

BAFTSS Postgraduate Events Funding Competition Report

Barney Samson

The event for which I applied for funding from BAFTSS was highly successful, and this success relied greatly on the financial assistance from BAFTSS, which allowed key participants in the event to attend. The event was a workshop for the members of the Islands Poetics Research Group, a group of young researchers from across Europe working together on the poetics and politics of the island, with a special focus on British and American culture.

I was also successful in applying to my department for funding to support this event, and they provided funding for rooms in which to work and for lunches and coffee. There were no fees attached to the workshop so no fee waivers are necessary. The funding from BAFTSS was spent on transport and accommodation as detailed below and all unspent funding will be returned.

Ultimately the event was in two parts:

1. Symposium (22 January 2015, programme below)
2. Workshop (23 - 25 January 2015)

It was decided to hold a symposium prior to our workshop in order both to share with one another our most current individual research, and to disseminate our work to a wider audience. The first session of the symposium was dedicated to exploring the idea of island poetics, while the second session consisted of analyses of particular screened representations of islands (see programme below). We were also privileged to have a keynote address by Professor Jeffrey Geiger on islands and visuality. As well as Professor Geiger and the members of the Research Group, the symposium was attended by other postgraduate students from the University of Essex (where the symposium was held), postgraduate researchers from other UK universities, and at least one early career research fellow. I also received requests to share the audio recordings of the symposium from other academics who were unable to attend in person.

The symposium was followed by three days spent writing together. This was the first time we had attempted to write jointly and it was an extremely productive endeavour, so much so that we have already scheduled another similar workshop in Dublin in May 2015.

Our work focussed on detailed close readings of representations of islands, for example the first shot in the television drama *Lost*. In this shot a protagonist regions consciousness in the interior of an island and walks to the beach, where he discovers that he is on an island. We spent a great deal of fruitful time examining how this is represented on screen and what this process 'does' to the idea of the island. We also compared this representation to that in Byron's poem 'The Island, or Christian and his Comrades'.

Our intention remains to to publish a peer-reviewed paper on the representation of islands in contemporary film, television and video games, and the dialogue between these works and 'classic' island texts such as Robinson Crusoe, The Swiss Family Robinson and Treasure Island. The work achieved on this BAFTSS-funded workshop was an extremely productive start to this project. We will now continue both to write collaboratively at a distance and to write together in person at future workshops.

Island Poetics Symposium

presented by the Island Poetics Research Group with
the generous support of the LiFITS Department at the University of Essex
and the British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies

Thursday 22 January 2015

2.00pm **Keynote Speaker Prof. Jeffrey Geiger**
Oceanic Sublime: Islands in Colour

2.40pm **Island Poetics (chaired by Sean Seeger)**

Britta Hartmann, Daniel Graziadei, Johannes Riquet
Island Poetics: The Project

Johannes Riquet (Zurich)
Islands as (Floating) Images: Theorising Island Poetics

Daniel Graziadei (Munich)
Archipelagic Movements: Theorising Island Poetics II

3.45pm **Coffee**

4.00pm **Island Visualities (chaired by Tom Waters)**

Ian Kinane (Trinity, Dublin)
Remediating Pacific Desert Islands on Screen

Britta Hartmann (Vechta)
Treasure Island: Adaptation, Adventure, and Nostalgia

Barney Samson (Essex)
Lost: A Desert Eye-Land

Island Poetics Research Group

In this international research project, a group of young researchers (today's speakers) are regularly meeting and organising panels at international conferences on the poetics and politics of the island, with a special focus on British and American island fiction.

The aim is to go beyond approaches to island fiction that mainly focus on reading the island as a trope for colonialism, and instead develop a more sustained understanding of the spatiality of the island in its multiple configurations.

Following this symposium the members of the research group will take part in a three-day research and writing workshop hosted by the University of Essex and with funding from the British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies.

Expenses

Flights

From Bremen to London (Stansted) (FR3633)

Wed 21 Jan 2015

From London (Stansted) to Bremen (FR3632)

Mon 26 Jan 2015

Total paid 43.98 EUR

£32.17

From Dublin T1 to London (Stansted) (FR 206)

Thu 22 Jan 2015

Total paid 19.99 EUR

£13.90

Other travel

Ticket Cost:£12.00

Travelling on: 22/01/2015

Journey Type: Single

From: Stansted Airport Coach Station, Bay 26

To: University of Essex, Valley Road

Adult Tickets: 1

£12

Colchester accommodation

Premier Inn Colchester Cowdray Avenue (A133)

Arrival date: After 2pm on 22/01/15

Departure date: By midday on 23/01/15

Type of room: Twin room, non-smoking

Guests: 2 Adults (£81.00)

£81

London accommodation

Clink78 Hostel Booking Confirmation

arriving on 23 JAN 15

& leaving on 25 JAN 15

(4) 10 Bedded Dorm bed for 4 person(s) in total.

The total cost of your booking is £ 212.00 GBP.

[Of which £106 was for post-graduate students.]

£106

Stansted accommodation

Holiday Inn Express London - Stansted Airport

Rate Type: FLASH SALE

Number of Rooms: 1

Room Rate Per Night: £39

Sun 25 Jan 2015 - Mon 26 Jan 2015

Total Price:

£39.00

TOTAL

£284.07