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**BAFTSS Annual General Meeting (Online)**

**April 2021**

**MINUTES**

BAFTSS Constitution requires that 20% of the association membership participate in the election and AGM to be quorate (141 votes out of 524 members voted in April 2021).

**1.** **Chair’s Report (James Leggott)**

**1b. BAFTSS Anniversary**

* This year marks the tenth anniversary of the initial discussions and working parties that led to the establishment of the association. We are particularly looking forward to 2023, which will be the tenth anniversary of the inaugural BAFTSS conference at the University of Lincoln, hosted by the then BAFTSS chair, Brian Winston. There are plans to celebrate these anniversaries: more detail will be forthcoming soon!

**1a. BAFTSS Conference**

* On behalf of the executive committee and the membership, I give thanks to Louis Bayman and the entire Southampton team behind the organisation of our 2021 conference.
* Following the postponement of our 2020 event, this is the association’s first online conference. We were delighted with the fantastic response to our call for papers, which has resulted in our biggest conference to date, in terms of the number of delegates and speakers. The conference format this year retains some of our traditional elements (such as the announcement of the BAFTSS awards, plenary roundtables, PGR Research Poster Showcase, PGR workshop, and a new ECR/FTC member workshop), but a key difference is the format of the panels:  speakers have been invited to submit presentations for viewing/reading in advance, thus allowing more time for discussion. We welcome feedback from delegates on this format, and on all aspects of their conference experience this year.
* Our April 2022 conference will be in association with the University of St Andrews, who were the planned hosts of our postponed 2020 event. As uncertainty remains about public gatherings, we will announce in due course whether this will be a physical, virtual, or ‘blended’ conference.

**1c. Changes to the BAFTSS Executive Committee**

* We give thanks to the colleagues who are leaving the EC as of the 2021 AGM conclusion: James Leggott, Charlotte Crofts, Alex Marlow Mann and Joe Andrew have served the maximum number of six years on the committee (as decreed by the 2015 constitution change), and Kate Ince steps down from the EC and her role as Treasurer.
* As agreed by vote at the 2020 AGM, we established a new EC member position dedicated to the interests of Researchers/Filmmakers/Fixed Term Contracts/ Visiting Researchers/ Visiting Lecturers/ Affiliated Staff. A call was circulated on 21 June 2020. We received three applicants, and a vote was taken among the EC membership to determine that the successful candidate was Eve Benhamou.
* The positions due for election are: Chair, Vice Chair and 5 x ordinary member positions.
* A call was issued on 22 February inviting nominations from those wishing to serve on the EC.
* Sorcha Ní Fhlainn was the only candidate standing for the role of Chair, and Elizabeth Watkins the only candidate standing for Vice Chair. They therefore automatically pick up these roles at the conclusion of the 2021 AGM activity.

**2.** **VOTE:** BAFTSS Members are invited to vote on the three following items:

**2a. Ratification of BAFTSS AGM 2020 Minutes.** Agreed.

**2b. Election of new BAFTSS Executive Committee members.**

The BAFTSS Executive Committee consists of 4 officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary), 2 PGR Representatives, 1 Early Career Researcher/Fixed Term Contract/ Affiliated Researcher and Lecturer Representative, and 7 Ordinary Members.

**Voting opened:** Monday 29th March 2021. **Voting closed:** 12noon Friday 9th April 2021.

The following Officers and new Ordinary Members were agreed.

The results were:

**BAFTSS Chair:** Dr Sorcha Ní Fhlainn,Senior Lecturer in Film Studies and American Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University.

**BAFTSS Vice Chair:** Dr Liz Watkins, Research Fellow, University of Leeds.

**Six new Ordinary Members of the BAFTSS Executive Committee:**

* Dr Gábor Gergely, Senior Lecturer in Film Studies. University of Lincoln.
* Dr Maria Flood, Senior Lecturer in Film, Keele University.
* Dr Sanghita Sen, Documentary Filmmaker and Teaching Assistant (casual), University of St Andrews.
* Dr Shreepali Patel, Director, StoryLab, Research Institute, Cambridge Anglia Ruskin University.
* Dr Davina Quinlivan, Senior Lecturer Kingston University/Bristol University.
* Dr MaoHui Deng, Lecturer in Film and Theatre Studies, University of Manchester.

**Current members of the Existing EC who take up new roles are:**

**BAFTSS Secretary:** Louis Bayman

**BAFTSS Treasurer:** Bella Honess Roe

**BAFTSS Membership Secretary:** Johnny Walker

**2c. BAFTSS PGR Research Poster Showcase.** Each BAFTSS Member is invited to vote once for one poster. The winning poster will be the recipient of the BAFTSS 2021 PGR Research Poster Showcase £100 prize.

Winning Poster: Laura Minor, University of Leeds. ‘Reconfiguring the Unruly Woman in British TV Comedy’.

Runner-up: Zoe Burgess, University of Southampton. ‘Gender and Class in the Film Collection of the Amateur Film and Sound Archive’

Joint Honourable Mention: Charlie Thorpe, Sheffield Hallam University. Representations of Mental Health Documentaries’ and Georgia Brown, Queen Mary, University of London. ‘Vivien Leigh: Appointment Diaries Analysis Total Number of Appointments by Category’.

**4.** **Treasurer (Kate Ince)**

**4a.** As of 24/02/21 when it could last be checked, the association’s bank balance was in good standing.

**4b. Awards (SIG & Event Grants) 2020 and 2021 (some altered due to Coronavirus pandemic)**. As first reported in the twice-yearly SIG Newsletter sent to SIG conveners on 26/10/20, two events postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 have not yet been rescheduled; the Screening Sex SIG event planned for May 2020, and the Film & Philosophy event on Kelly Reichardt planned for December 2020.

The Practice Research ‘Filmmaking in the Academy’ event originally planned for 12/6/20 was converted into a set of three online seminars which took place in November and December 2020 and January 2021: the award will be transferred to speakers at these events by Paypal shortly. Only one award was made in the 2020-21 Event Grant round, which was transferred to the recipient by Paypal at the start of February 2021, just before the event on 5/2/21.

**4c.** **Subsidy to University of St Andrews for cancelled 2020 conference**. An agreed repayment of the remaining subsidy unspent in 2020 is being made to the association’s account (so far dogged by technical ‘bounce back’).

**4d.** **Signatories to TSB bank account.** It has proved impossible for me to effect the desired updating of these signatories, due contradictory advice from TSB’s Business Banking Centre and difficulty in contacting existing signatories. The signatories to the account remain as they were in April 2019 - former BAFTSS Chair Phil Powrie (2014-17), former Chair Andrew Moor (2017-2020) and former Treasurer Anna Claydon (2018). The TSB’s Business Banking Centre has sent the unaccepted ‘Authority Variation’ forms to the address they held on file for the association, Anna Claydon’s work address at the University of Leicester, from where she can of course not currently retrieve them due to inaccessibility during the pandemic. Two years on from my becoming Treasurer, these matters still urgently need sorting out!

**5.** **Membership Secretary (Alexander Marlow Mann)**

**BAFTSS Membership:**

March 2021: 524

January 2021: 403

April 2020: 336 members

April 2013: 240 members

**Jiscmail subscribers:**

March 2021: 1594

January 2021: 1561

April 2020: 1503

April 2013: 242

BAFTSS membership has been steadily rising since its launch (from 240 members and 242 discussion list subscribers in 2013 to 336 and 1503 at last year’s AGM). This year has seen a further, and much more rapid, increase (to 524 members and 1594 discussion list subscribers). This is largely due to the conference, which, being online, has attracted a far greater number of participants including many from other countries.

Membership has consistently been split 60% waged and 40% unwaged (including postgraduate students and those on fractional contracts).

**6.** **Special Interest Groups (Liz Watkins)**

**6a. BAFTSS’ research network of Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** has continued to explore a broad range of research interests, specialisms and methodologies in film, television, screen studies and practise 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:

20 SIGs in April 2021.

18 SIGs in April 2020.

15 SIGs in December 2018.

**6b. New SIGs.** 2020- 2021 has seen two new SIGs. Welcome to the Horror Studies SIG and the Archives and Archival Methodologies SIG! The full list of research groups can be found on the [BAFTSS SIGs home page.](https://www.baftss.org/sig)

**6c. BAFTSS conference 2021.** 10 SIGs submitted panel proposals for the BAFTSS 2021 conference.

Since the Special Interest Group Research Network began in December 2016, between 8-11 SIG panel proposals have been submitted for the BAFTSS conference each year.

**6d. SIG Funding Scheme.** April 2020- April 2021 has seen a reduction in applications for SIG funding due to COVID 19 pandemic. Applications were previously orientated around events held in specific locations (travel and accommodation for invited speakers, PGR and ECR travel bursaries, room hire, film hire, catering etc). Funding bids have moved toward enhanced access to website and hosting platforms, and honoraria which can be agreed in exceptional circumstances (e.g. unemployed or unsalaried freelance workers).

2019-2020: 9 successful applications out of 11 submitted.

2020-2021: 2 applications submitted, both of which were successful.

It is fantastic to see that SIG activities have continued through online reading groups, symposia, and blogs.

Reports from events organised by BAFTSS SIGs can be found on the [SIG homepages](https://www.baftss.org/sig).

A summary of the work undertaken by SIGs can be found in the BAFTSS SIG Newsletters.

[BAFTSS SIG Newsletter October 2019](https://29fa98f6-1809-488b-a9ec-9a5b9d0f4b6e.filesusr.com/ugd/27b2ad_954ea44e65eb41ca927cef930a40f8bf.pdf)

[BAFTSS SIG Newsletter May 2020](https://29fa98f6-1809-488b-a9ec-9a5b9d0f4b6e.filesusr.com/ugd/27b2ad_9dbf0aa3aa944ecca0dbc6a2f5cf7c82.pdf)

[BAFTSS SIG Newsletter October 2020](https://29fa98f6-1809-488b-a9ec-9a5b9d0f4b6e.filesusr.com/ugd/27b2ad_d873f3d702f64aeb8371f1b5ecafe666.pdf)

Next issue due May 2021!

**The BAFTSS SIG Funding Scheme** is open for events which take place prior to 31st December 2022. The [Funding Application form](https://www.baftss.org/funding) can be found on the BAFTSS website.

**Joining:** To join a SIG you must be a member of BAFTSS – there is an option to join a SIG through the BAFTSS membership process. Alternatively, BAFTSS Members can contact SIG conveners directly.

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

**7a. BAFTSS New Connections 2021**: 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 travel bursaries or book vouchers to enable them to present their research to a new audience.

Information about 2021 New Connections programme is given below (further details on https://www.baftss.org/newconnections). We would like to thank our ECR members for applying to take part, colleagues at the various host universities for being so welcoming, and our sponsor Edinburgh University Press.

**Wednesday 17th February 2021, 1pm-2.30pm (online – available on the BAFTSS website) Dr Craig Ian Mann** – ‘Take Me to Your Leader: Alien Invasion Films in the Reagan Era’  **.** Hosted by the University of Hertfordshire’s Media Research Group.

**Friday 23rd April 2021, 2pm (online) Dr Hanja Dämon** – ‘A Failed Film Project in Austria: Interwar Star Franziska Gaal’s Unmade Post-War Comeback’**.** Hosted by the Culture, Media, and Society Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University.

**Wednesday 5th May 2021, 1pm-2.30pm (online)** **Dr Kieran Foster** – ‘Shadow Cinema: Unmade Films and the Archive’. Hosted by the University of Hertfordshire’s Media Research Group.

**Wednesday 11th May 2021, 4pm (online) Dr Ozge Ozduzen** – ‘Online Radical Right Activity in Turkey and Britain’’**.** Hosted by the Centre for International Film Research at the University of Southampton.

**Wednesday 16th June 2021, 4.30-6pm (online) Dr Laurence Kent and Liam Rogers** – Roundtable: ‘Cinematic Sapience and the Rethinking of Rationality in Contemporary Science Fiction’**.** Part of the Film and Television Research Seminar Series at the University of Warwick.

**Thursday 28 October 2021, time tbc Dr Llewella Chapman** – ‘Bond Undressed: Researching Costume in the James Bond Films Through Archives’**.** Co-hosted by the ‘Visual Communication’ and ‘Gender and Media’ Research Groups at the University of Leeds.

**7b. ECR/FTC Roundtable:** BAFTSS conference, Wednesday 7 April, 4.30-5.45pm

‘Applying for Fellowships, Lectureships & Post-doc Roles’

Participants: Gábor Gergely (University of Lincoln), Catherine Lester (University of Birmingham), Vesna Lukic (Middlesex University), Clive James Nwonka (LSE), Sarah Street (University of Bristol)

**7c. Online Workshop** (August/September 2021) Preliminary theme – Research Beyond Academia

*Suggestions and ideas will be welcomed at the end of the BAFTSS ECR/FTC roundtable*

**8.** **ECR Mentoring Scheme (Gabor Gergely)**

After an initial pilot run in 2019-20, the BAFTSS Mentorship scheme started to be rolled out in January 2021 after a period of reflection, discussion and redesign prompted by feedback from participating mentors and early career members. The feedback indicated that the scheme was valuable, but its aims, the mentors’ remit and reasonable expectations needed to be more precisely articulated in order to ensure that Early Career members not in full-time permanent employment could be matched with mentors well-placed to offer relevant support.

In this vein a call was circulated via the BAFTSS Jiscmail list for expressions of interest in the Mentorship Scheme, and in a new Job Search Support Community in early March 2021. The Mentorship Scheme offers a 12-month pairing, while the latter is an open ended arrangement.

Thirteen BAFTSS members are available as mentors. To date eleven ECR members not on permanent/FT contracts have expressed interest in being assigned a mentor. Half of those expressing interest in the schemes explicitly noted their interest in the job search support community. The allocation of mentors is ongoing. The job search support community should launch around the time of the BAFTSS conference.

**9.** **PGR Research Reps (Emma Morton and Billy Errington)**

The new PGR Reps, Emma Morton & Billy Errington, were elected to the position in November 2020, and then worked with outgoing Reps (Daisy Richards & Marta Suarez) during a transition period from November 2020 – January 2021. We are most grateful for the warm welcome we received, and the support offered, throughout this time.

**Since fully taking over the role, our main activities undertaken are as follows:**

**9a. Planning the PGR Workshop at the BAFTSS Conference 2021:**

* Titled ‘Submitting Papers to Academic Conferences in the Field of Film, Television and Screen Studies’, this Workshop brings together academics, ECRs, and current PhD students to help de-mystify the processes behind conferences in the field, taking an experiential, self-reflexive approach through a series of mini-presentations and an open-floor Q&A panel. The objective, ultimately, is to offer support to early PhD students, those who have perhaps never presented before, and even MA-level PGs as a means of increasing diversity and accessibility when approaching conferences and career development.
* Themes which will be covered include: What do organisers look for in a submission?; Beginning a proposal; Practical delivery tips; Preparing your (first) paper; and navigating networking at conferences. To take place on April 7th 2021 at 9:30.

**9b. Increasing social media visibility:**

* We realised that each of our current social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) attracted a different engagement, depending on level of study or research: Facebook reached more ECRs and academics; Twitter engaged more with current PhDs and early PG level researchers; Instagram targeted more of a generalist audience. As such, moving forward, we plan to tailor our engagements as appropriate – for example, more original content, and posting regular job ads on the Facebook channel in particular; more visual content for the Instagram feed; more targeted information on doctoral/MA funding when funding cycles open.
* We launched our Instagram account in February 2021.
* We launched our ‘Next Steps’ initiative in February 2021, wherein ECRs are encouraged to create 1-minute videos of their progression from PhD to where they are now – this has achieved a lot of traction, with this single tweet gaining over 4,200 impressions.
* We distributed our own PGR poster across social media channels and via email with partner institutions – this Tweet gained almost 2,000 unique engagements.
* We have seen a healthy increase in those engaging with and subscribing to our social media channels. In the month January – February 2021:

Facebook: 4.5% increase in members (111 to 116);

Twitter: 5% increase in followers (799 to 844), including 22,900 total Tweet impressions – an increase of 51.9% from the previous month.

**9c. Circulating information regarding the PGR Poster Competition**

* These will go online on 23rd March; voting will open on 29th March; voting shall close at noon on 9th April, with results announced at the end of the conference. Information regarding the February deadline was shared across our social media channels.
* We express our thanks to Liz Watkins, BAFTSS Secretary, for managing the organisation of the poster showcase.

Many thanks again to the Executive Committee for their ongoing support, and those who have engaged with our calls for help with our social media projects since January! A reminder of our socials:

Twitter: @baftsspg

Facebook: Search ‘BAFTSS PGRs and ECRs’

Instagram: @baftss\_pgr

**10. Social Media (Charlotte Crofts)**

Twitter 2020: 2824 followers

Twitter 2021: 3358 followers

Facebook: 1253 likes and 1286 followers

**11. Open Screens (Andy Moor).**

The journal began in 2018, publishing items on a rolling basis.

Volume 1 (2018) contains 4 articles.

Volume 2 (2019) contains 3 articles.

Volume 3 (2021) contains 5 research articles and 2 reviews.

We had anticipated that the journal would grow slowly, but are now actively looking to raise its profile, with a target of publishing around 12 research pieces per year. We aim to do so by encouraging:

* individual submissions
* proposals for guest-edited Special Dossiers
* expanding our team
* developing a stronger publicity strategy.

1. **Future Plans for publications:**

* Special issue ‘The Asian-African Film Connection: Cross-Cultural Imaginaries, Shared Sources, Parallel Histories’ is guest-edited by Lindiwe Dovey and Kate Taylor-Jones. Summer 2021.
* The journal is moving from a ‘rolling publication’ model to two Issues per year (June and December). The rationale for this is that individual submissions gain from being published in a full issue.
* We will publish Special Dossiers separately.
* We expect to publish our first two pieces of film practice work in our Summer 2021 Issue.
* We no longer consider ‘Commentaries’ as a separate, shorter form of submission.
* Research articles can be of any length, up to 8000 words (a rationale justifying wordcounts over 8000 is required).

1. **Governance:**

* The editors will meet with the Editorial Board twice a year.
* Through 2021, we will revisit the constitution of the Editorial Board and seek, through new appointments, to diversify the team and broaden its field of expertise.

1. **Additions to the Editorial Team:**

We recently put out a public call for people interested in joining our editorial team and must thank everyone who responded. We are now delighted to welcome the following people to the team:

* James Fenwick & Johnny Warren: editors
* Neil Archer and Alice Pember: reviews editors
* Kevin Fullerton: social media assistant.

**12.** **Any other business.** Questions and comments were invited via email.

**13**. **Next AGM and BAFTSS Conference:** University of St Andrews April 2022 (online/on site tbc.)