BAFTSS Special Interest Group Animation.


In the past two years, the Animation SIG has supported the organisation of notable events, and has grown to become an important presence at the annual BAFTSS conference. In 2017, the SIG partly funded the interdisciplinary symposium “The Persistence of Walt Disney’s Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937)”, co-organised by SIG member Christopher Holliday as part of the Antifest Animation festival. The latter is a public event organised by SIG member Chris Pallant, taking place every year in Canterbury. A conference report can be found on the blog of the Society of Animation Studies (https://blog.animationstudies.org/?p=2221). See also the BAFTSS funding report on the SIG home page.

In 2017 and 2018, SIG members Eve Benhamou, Shaopeng Chen, Chris Pallant, Ciara Barrett and Christopher Holliday presented a paper as part of the official Animation SIG panel, addressing the multifaceted connections between animation and genre (2017), politics and technology (2018). Other members, such as Catherine Lester, Sam Summers and Malcolm Cook also took part in the conference, foregrounding the strong presence of animation researchers within BAFTSS.

Animation SIG member Tashi Petter has been planning a free public event hosted at the Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image, reconstructing the seventy-fourth performance of the London Film Society from November 1934. Featuring numerous animations including works by Lotte Reiniger, the event has been supported by the SIG and will take place in June 2019.

Some of our members have made significant contributions to the field of animation in the UK in the past two years, and engaged with a variety of audiences in the process. In June 2018, SIG co-convenor Malcolm Cook published the monograph Early British Animation: From Page and Stage to Cinema Screens (Palgrave Macmillan) exploring the intermedial relationships of early animation and the role of perception in these films. He also recently contributed his research expertise to a new BBC Four documentary Secrets of British Animation. As well as advising the programme makers during pre-production, Cook is seen in the programme discussing the work of experimental animator Len Lye and the role music played in his practice.

SIG member Christopher Holliday co-founded the Fantasy/Animation Network with Alexander Sergeant. The Fantasy/Animation website (https://www.fantasy-animation.org/) includes podcasts and a blog featuring articles by many SIG members; the Fantasy/Animation: Connections Between Media, Mediums and Genres edited collection (Routledge) was published in June 2018. Christopher Holliday will also be giving a research seminar at UEA in February 2019 to promote his book The Computer-Animated Film: Industry, Style and Genre (Edinburgh University Press) which was published in May 2018.


SIG co-convenor Eve Benhamou co-administrated the 2017 BAFTSS conference under the direction of Sarah Street. She also contributed to the Animation Studies and Fantasy/Animation blogs with the following articles: “Reimagining the Hollywood Teen Movie: Animation, Fantasy, and Teenage Subjectivity” (https://www.fantasy-animation.org/blog/2018/11/15/reimagining-the-hollywood-