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# BAFTSS

British Association of  
Film, Television and  
Screen Studies

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## BAFTSS Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes (agreed 15.9.2023)

10:00-13:00 Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Online: Microsoft Teams

**Attendance:** Andy Moor (Open Screens), Liz Watkins, Louis Bayman, Bella Honess Roe, Johnny Walker, Gábor Gergely, Shreepali Patel, Kate Taylor-Jones, Eve Benhamou, Christina Wilkins, Emma Morton, MaoHui Deng, Davina Quinlivan, Sanghita Sen

**Apologies:** Billy Errington.

### 1. *Open Screens* (Andy Moor)

- Very difficult finding peer reviewers, receiving reviews and author revisions by deadlines.
- Summer issue delayed due to articles not being ready yet.
- Request for ideas to increase profile of journal, including partnering with or having publisher's table at conference; promoting international and practice-based submissions; changing dynamics of editorial board; appointing a social media assistant.
- BAFTSS EC: EB will remind New Connections presenters of OS opportunities; LW will send another reminder to SIGS via email and include another Call in the next newsletter **(EB, LW)**
- Funds to support Open Screens Editors and Publisher's table at BAFTSS 2024 discussed **(tbc by BHR, LW, AM)**
- Editorial Board meeting scheduled for September.

### 2. Minutes and Action Points from the Jan 2023 EC Meeting

Action points read out and minutes agreed.

### 3. Chair's Report (Liz Watkins)

- Discussion about support for staff and students at Universities affected by compulsory redundancies. Issues encountered at UEA and Brighton and other universities discussed. BAFTSS stands in solidarity with colleagues across disciplines and as a national subject association to represent our discipline. EC to add a social media post offering support against compulsory redundancies. **(LW and MHD)**

- March 2023 a BAFTSS EC Open letter was sent in support of staff at UEA who are facing compulsory redundancies. 31 out of 36 proposed compulsory redundancies fall in Faculty of Arts & Humanities, thus including Film, Television and Media Studies. BAFTSS EC propose sending a second open letter (July 2023) potentially to be followed by a petition. **(LW)**
- **British Academy health of Media Studies Report:** plans to consult HESA and REF 33 and 34 UoA data to look at scope and current state of play in media studies. BA invited Chair and PGR Rep to join. A short EC meeting to contribute a qualitative assessment section of the report, the majority of which will be on their statistical data. **Note:** the first BA meeting is in August 2023. EC members to email LW if they are interested in contributing to a discussion prior to the August 2023 meeting.
- **Working group for BAFTSS response to the REF 2028 open consultation: to be set up in advance of an October deadline,** which can include EC members and BAFTSS members from broader geographical range than currently represented on the EC. LW to circulate Doodle Poll. **(LW)**

#### 4. BAFTSS Conference 2023 (Gabor Gergely)

- Raising Films could not turn up in person to collect Outstanding Achievement Award. Conference generated a profit and Uo Lincoln has allowed BAFTSS to use £1500 of it to fund a follow-on event that will make up for this prior to summer 2024 BAFTSS conference. EC invited to attend with costs covered by conference profit.  
Questions raised as both BAFTSS and Lincoln aimed for the conference to break even and to keep the registration fees low. (GG, LW, BHR to review and discuss this suggestion further with regard to the BAFTSS Lincoln letter/agreement for the BAFTSS conference 2023).
- **Conference funding is challenging:** the £1500 underwrite is very important. LW notes the BAFTSS conferences have made a profit/ returned this amount in previous years. Proposal for BAFTSS to send this to institutions before the conference- as an underwrite this should happen- to assure conference hosts and to assure EC members that they will be funded. **(BHR, LW to discuss)**
- **The video recordings have not yet been located and there is only very patchy coverage, jeopardising the ability to put them online.** PGR and ECR events may be available. **(GG) – Recordings unavailable.**
- The conference organisation effectively had conflicting deadlines from the host institution and to the subject association. This caused some difficulties, which were complicated by UCU strikes and organising the first in-person BAFTSS conference since the pandemic. Conference organising committees are encouraged to discuss issues encountered with the BAFTSS EC (see conference information sheet). Processes continue to be reviewed support the administration and organisation of the conference. **(LB and LW to remind conference hosts to contact EC and discuss)**

#### 2024 Conference organisation

- Suggestion for an open call rather than or combined with a specific conference theme. To be discussed with 2024 conference hosts to ascertain their interests and preference **(LW, LB)**
- Proposal to review BAFTSS EC expenses to support attendance at the conference **(BHR, LW, LB, JW to cost & discuss/ then discuss with full EC close to the BAFTSS. 2024 conference)**

- Agreement on a return to alternate online and in-person EC meetings. With the possibility of a short meeting in September in addition to the two BAFTSS meetings already planned. The cost of in-person meetings (travel / members overseas/ OS ) needs to be discussed further.
- **Publication Awards and Practice Research Awards** (new category - Student Writing Prize; short listing and elected BAFTSS Executive Committee' overview of BAFTSS Awards. Certificates - redesign; online/in-person attendance of BAFTSS Members shortlisted ) - Exec Committee to be discussed at September meeting of **BAFTSS EC and Conference Hosts 2024**.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report (Bella Honess Roe)

- Further thought and discussion on how to best support Members with BAFTSS funds, including bursaries and funding for EC members to attend BAFTSS EC meetings, to be returned to at a later date. **(BHR, LW, LB and JW. And full BAFTSS EC)**
- Request to cancel Zoom account agreed. **(BHR)**
- Proposal to open savings account agreed. **(BHR)**
- Proposed increase of frequency of Non-BAFTSS-Conference Travel Bursaries from two to four times a year to be available for a broader range of conferences for PGRs to attend. **(All EC to discuss at November meeting)**

#### 6. Membership Report (Johnny Walker)

Jan 2023: 685 members

April 2023: 748

**July 2023: TOTAL MEMBERS – 716**

24 – UG / MA

275 – PHD / PRECARIOUS / UNWAGED

417 – WAGED

**SUBSCRIBERS TO JISC: 1887**

Two enquiries from a retired academic who went onto the unwaged tier. Amend wording of category for clarification (not a new category): 'PhD candidate/unwaged/ precariously employed/ **retired'** **(JW)**.

Membership numbers chart inherited from Alex Marlow Mann to be updated: twice a year (recording the number of members in each category in April / November) **(JW)**

#### 7. SIG Research Network Co-ordinator (Liz Watkins)

- BAFTSS has 24 special interest groups

- three funding applications read, and reviewed: French and Francophone Screen Studies; German Screen Studies; Animation. All three applications agreed. Applicants to be notified and put in contact with Treasurer **(LW)**

- BAFTSS SIGs Newsletter issue 8 [https://www.baftss.org/uploads/1/3/9/8/139813734/baftss\\_newsletter\\_issue\\_8\\_june\\_2023.pdf](https://www.baftss.org/uploads/1/3/9/8/139813734/baftss_newsletter_issue_8_june_2023.pdf)

**8. PGR Network Report** (Billy Errington and Emma Morton)

- Emma Morton and Billy Errington are leaving the BAFTSS EC at the end of their three years on the committee. BAFTSS EC wholeheartedly thanks them for their brilliant work and dedication in organising PGR Workshops, the PGR Research Poster Showcase and co-organising the BAFTSS Conference Travel Bursaries Scheme with Eve B. Thanks too for agreeing to oversee the process of identifying new PGR Reps and their introduction to the EC.
- EC to read call and suggest amendments to call for applicants by 27/07. **(all EC)**

**9. ECR/FTC/Affiliated/ Independent Researchers and Lecturers** (Eve Benhamou)

- New Connections received 6 applications, all meeting the criteria : BAFTSS agreed to offer 6x £150 bursaries. The same amount was offered to 2 applicants whose 2022 talk was postponed to 2023.
- 7 talks have already taken place; all 7 speakers received payments.
- Positive feedback overall : speakers have had a “great experience”, were “thankful to have been able to meet new people in new institutions”, “happy with the turnouts” especially when events were made hybrid, and noted that “there were a lot of PGR students at the event... events like these foster future research communities”.
- The 2023 programme available on the New Connections webpage (<https://www.baftss.org/new-connections.html>).
- Advertise the last talk of 2023 via the BAFTSS mailing list, the PGR/ECR Facebook group and twitter, and update the New Connections webpage accordingly. **(EB)**
- Draft and advertise the call for interest for the 2024 programme in September (aiming for a December deadline) The **number and amount available for each bursary remains the same for 2024.**
- For future conferences, ECR/FTC/Independents events would benefit from being plenary events (as it was the case in 2021 and 2022)

**10. ECR Mentoring Scheme** (Mao Hui Deng)

In the 22/23 academic year, we have matched 14 mentees.

I will start promoting the scheme for the new 23/24 academic year in August. (MHD)

**11. Job Search Support Community** (Kate E Taylor and Eve Benhamou)

- Call for more people to be involved in the JSSC.
- **The ECR/Job Search Support roundtable ‘Research and Teaching Pathways’ took place during the annual conference.**
- Advertise access to the recording of the roundtable, when available (EB, KTJ, GG, JW)
- Liaise with Kate and other interested EC members on the organization of future joint events (KTJ)

- BAFTSS EC members that would like to contribute to the **ECR/Job Search Support workshops and community – contact KTJ (all BAFTSS EC)**

**12. Social Media Report** Facebook (Sanghita Sen) Twitter (Mao Hui Deng)

Facebook statistics/ update pending. (SS)

Social media still functioning. MHD would appreciate help on Twitter. (CW and LW)

**13. Any other business**

- September 2023 - EC and Conference 2024 organising committee: short interim online meeting to discuss the CFP and BAFTSS conference 2024
- September 2023 – short meeting to discuss BAFTSS response to the open Consultation on REF 2028
- November 2023 - next full EC meeting.
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**14. Time and Date of next meeting:** tbc. via Doodle poll