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**BAFTSS Executive Committee Meeting**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**10:00 – 13:00 Friday 24th November 2023**

**Present:** Liz Watkins (Chair & covering Secretary role/ minutes), Bella Honess Roe (Treasurer), Agata Lulkowska, Kate E Taylor, , Matthew Bruce, Shreepali Patel. **Part of the meeting:** Johnny Walker (Vice Chair), Ocean Xu, Emma Morton, Billy Errington.

**BAFTSS 2024 conference organising committee:** Frances Smith, Lawrence Webb.

**Apologies:** Andy Moor (Editor, *Open Screens*), Jolene Mairs Dyer, Louis Bayman (parental leave until Jan 2024), Christina Wilkins, Gabor Gergely, Stefanie van der Peer, Eve Benhamou.

**Update from the BAFTSS 2024 Conference organising committee** (Lawrence Webb, Frances Smith)

**1a. The BAFTSS 2024** CFP Labour and Screen Media Conference has been circulated for discussion with the BAFTSS EC and to all BAFTSS Members. The CFP has been posted to mailing lists beyond BAFTSS. The deadline for abstracts is 15th December 2023. The Google submission form is working well. BATFSS EC to keep circulating the CFP (**BAFTSS EC** **Conference Committee)**

**1b**. The keynote speakers have been confirmed: Shelly Cobb (Southampton) and Kay Dickinson (Glasgow). Key note are scheduled for a 40mins lecture each and 20mins Q&A each. The Recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award has been invited and will attend in-person.

**1c.** Two publishers have confirmed their attendance at BAFTSS 2024 already.

**1d.** BAFTSS EC receive a registration fee waiver, but pay for their own conference dinner if they choose to attend. EC members will be able to register early as spaces at the Conference Dinner are capped at 95 **(Conference Committee and EC)**

There will be a wine reception first night, with the conference dinner on the second side.

**1e.** Note made to encourage speakers and sessions chairs about time keeping **(Conference Committee and EC)**

**2.BAFTSS PGR Network update PGR Research Network** (Representatives: Emma Morton (University of Warwick), Billy Errington (University of Durham), Ocean Xu, (University of Salford) and Matthew Bruce (University of Birmingham).

**2a.** **EM and BE would like to thank the Executive Committee for its support during their three-year tenure as PGR Reps. This was their last EC meeting, however BE and EM noted that they are thrilled to welcome OX and MB onto the BAFTSS EC as the new BAFTSS PGR Reps.**

**Our main activities over the last 6 months were as follows:**

**Social media visibility:**

* We continue to see a healthy increase in those engaging with and subscribing to our social media channels. In the months April - November 2023:
* Facebook: 14% increase in members (164 to 187); Top posts are related to the New Connections series.
* Twitter: 11% increase in followers (1342 to 1491). Top tweets are related to the BAFTSS conference, PhD fellowships and SIG engagement.

**Aims for next cycle:**

* Encourage new membership of PhD and MA students.
* To think about the PGR workshop the 2024 conference.
* BAFTSS PGR Poster Showcase – advertising to begin after main conference call
* BAFTSS Conference PGR bursaries – advertising to begin after main conference call

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 April! A reminder of our socials:

* + Twitter: @baftsspg
  + Facebook: Search ‘BAFTSS PGRs and ECRs’
  + Instagram: @baftss\_pgr

EM and BE will be on hand to advise until December 2023.

**2b.** BE and EM have discussed some initial ideas for the PGR Workshop at the BAFTSS Conference with Matthew and Ocean.

University of Sussex have confirmed that the workshop will be hybrid with the option for slides and or a recording to go on the conference and/or BAFTSS website afterwards

**2c.** BAFTSS 2024 PGR Poster Showcase has been advertised with Liz, Ocean and Matthew organising **(LW, MB, OX)**

**2d.** The Travel Bursaries to support the attendance of PGR / ECR and Precariously employed members at the BAFTSS Conference will run again in 2024 **(LW, OX, MB in consultation with BHR)**

**Chair’s note on behalf of the BAFTSS EC** thank you to Billy Errington and Emma Morton for their excellent work as BAFTSS PGR Reps throughout the last three years of Covid-19 lockdowns and beyond. We hope to see Emma and Billy at more BAFTSS events soon. Welcome to Matthew Bruce and Ocean Xu as they join us as the new BAFTSS PGR Reps. We look forward to working with you both.

**3. *Open Screens Journal* (Andy Moor, Editor in Chief)**

**3a. Publication record 2023 :** Due to fewer submissions we will have just one Issue for 2023. This should be published within the next 2 weeks <https://www.openscreensjournal.com/issues/>

**3b.** Guest editors continue to work on our accepted Special Collection on ‘Students on Film’ (guest editors Bethan Michael-Fox and Kay Calver). Expected publication: Spring 2024

**3c**. **Open Library of Humanities Conference, London, September 2023:** James Fenwick attended this on behalf of our editorial team.

**3d. General issues / discussion points** We are grateful for the EC’s proposals regarding the journal having a presence at BAFTSS conference.

**3e.** The BAFTSS EC noted that they have continued to circulate the call for research journal articles and Special Issue proposals to *Open Screens* via BAFTSS social media, the BAFTSS SIG Newsletter and the Association’s website. The 2023 presenters from New Connections scheme have been encouraged to consider submitting work to the journal

Question raised regarding ways to encourage submission of more journal articles to *Open Screens* with possibilities being via the conference and to continue encouraging SIGs to develop proposals (see BAFTSS SIG Newsletter Issue 9) **(BAFTSS EC to discuss)**

1. **Minutes and Action Points from BAFTSS EC meeting 15th July 2023 – read and agreed.**
2. **Chair’s Report (Liz Watkins)**

**5a. Request for the Renewal/ increased frequency of conference travel bursary scheme** for BAFTSS members who are ECR/Teaching Fellows/ --Mid-Career/ Affiliated and Independent Researchers. The bursaries can be used to support attendance at BAFTSS Events, SIG events and non-BAFTSS events.

* The BAFTSS EC agreed an increase in the frequency of deadlines: **four deadlines, each offering 3 x £150 per year.**
* Application Form to be simplified and circulated to the BAFTSS EC after the November 2023 deadline. LW to advertise **(LW)**

**BAFTSS EC also agreed to establish a version of this scheme for BAFTSS members who are PhD candidates and MA students.**

* The scheme is to consist of **four deadlines, each offering 3 x £150 travel bursaries** to support attendance at BAFTSS and Non-BAFTSS events. Priority to those without other funding. If other funding is available candidates will be asked to give details). The bursaries can be used to support attendance at BAFTSS Events, SIG events and non-BAFTSS events.
* Application Form and details to be circulated to the BAFTSS EC after the November 2023 deadline. Then advertised **(LW, MB, OX)**

**4b. Letters and Responses to Open Consultations (July – November 2023):**

BAFTSS EC’s response to the open consultation on the REF 2028 (submitted by Oct 2023 deadline)

<https://www.baftss.org/response-consultation-ref-2028.html>

Rebecca Harrison’s letter opposing AHRC cuts to funding for PhD studentships

<https://www.baftss.org/opposing-ahrc-cuts-to-phd-studentships.html>

BAFTSS second letter opposing proposed job cuts at UEA.

<https://www.baftss.org/uploads/1/3/9/8/139813734/baftss_letter_to_uea_july_2023.pdf>

BAFTSS Chair’s thanks all of the EC members that contributed to the letters and REF 2028 response and to Dr Harrison.

**4c. Precarity Network’s request for Sponsorship:** Maria Elena Alampi and Francesco Sticchi organise the Precarity Network, which is not currently affiliated with BAFTSS. The Network Representatives have asked whether the BAFTSS would be willing to sponsor the Precarity Network / the inaugural conference (not financial support, but use of BAFTSS logo as a sign of support). The BAFTSS EC noted the interesting work of the Precarity Network and that BAFTSS SIGS, Funding Schemes, projects and structure. Sponsorship is usually for BAFTSS members and SIG events through the association’s themes and so use of the logo was not agreed. LW to contact MEA and FS to suggest forming a SIG or participating in BAFTSS events to build on common interests. Some BAFTSS EC members are attending the Network’s inaugural conference **(LW)**

**4d. Other matters:** LW contacted the BAFTSS 2025 Conference following the initial discussions June-September 2022. The BAFTSS 2025 hosts have confirmed that they are still willing to host.

The BAFTSS 2023 conference finances were discussed.

Louis Bayman (BAFTSS Secretary) is away until Jan 2024 and will co-organise/ review submissions for the Publication Awards.

An update on the situation faced by colleagues at UEA was circulated after the meeting. **(LW)**

1. **Treasurer’s Report** (Bella Honess Roe)

**5a**. Update on BAFTSS accounts. The projected income and expenditure are ok.

**5b.** **BAFTSS Events Grants Scheme Autumn 2023** (4 applications discussed and agreed)

C. Mann (Sheffield Hallam University) *Fear 2000: Horror Unleashed*conference.

D. Lash (Anglia Ruskin University) *Filming Metaphysical Animals: Anscombe, Foot, Midgley, Murdoch and Film-Philosophy Symposium £300*

N. Abrams (Bangor) *Terminator @40: Origins and Legacies confer*ence. £300

J F Mascoli (Warwick) In Search of Lost Futures: Visual Media Narratives of Economic Migration in

the Mediterranean

**Meeting paused for a break 11:30 - 11:36am**

**5c.** LW proposes for a review of funding offered by the BAFTSS Events Grants and BAFTSS SIGS Funding Scheme, and the BAFTSS Travel and Conference Bursaries (New Connections/ PhD and Precarious bursaries) for the next EC meeting. The plan is to test the viability of increasing the amount offered per grant/bursary in each scheme (Jan-Feb 2023) **(BHR)**

1. **Membership Report and Website update**(Johnny Walker)

Membership update. As of 23 Nov:

TOTAL: 739 members

Waged: 422

PhD/precarious/unwaged/retired: 292

UG/MA: 25

BHR notes that the income from membership down from last year, but numbers remain fairly level

1. **Publications Awards** (Louis Bayman, Johnny Walker)

**8a.** The call for submissions to the BAFTSS Publications Awards has been circulated with the deadline extended from 13th November 2023 until 27th November 2023.

**8b.** 100 submissions for Publications Awards. BAFTSS EC Review panels to be discussed after 27th Nov 2023. **(JW, LB and BAFTSS EC)**

1. **BAFTSS Practice Research Awards** (Shreepali Patel, Agata Lulkowska, Jolene Mairs Dyer, Kate E Taylor)

**9a.** The call for submissions to the BAFTSS Practice Research Awards has been circulated with the deadline extended from 13th November 2023 until 27th November 2023.

**9b.** 27 submissions for Practice Research at the time of the BAFTSS EC meeting (extended deadline until 27 November 2023) BAFTSS EC Review panels to be discussed after 27th Nov 2023. **(SP, JMD, AL and BAFTSS EC)**

1. **BAFTSS PGR Research Network (Ocean Xu, Matthew Bruce)**

Welcome to new BAFTSS PGR Representatives Ocean and Matthew.

**10a**. the call for the PGR Research Poster Showcase has been circulated via BAFTSS Jiscmail, the website and social media. Deadline: 13th Feb 2024. **(LW, MB, OX)**

**10b.** PGR workshop for the BAFTSS 2024 conference Ocean and Matthew to liaise on workshop for the BAFTSS conference, maybe on the Essay Film as a topic? Discussion and update for Jan 2024 EC meeting (**MB, OX)**

**10c.** Matthew to resurrect BAFTSS PGR Instagram account and to continue work on Twitter /X @baftsspg **(MB)**

1. **BAFTSS Research Network SIG Report** (Liz Watkins)

**10a.** BAFTSS SIGS updated SIG membership lists sent to each of the 24 SIGS with a reminder about BAFTSS SIG Funding, and invitation to submit a panel for the BAFTSS 2024 Conference.

**10b. BAFTSS SIG Funding Applications**

* BAFTSS Practice Research SIG are supporting the 2024 B-Film Creative Practice Colloquium on be ‘Institutions and Industries: Synergies and Struggles’ at the University. of Birmingham – agreed
* BAFTSS Adaptations SIG will host an event on ‘Adaptation in and Beyond Film’ 3rd June 2024 at the University of Birmingham. Agreed
* Notification to go to applicants (LW)

**10c. BAFTSS SIG Funding Reports**

* BAFTSS French and Francophone SIG Report <https://www.baftss.org/uploads/1/3/9/8/139813734/baftss_french_and_francophone_cinema_report_2023.pdf>

- BAFTSS Documentary SIG [Report: Book Launch: *Intimate Sovereignty* by Laliv Melamed (University of California Press, 2023), Queen Mary University London. 8 June 2023.](https://www.baftss.org/uploads/1/3/9/8/139813734/report_baftss_documentary_sig_event_13-07-23.docx)

**10.d** **BAFTSS SIG Newsletter issue 9 November 2023** will be circulated to the BAFTSS EC after the meeting. Each Newsletter has been circulated to the BAFTSS EC and BAFTSS SIG Convenors ahead of publication.

BAFTSS SIG Newsletter issue 8 (June 2023) received 1800 views on the Colour and Film site **(LW)**

1. **New Connections & FTC/ Affiliated/ Independent Researchers Representative Report.** (Eve Benhamou)

**11a.** New Connections Scheme 2023 presentations have concluded. The presenters have been invited to consider submitting a research journal article to *Open Screens*.

**11b.** the New Connections Scheme has been advertised for 2024.

**11c.** the workshop at the BAFTSS 2024 conference is pencilled in for 90mins and can be hybrid. There is an option for a recording of the session can go on the conference and/or BAFTSS website. The workshop could be co-organised with the Job Search Community group (see point 13) **(EB)**

1. **BAFTSS ECR Mentoring Scheme** (Gabor Gergely)

**12a.** LW forwarded the Mentoring Scheme documents to GG to facilitate a meeting between GG and MaoHui Deng as convenor of the scheme in 2022-23.

**12.b.** GG has circulated the call for mentors and mentees for the 2023-24 round.

**12.c.** the EC agreed that Christina Wilkins will be invited to work with GG so that there are two EC members who have a good view of the way the scheme operates and to facilitate the involvement of new EC members in the work of the BAFTSS EC. **(GG, CW).**

1. **Job Search Community** (Agata Lulkowska, Kate Taylor Jones)

**13a.** KJT and AL will contact EB to discuss a Job Search Community Workshop either collaboratively with the FTC/ Affiliated/ Independent Researchers Representative workshop **or separately** at another time of year. 2 workshops have been factored into the BAFTSS 2024 Conference (the PGR workshop and the FTC/ Affiliated/ Independent Researchers Representative workshops). **(AL, KTJ)**

1. **Social Media Report** (Christine Wilkins and Liz Watkins)

**14.a** LW and CW have continued to update Twitter/X and Facebook with the BAFTSS Conference CFP, Calls for submissions to the Practice Research Awards, Publications Awards, PGR Research Poster Showcase, Open Screens, Funding Schemes and Letters and Responses. BAFTSS SIG projects are retweeted to increase visibility.

**14.b** Social media figures:

**Twitter/X** 4,474 followers. Top tweet September- November 2023: BAFTSS 2024 conference with 6.8k views, Travel Bursary Scheme 1.2k, New Connections 1.5k people reached.

**BAFTSS Facebook** has 1.6k followers and a total 1.5k likes. BAFTSS 2024 conference is the top post with 675 people reached and 7shares. New Connections Scheme 500+ (across two posts) , Open Screens 546 and Funding 475, followed by the call for Submissions from the Publications Awards registered 414 people reached.

1. **AOB**

**Request from SP for an Agenda Point** for the next EC Meeting for further discussion regarding which issues BAFTSS EC writes letters of protest against/ support for.

**The Chair (LW)** noted that all Open Letters and responses have been circulated so that the full BAFTSS EC have had the opportunity to contribute, comment and discuss within the available time frame (e.g. external deadlines) in advance of publication. Open letters, responses etc are for circulation in a public forum on behalf of BAFTSS members and need to be within the scope of BAFTSS Mission Statement as a national subject association representing UK HEI staff and students in film, television and screen studies.

**(all BAFTSS EC)**

**Meeting ended 12:05**

1. **Time and Date of next meeting: 13:00-16:00 Friday 16 February 2024 (decided by Doodle Poll)**