

## BAFTSS Animation SIG

« Les studios d’animation en Europe : contextes, connexions et représentation / Animation Studios in Europe : contexts, connections and representations », 6-7 June 2024, Maison de la Recherche, Université Paris 8

This international conference brought together researchers of all career stages and industry professionals to discuss European animation studios, and included papers in English and in French.

Academic interest in the spaces of animation production has notably grown in recent years. Animation studios operate within a specific material and sociocultural context, facing economic stakes at local, national and international levels; their industrial structure and global reach can rival with their live-action counterparts. European animation studios are central to understand such issues, especially considering their remarkably singular positioning – between collaborating with American studios and challenging their practices, establishing European partnerships and highlighting national specificities.

This conference investigated European animation studios from a variety of perspectives, examining their diversity and particularities while also highlighting convergences and parallels. Papers covered studios from France, Switzerland, Poland, the Czech Republic, Greece and the UK, as well as global partnerships with Georgia, the United States and South Africa. After an introductory talk by the organizing committee (Dr Eve Benhamou, Xavier Kawa-Topor, Mathieu Mallard and Dr Marie Pruvost-Deslaspre), the first keynote presentation by Dr Annabelle Honess Roe (University of Surrey) provided a detailed case study of Aardman Animations, analysing the relationship between the cultural identity of this British studio and the evolution of its business practices. This was followed by two panels, “Spatial Organization of Studios and their ‘Geography’” and “Local and Transnational Scales”. Day 2 opened with a panel focusing on “Animation Styles and Studio Identity”, followed by the second keynote of the conference. Professor Maria Tortajada (University of Lausanne) presented her current research project on Swiss francophone animation, exploring networks between studios, artists and filmmakers. The day concluded with two panels: “Professional and Technical Practices” and “National Contexts and Economic Models”.

Dr Eve Benhamou, Associate Lecturer in Film, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3, July 2024



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Colloque international

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Image : Décor - La préhistoire des grenouilles de Jacques-Patry Girard - 2023 - Collection Musée Château d'Arnsay © Musées d'Arnsay

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