

BAFTSS Annual General Meeting 4th April 2023

The Annual General Meeting of the British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies was convened in-person on the 4th April 2023 at the BAFTSS 11th Annual Conference, University of Lincoln.

1. The outcome of the BAFTSS AGM 2023 Election and Vote was as follows:

BAFTSS Membership April 2023: 753 members. The quorum for the BAFTSS AGM and Election is 20% BAFTSS membership (150 members). BAFTSS Members who voted: 156

Issues put to a ballot of BAFTSS Members in April 2023:

1. Ratification of the BAFTSS AGM 2022 Minutes: agreed
2. Introduction of a lower cost BAFTSS Membership fee of £5 for Taught Programme Students agreed.
151: yes/ 4: no
3. BAFTSS Executive Committee Election appointed the following three members:

Vice Chair of BAFTSS Dr Johnny Walker, University of Northumbria (until July 2025, end of 6 years)

Executive Committee Member Professor Kate Taylor Jones, University of Sheffield (until 2026, end of 3 years)

Executive Committee Member Dr Christina Wilkins, University of Birmingham (until April 2026, end of 3 years)

2. Chair's Report (Dr Liz Watkins, University of Leeds)

2a. April 2023 marked the end of my first full year as elected Chair of BAFTSS. Thanks to all of current BAFTSS Executive Committee Members for the time and interest that they dedicated to ensuring that the work of the Association continued to develop. Thanks were expressed to the brilliant Dr Maria Flood (University of Liverpool) for her work including convening the Publication Awards 2022. Dr Flood stepped down in April 2023. The BAFTSS EC conveyed their gratitude to co-opted BAFTSS Executive Committee Members (May 2022 – April 2023) Professor Kate E Taylor Jones (University of Sheffield) and Dr Jolene Mairs Dyer (University of Ulster) for their work for the Job Search Community Workshop and on Practice Research Awards. Thanks to Dr Johnny Walker (Northumbria University), who was co-opted as Acting Vice Chair until the April 2023 election.

2b. BAFTSS Membership, as of 20th March 2023, stood at 749 members a remarkable development since 242 members in 2018.

2c. The BAFTSS Executive Committee recognises the challenges faced by staff and students across all career stages the current academic environment of cuts to funding and courses in the Arts and Humanities. The BAFTSS EC has continued to write in support of its members and in protest at specific issues they have encountered:

July 2022. The BAFTSS Executive Committee worked with its sister-association MeCCSA to submit a joint-letter expressing alarm at Queen Mary University of London management's plans regarding the future of Film Studies Department. [Further information](#)

November 2022. BAFTSS EC submitted a letter and signed the petition protesting against the proposed removal of the equivalent of 140 full time staff at Birkbeck College, cuts which would include academic and administrative staff. [Further information](#)

November 2022. The BAFTSS EC wrote of its concern at the plans of Falmouth University to employ new academic staff through a subsidiary group, Falmouth Staffing Ltd (FSL). The implementation of this subsidiary company threatens the national agreements regarding the terms and conditions of employment that university unions have built with the Universities and Colleges Employers Association as university employer association. [Further information](#)

March 2023. The BAFTSS EC wrote to the Office of the Vice Chancellor at the University of East Anglia amidst reports of planned compulsory redundancies across the University. In the broader financial context at UEA, the BAFTSS EC encourage the university to protect the work of the Film, Television and Media

programmes and East Anglian Film Archive as integral to the reputation and future of UEA. [Further information](#)

2d. The BAFTSS EC committed to continuing to raise the profile of Early Career Researchers, Mid-Career Researchers, Visiting/Affiliated Lecturers, Teaching Fellows, Visiting Research Fellows and Practice Researchers on Fixed Term and Fractional Contracts, whose work is integral to academic environment yet often remains without access to institutional research funding. BAFTSS New Connections Scheme and Conference Travel Bursaries for speakers at BAFTSS and Non-BAFTSS Events respond to this imbalance and will continue to offer support. [BAFTSS Conference Travel Bursaries Scheme](#) for Early Career Researcher/ Mid-Career/ Visiting/ Affiliated and Independent Researchers first ran in 2022-23. The scheme has supported 8 researchers, who were without access to other funding, to present their research at conferences organised by and outside of BAFTSS. The scheme will continue to run in 2023-2024 and beyond.

2e. BAFTSS Executive Committee stated its thanks to the University of Lincoln for their commitment to the organisation of the BAFTSS 11th Annual Conference in 2023 during months affected by vital strike action taken by UCU members and associated unions. The BAFTSS 2023 conference was the first in-person event since the 2020 BAFTSS conference (cancelled due to the Covid -19 pandemic) and the BAFTSS 2021 and 2022 conferences which were online.

2f. BAFTSS Conference 2024 and 2025. The open call for future BAFTSS Conference hosts was successfully circulated in May-June 2022. Thanks to all of the Universities who took the time to respond. It was exciting to write that the host Universities for the BAFTSS 2024 conference (University of Sussex) and BAFTSS 2025 conference (to be announced in April 2024) have been agreed.

3. Treasurer's Report (Dr Bella Honess Roe, University of Surrey)

All the BAFTSS accounts are in good standing and the Association is in a strong financial position. BAFTSS is an unincorporated non-profit association that uses any surplus in funds to support events and its membership. On the date this report was compiled, we have £40,130.49 in the BAFTSS bank account and £4,146.76 in the BAFTSS PayPal account into which member subscriptions are paid. To date this financial year, the Association received £16,6610 from membership subscriptions.

3a. Over the course of this financial year (to date) BAFTSS has spent the following:

SIG events funding: £633.20

Events (non-SIG) funding: £2623.00

ECR travel bursaries (to events other than the BAFTSS conference): £750

New Connections: £450

Conference poster award: £100

Other miscellaneous expenses*: £1001.93

PayPal fees**: £608.47

3b. To support the BAFTSS 2022 Conference at the University of St Andrews 2022 we paid a £1500 underwrite, of which £916.92 was returned to BAFTSS after the event. Thank you to St Andrews for the reimbursement of the underwrite.

In total, our outgoings were £7,616.60 and our income was £17,526.92

* This includes fees associated with hosting the website, the membership database and payment system, the Zoom account, accountancy fees and so on.

** These are fees charged by PayPal for receiving payments into our account in the form of membership subscriptions.

3c. Supporting Members

It was agreed by the EC that from the beginning of 2023 various of our funding and member-support schemes would be increased in value, to reflect the rise in cost of living:

Conference poster award: £150 (raised from £100)

New Connections: £150 (from £100)

ECR travel grants: £150

These increases were/ are effective from the next applicable date for the relevant schemes.

3d. BAFTSS subscriptions as tax-deductible

Members have enquired whether BAFTSS can be registered with HMRC so that membership dues can be written off on self-assessment tax returns. In order to do this, we need to file three years' accounts with HMRC. No accounts are available prior to my tenure as treasurer. Therefore, BAFTSS anticipates being able to register with HMRC once our '23-'24 accounts have been compiled. We will keep members updated on this.

4. Membership Secretary (Dr Johnny Walker, Northumbria University)

BAFTSS Membership (April 2023): 753 members.

445 = waged

286 = PhD student or candidate / precariously employed. Unwaged

22 = undergrad / master's student (new category for this year)

For comparison:

April 2022: 579 (315 waged, and 228 are student/unwaged).

March 2021: 524 (308 waged; 216 student/unwaged)

April 2020: 336 members (consists of 207 waged. 129 student/unwaged)

April 2013: 240 members

Jiscmail (mailing list) subscribers (April 2023):

1852 subscribers

For comparison:

April 2022: 1739

March 2021: 1594

April 2020: 1503

April 2013: 242

As in past reports, the April 2013 figures are included for historical context and reflect the earliest years of BAFTSS.

Remarks: It has been encouraging to see BAFTSS membership increase on a yearly basis, including new members from overseas institutions, in addition to a growing number of undergraduate and master's students.

5. BAFTSS SIGS Co-ordinator (Dr Liz Watkins, University of Leeds)

5a. BAFTSS Research Network now consists of 24 Special Interest Groups, which bring together academics, curators, filmmakers, archivists, and researchers across all career stages. BAFTSS Conference programme for 2023 included 14 SIG panel proposals. Each BAFTSS SIG focuses on a research specialism or methodology in film, television, screen studies and practice. The number of BAFTSS SIGS has continued to increase.

24 SIGS in April 2023

22 SIGS in April 2022

20 SIGs in April 2021.

18 SIGs in April 2020.

15 SIGs in December 2018.

5b. New BAFTSS SIGS: 2022-2023 has seen two new SIGs. Welcome to the [BAFTSS Adaptation SIG](#) and the [BAFTSS Media and the Environment SIG](#)! The full list of research groups is on the [BAFTSS SIGs home page](#). BAFTSS remains open to proposals for new SIGS and is particularly interested in the possibility of a research group on silent film and on film sound.

5c. BAFTSS SIGS Newsletters: a summary of the work undertaken by SIGs can be found in the BAFTSS SIG Newsletters.

[BAFTSS SIGS Newsletter issue 6 \(June 2022\)](#)

[BAFTSS SIGS Newsletter issue 7 \(October 2022\)](#)

5d. [Resources for BAFTSS SIG Convenors](#) can be found online.

5e. BAFTSS SIG Funding Scheme was renewed and opened for applications for up to £500 to support BAFTSS SIG activities between 1st January 2023 - 31st December 2024. [Details of the Funding Scheme and the Application form can be found here.](#)

5f. End of two year review Spring -Summer 2022: saw each SIG invited to update the information on their official [BAFTSS SIGs home page](#). Including links to social media to facilitate contact with new members. The review also asked each SIG to: 1) organise an event (online or in-person); 2) host an annual SIG meeting of its members at the BAFTSS Conference; 3)organised a panel at one or more of the BAFTSS Conferences 2020-2022. The review is now complete. BAFTSS pages and convenor details continued be updated as required. **The next 2-year review is due in Summer 2024.**

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

Andrew Moor, Editor, on behalf of the *Open Screens*' editorial team Neil Archer, Charlotte Crofts, James Fenwick, Sorchá Ní Fhlainn, Alice Pember, Marta Suarez & Johnny Walker.

6a. Call for new Social Media Assistant was circulated.

6b. Publication record 2022-23. Since the last AGM we have published 2 issues (Vol 5, Issues 1 & 2): this shift to 2 set publishing points in the year proved preferable to our old process of 'rolling publication'. Subsequently, Vol 5, Issue 2 was a guest edited Special Collection, 'Teaching Women's Filmmaking' (guest edited by Colleen Kennedy-Karpat and Feride Cicekoglu,

6c. Future Plans for publications: Volume 6, Issue 1 is scheduled for publication in Summer 2023 and we have a number of submissions in review at present. We have accepted a proposal for a Special Collection on 'Students on Film' (guest editors Bethan Michael-Fox and Kay Calver).

6d. a call for submissions was circulated at the conference and to BAFTSS SIGS.

7. BAFTSS PGR Representatives: (Emma Morton, University of Warwick and Billy Errington, University of Durham)

7a. The PGR Workshop, BAFTSS Conference 2023 was on 'PGR Precarities in Film, Television, and Screen Studies'. Precarity is seemingly inherent as a postgraduate researcher in academia, and its impact on the wellbeing and mental health of the PG researcher has been well documented. In this workshop, we look at some of the uncertainties and precarities experienced as part of the postgraduate research journey, particularly in our respective fields. These have included, for example, the potential of research to fail and perpetual anxieties around future academic careers; preservation and progression in the context of an unstable academy that rests on the 'publish or perish' idiom; obstacles surrounding funding/self-funding, and the challenges in accessing funding streams more generally.

This workshop explored alternative career pathways for PGs and ECRs in the current academic climate, to offer support for members who have been impacted by the current staffing cuts at various academic institutions across the country. The workshop offered an opportunity to give voice to emotions and feelings of uncertainty that often feel out of place in academic work.

The Workshop also offered three bursaries of up to £150, which enabled our speakers to attend in-person. Thanks to the Conference Committee and to BAFTSS for this financial support as our speakers would not have been able to attend without this.

7b. BAFTSS Conference PGR bursaries. Eight applications were received for the five conference bursaries that were available. A random number generator was used to select recipients from the pool of eligible applications to allocate one of the 5 bursaries available. All bursaries were taken up by the applicants.

7c. BAFTSS PGR Poster Showcase: We received 7 submissions for the PGR Poster Showcase. Those submissions will be voted on at the BAFTSS conference.

7d. Social media: saw a healthy increase in those engaging with and subscribing to our social media channels. In the last twelve months April 2022 – April 2023:

- Facebook: 8% increase in members (152 to 164);
- Twitter: 18% increase in followers (1142 to 1342).

Many thanks again to the Executive Committee for their ongoing support, and those who have engaged with our calls for help with the new PG Workshop format. A reminder of our socials:

Twitter: @baftsspg; Facebook: Search 'BAFTSS PGRs and ECRs'; Instagram: @baftss_pgr

8. BAFTSS ECR/ FTC/ Affiliated/ Independent Researchers Representative Report (Dr Eve Benhamou, Montpellier)

8a. BAFTSS New Connections 2023: 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.

For the 2023 round of funding, BAFTSS provided bursaries of £150 to enable them to present their research to a new audience. Bursaries can be used to cover travel costs and/or academic book purchases.

Information about the 2023 New Connections programme is given below (further details on

<https://www.baftss.org/new-connections.html>)

We would like to thank our ECR members for applying to take part and colleagues at the various host universities for being so welcoming.

Thursday 9th March 2023, 2pm, online event

Dr Sophie Swoffer, 'It's Us!' Reconsidering the Male Gaze in Feminist Performance and Film'. Hosted by the University of Nottingham.

Friday 24th March 2023, 3.30-5pm, Roborough Studios RS2, hybrid event

Dr Alice Pember, 'New Girls on the Block: Music and Dance as Spaces of Aesthetic Politics in *Fish Tank* (2009) and *Rocks* (2020)'. Hosted by the Department of Communities, Drama and Film in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Exeter, as part of the Screen Studies Centre Research seminar series.

Thursday 4th May 2023, time tbc, in-person event

Dr Thirza Wakefield, 'Televisual seriality, and the dramatisation of working-class community in Shane Meadows's works for television (2010–2019)'. Hosted by the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University College London.

Thursday 4th May 2023, 1pm, online event

Dr Dan White - 'There and Back Again: Music as Suture and Desuture in the Fantasy Film Franchise'. Hosted by the University of Leeds, as part of the Leeds Music Research Colloquia.

Wednesday 10th May 2023, 3-4.30pm, in-person event

Dr Christina Wilkins, 'Explanation/exploration: masculinity and mental illness in contemporary film'. Hosted by Queen Mary University London.

Wednesday 31st May 2023, time tbc, in-person event

Dr Dominic Lash, 'What happens in Kiyoshi Kurosawa's *Cure* (1997)?' Hosted by the University of Warwick, as part of the Film and Television Studies Research Seminars.

May/June, date & time tbc

Dr Jules O'Dwyer, 'French Queer Cinema and the Right to the City'. Hosted by the Centre for Visual Cultures, Royal Holloway, University of London.

Wednesday 1st November 2023, 4.15pm, Richard Steinitz Building, Room G/01, in-person event

Dr Elsa Marshall, 'Building a Public Appreciation of Film Music in the USA in the First Decade of Film Music Notes (1941-1951)'. Hosted by the University of Huddersfield.

BAFTSS 2023 Conference bursaries:

BAFTSS is making available 10 Conference Bursaries of up to £150 each to support the attendance of Postgraduate Researchers (5 bursaries) and Early Career Researchers/ HPL/ Mid-Career Researchers/ Visiting Lecturers and Independent Researchers (5 bursaries) who are presenting their research at the BAFTSS 2023 Conference.

8b. ECR/Job Search Support Roundtable, BAFTSS conference, Thursday 4th April, 10-11.30am

This is a joint event, co-organised by Dr Eve Benhamou (BAFTSS FTC Rep) and Prof. Kate E. Taylor-Jones (BAFTSS Job Search Support): 'Research and Teaching Pathways'

Participants: Dr. Xi Liu (University of Sheffield), Dr. Steven Roberts (University of Bristol), Dr. Jaap Verheul (University of Southampton), Dr. Christina Wilkins (University of Birmingham)

9. Social Media Report (Dr Maohui Deng, University of Manchester and Dr Sanghita Sen, Northumbria University)

Twitter/x Followers: 4,255 (50 increase since January 2023)

10. BAFTSS ECR Mentoring Scheme (Dr Maohui Deng, University of Manchester)

In 2022-23 we have included 11 mentees and mentors. The process of finding another match for 1 person was in the process of being agreed at the time of the conference.

11. BAFTSS Job Search Community Annual Report 2022-23 (Professor Kate Taylor Jones, University of Sheffield, Dr MaoHui Deng, University of Manchester with thanks to Dr Eve Benhamou, Montpellier)

11a. Report on discussions with BAFTSS Members: A large number of institutions and organisations run CV advice sessions, drop in-sessions and advice on career pathways and in the past, take up of similar BAFTSS run events was relatively small.

What became clear through these conversations, is that for many people, these are not as helpful as they might be as there needs to be a reflection that the older model of moving from PhD, to postdoc to lectureship is no longer the most likely path. Rather, teaching-specialist contacts, teaching-administration contacts and cycles of postdocs are becoming a visible norm.

Requests were made from BAFTSS members for more support in navigating teaching specialist contacts whilst keeping research alive. In this respect, Professor Kate E Taylor Jones and Dr Eve Benhamou have organised the roundtable panel on this topic to take place at the conference in Lincoln this year. We will also use this workshop as a chance to find out from people what would be really useful in the job-search process.

11b. ECR/Job Search Support Roundtable: Research and Teaching Pathways.

Refer to 8b . BAFTSS ECR/ FTC/ Affiliated/ Independent Researchers Representative Report (Dr Eve Benhamou, Montpellier)

12. Any Other Business.

12a. Professor Lucy Bolton stood to convey thanks to the Chair of BAFTSS and the BAFTSS Executive Committee for the support offered to Queen Mary University London in countering threats to close the Film Department.

13. BAFTSS 12th Annual Conference will be held at the University of Sussex in April 2024.

14. BAFTSS 2024 Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony will be convened at 17:15 -18:45 Thursday 4th April 2024. Jubilee Lecture Theatre (hybrid), University of Sussex.

BAFTSS AGM 2023 Minutes
Dr L Watkins on behalf of the BAFTSS Executive Committee