# Screen Industries Special Interest Group (SISIG) Report 2016-2018

SIG Convenors: Jack Newsinger (Nottingham), Andrew Spicer (UWE) and Steve Presence (UWE)

## Publications

During the period 2016-2018 members of the Screen Industries Special Interest Group authored in excess of 20 book chapters and some 24 journal articles, including Shelley Cobb and Natalie Wreyford’s article in *Feminist Media Histories* ‘[Data and Responsibility: Toward a Feminist Methodology for Producing Historical Data on Women in the Contemporary UK Film Industry](http://fmh.ucpress.edu/content/3/3/107.short)’ that won the BAFTSS award in 2018.

SISIG members authored or edited seven books, including Geoff King’s [*Quality Hollywood*](https://ibtauris.com/Books/The-arts/Film-TV--radio/Films-cinema/Film-theory--criticism/Quality-Hollywood-Markers-of-Distinction-in-Contemporary-Studio-Film) (I.B. Tauris 2016) and [*Positioning Art Cinema*](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Art-Cinema-Positioning-Construction-International/dp/1788310187) (I.B. Tauris 2018); and Sarah Atkinson’s [*From Film Practice to Data Process*](From%20Film%20Practice%20to%20Data%20Process) (Edinburgh 2018), amongst others.

## Journal Special Issues

SISIG members edited two journal special issues 2016-2018, including Justin Smith and Emily Caston’s (2017) music video-focussed special issue of[*Music Sound and the Moving Image*](https://online.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/toc/msmi/11/1) and Jeanette Steemers’ (2017) co-edited (with Annette Hill) special section of the *Media Industries* journal on [media industries and engagement](https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/mij/15031809.0004.1%2A?rgn=main;view=fulltext).

## Presentations and talks

SISIG members gave over 70 talks, presentations and keynote speeches, including Atkinson’s (with Helen Kennedy) keynote at the Edinburgh International Film Audience Conference (March 2018) entitled ‘“In another dimension, with voyeuristic intention”, Researching participatory cinema audiences in the 21st century’; and SISIG co-convenor Jack Newsinger’s keynote at the ‘Investigating Regional Creative Clusters’ symposia (March 2018) at Watershed in Bristol.

## Conferences and events

‘Investigating Regional Creative Clusters’ was one of two SISIG-sponsored events that took place during 2016-2018, the other being a two-day media industries research international PhD event at the Arnolfini in Bristol (June 2018), co-sponsored by the University of the West of England and the Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences. SISIG co-convenor Andrew Spicer chaired the official SISIG panel at the BAFTSS conference in 2018, and SISIG partnered in the Media Industry Studies conference (KCL, April 2018). This brought together media industries researchers from Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), International Communication Association (ICA), International Association for Mass Communication Research (IAMCR), European Network for Cinema and Media Studies (NECS), European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), European Media Management Association (EMMA), AG Medienindustrien, Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft (GfM) and the *Media Industries Journal*. The conference was led by SISIG member Paul Macdonald and Andrew Spicer served on the Advisory Panel. In February 2018 SISIG co-convenor, Steve Presence, launched ‘UK Feature Docs’, a major AHRC-funded research project on the feature-length documentary film industry (2018-20). A national meeting at the BFI was attended by BBC Storyville, Creative England, Dartmouth Films, Doc Society, Docsville, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Dogwoof and The Grierson Trust.

## Public engagement

SISIG members acted as expert contributors to a great range of policy and industry bodies, companies and organisations, both in the UK and internationally. Andrew Spicer worked with UNESCO City of Film partners, the BFI and the Confederation of Creative Industries. Phil Drake worked with the Council of Europe and Creative Scotland’s Screen Unit, and was an invited participant in Ofcom's discussions on the BBC and distinctiveness. Jeanette Steemers was an invited speaker at ‘The Value of Commercial Television’ in June 2017 in Brussels. Jack Newsinger co-authored an evidence review on [workforce diversity in the UK screen sectors](https://www.bfi.org.uk/education-research/film-industry-statistics-research/reports/workforce-diversity) for the BFI and is co-investigator on a project to develop local film policies in Medallin, Columbia.

Emily Caston curated *Power To The People: British Music Videos 1966 – 2016*, a six-disc set containing over 200 of the best of the [British Music Video](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B077YDJVN6/ref%3Dcm_sw_r_cp_ep_dp_2O1RBbNDEDZ63); and Andrew Spicer conducted a Q&A with director Mike Hodges at the Watershed in Bristol as part of the *Cinema Rediscovered* programme of events and the city’s offering as a UNESCO City of Film.

## Thinking forward

SISIG plans for the future are based on a desire to continue to build upon our links with other scholarly bodies engaged with industry-focussed research, and to develop our work through two interventions into the broader field of media industry studies. In the first instance, we are planning a symposium on the methodologies and the ethics of engaging with industry in media research, potentially with a PGR focus. We also plan a SISIG symposium at Bristol in the next year – ‘The “Out of London” agenda: Impact of Channel’s 4 relocation’. We have confirmed SISIG’s involvement with the 2nd Media Industries Conference in 2020 and all three SISIG convenors will sit on the advisory board.