthly seminar series in February 2021. This seminar series sought to (a) create a safe and supportive interdisciplinary platform for PGR students, early career researchers, and established academic researchers to present work-in-progress pieces and develop their ideas, and (b) establish a stronger network between BAFTSS SIGs given their interdisciplinary nature.

On Thursday 25 February 2021, Dr Connor Winterton (Loughborough College, UK) launched the seminar series. His paper, “Bisexuality on Screen: Sex and Corporality,” was attended by 53 participants including the BAFTSS Screening Sex SIG. This was followed by Dr Ibtisam Ahmed (University of Nottingham, UK) on Thursday 25 March 2021 whose paper, “Freedom and Lost Potential: How the Decriminalizing of Homosexuality Changed the Landscape of Indian Queer Cinema,” was chaired by Professor Rajinder Dudrah (Birmingham City University, UK) and co-hosted with the BAFTSS Euro-Bollywood SIG.

The breadth of the subject matter examined as part of the seminar series was furthered by Dr Temmuz Süreyya Gürbüz (National University of Ireland, Galway) on Thursday 26 April 2021. Her paper, “Connecting Proto-Punk and Queer Terrorism: The Early Cinema of John Waters,” was derived from her doctoral research and chaired by Dr Ellen Wright (De Montfort University, UK).

On Thursday 27 May 2021, Dr Anamarija Horvat (University of Nottingham, UK) presented her paper, “Screening *Pride*: Queer Activist Memory in Contemporary Film and Television,” which was derived from her recently published monograph *Screening Queer Memory: LGBTQ Pasts in Contemporary Film and Television* (Bloomsbury, 2021). This seminar was chaired by Jade Evans (Queen Mary University of London, UK) in which members of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners—depicted in the film *Pride*—were in attendance. During the closing Q&A, the seminar became a fascinating interactive discussion between academics and activists.

Dr Robyn Ollett (Teesside University/University of Stirling, UK) closed the seminar series on Thursday 24 June 2021 with her paper, “Thinking about the Pink Palace: The Politics of Queer Allyship,” which focused on women’s representation in the hugely successful Channel 4 series *It’s a Sin*. This closing seminar was chaired by Dr Eddie Falvey (Plymouth College of Art, UK).