1. BAFTSS Practice SIG Event: *Filmmaking in the Academy: Practice / Theory Interventions*

The SIG won £250 funding to put on a free one-day symposium entitled *Filmmaking in the Academy: Practice / Theory Interventions*. This was intended to be a celebration of filmmaking in the academy, where practice researchers screen their work and the research dimensions are critically explored with a mixed panel of established, early career and PGR researchers from both practice and traditional film studies backgrounds.

The call for papers invited practitioners to submit films and moving image works readily available to view online, together with a 300-word research statement and links to supporting documentation if applicable (echoing REF guidelines for practice research). The plan was then to make the work available to an invited panel of respondents: Professor Andrew Spicer (UoA34 lead, UWE Bristol), Dr Jacqueline Maingard (co-convener of the Screen Research Cluster, University of Bristol) and Phil Powrie (University of Surrey), who are all interested in engaging critically with practice research.

At the event the work was to be screened with a brief presentation, followed by peer review, which will be performed live at the event in an informal, friendly and constructive environment. Together with the filmmakers, and the audience, the panel would aim to probe the Significance, Rigour and Originality and contribution to new knowledge of the presented works from a variety of theoretical frameworks, including textual analysis, screen industries and genre studies - with a view to supporting the contributors in honing the way in which they articulate their practice as research.

It was hoped that practice work and the resulting conversations could be written up and submitted as a strand to *Open Screens*.

The aims of the original event were threefold:

1. to provide space to communicate the value of practice research in preparation for REF21;
2. to act as a pilot for a potential strand at future BAFTSS Annual Conferences to avoid practice speaking only to practice;
3. to encourage colleagues to submit practice for consideration by the journal.

When the pandemic hit the original respondents were understandably reluctant to commit to an online-only event. I met informally with the contributors and they were all keen to press on with the event online. However, this evolved into a series of seminars because it was felt that it would be impossible to squeeze them all into one online event as people were suffering from Zoom fatigue with online teaching, etc. We also wanted to postpone this to the new academic term as we felt that people were dealing with a lot of adjustments to their workload at the start of lockdown.
The budget was adjusted to £100 to cover two honoraria for the additional panelists of the final event.

These online events were supported by the Digital Cultures Research Centre’s pro Zoom account which enabled a webinar format, hosted in partnership with the UWE Moving Image Research Group (MIRG). The new configuration divided the contributors into four strands linked by the themes or methodologies of their practice:

>>**Family and Autoethnography - Wed, 25 Nov**
*Fatherland* - Kayla Parker & Stuart Moore  
*The Family Album and Other Images* - Stephen Connolly  
*The Album* - Sana Bilgrami  
[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126659701577](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126659701577)

>>**Documentary Methodologies - Wed 2 Dec**
*Fleur de Sel* - Keith Marley  
*Performative Feedback Filmmaking* - Michael Holly  
[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126659701577](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126659701577)

>>**Videographic Film Criticism - Wed 13 Jan 2021**
*Fleur de Sel* - Keith Marley  
*Performative Feedback Filmmaking* - Michael Holly  
[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126661005477](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126661005477)

The final event took on a panel format with Orson’s work and the wider issues being discussed by panelists Asanda Ngoasheng and Anamik Saha, academics and activists who appear in the films.

>>**Exploding the Container - Wed 20 Jan 2021**
A presentation and panel discussion with filmmaker Orson Nava on anti-racist praxis & the relationship between filmmaker & subject  
[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126667835907](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126667835907)
Exploding the Container with Asanda Ngoashgn, Charlotte Crofts, Orson Nava and Anamik Saha (clockwise from top right).

This event was recorded and you can watch it here:
https://uwe.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=c4e2e9f6-57ef-4d8f-8a91-acb601716a27

These online events were much better attended than they might have been had they been taking place in person in Bristol as originally planned. Audiences were also more diverse (at least geographically), as evidenced by attendee reports from the Eventbrite:
Participants were mainly from the UK and mainland Europe, including Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Romania, Slovenia, Hungary, Greece, but we also had guests from the North and South Americas, Australia, New Zealand, India, Israel, Turkey, Norway, Indonesia, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia.

In the UK there was a fairly good geographical spread across the nations and regions:
Family and Autoethnography:

Documentary Methodologies:

Videographic Film Criticism:
Summary For 29 October 2020 - 13 January 2021

Attendees

105
Exploding the Container:

2. BAFTSS Practice Research SIG Panel at BAFTSS 2021

The Practice Research SIG is following up on these events with a workshop at the BAFTSS 2021 conference. This aims to facilitate an open debate and will actively solicit a sustained involvement of all the SIG members. It will develop a novel format to maximise the benefits of the conference’s online forum by using collaborative interactive tools. This workshop will be both informative and strengthen the Practice Research community though its inclusive narrative and accessible format.

Programme: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Wf8LOji3NxTEMqjWP2U44jPg82u99-w3/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Wf8LOji3NxTEMqjWP2U44jPg82u99-w3/view)

Practice Research SIG Workshop
Thursday 8 April 2021

Chairs: John Twycross (University College London), Charlotte Crofts (UWE Bristol) and Shreepali Patel (Anglia Ruskin University)

In this workshop the BAFTSS Practice Research SIG will continue their exploration of how academic filmmakers situate their work as academic practice. It will build on the group’s successful series of online seminars which facilitated a practitioner led discourse on topics such as autoethnography, methodologies, film criticism and diversity. This workshop will provide an opportunity for further investigation of these subjects in the context of developing skills for better articulating practice as research. Using both video conferencing and an interactive forum (Miro visual collaboration platform) participants will be guided to contribute ideas, thoughts and experiences on a shared online whiteboard. Attendees will be invited to both brainstorm and develop ideas on practice as research with a particular focus on strategies for maximising the credibility of the impact of their work. The approach will encourage blue sky thinking and a more practical REF2021 related discussion. This inclusive workshop will welcome practitioners from all fields along with academic theorists who are interested in practice-based methodologies or collaboration with creative producers. It aims to provide a further step towards consolidating our understanding of how to aptly identify significant knowledge and highlights the unique position of academics to work outside of the constraints of commercial production environments.