The BAFTSS Special Interest Groups were initiated in December 2016 with a review of the scheme to take place at the end of two years. The idea of the report is to gather information about the SIGs projects, events, publications and to make this work more visible and to review the BAFTSS SIG Funding Scheme.

SIG convenors were asked to provide:
- The report (200-500 words): as a brief review of the work your SIG has done. (eg. websites external to BAFTSS, conference panels, seminars, film screenings, publications, blogs, affiliations or groups your SIG is working with etc.
- Photographs of SIG events for the BAFTSS website
- Updated list of SIG members.
- Thinking forward: suggestions for ways in which BAFTSS might further support the SIGs?

Number of End of Two Year Reports Received (15 Jan 2019): 14
Reports pending from the following SIGS: 1 (German and Screen Studies [research leave] reminder sent 7th and 16th January 2019.)

Current situation:
- Total number of BAFTSS SIGs at the end of 2018: 15
- Each SIG consists of a minimum of 15 members with current BAFTSS membership and 1-2 convenors.
- Each SIG has two pages on the BAFTSS website: 1) a home page; 2) a list of the SIG members.
- SIGs are invited to propose an ‘official SIG panel’ for each BAFTSS Annual conference. The SIG panels are not required to focus on the main topic of the conference. SIGs can submit a proposal for a workshop or discussion panel in place of the standard 3 papers and a chairperson (the allocated time slot remains the same).
- BAFTSS SIG Funding Scheme (2017-2018): See below

BAFTSS Annual Conference SIG Panels.
2017: 8 SIG panels. 2018: 10 SIG panels.
2017-2018: 13 of the 15 SIGs convened panels for the BAFTSS Conference.

Proposals for New SIGS (Nov 2018-Jan 2019)
1. Performance and Stardom SIG: a proposal including a membership list has been submitted (December 2018)
2. Initial enquiry regarding formation of a Survival Media SIG pending further information (November 2018)

BAFTSS SIG Funding Scheme (2017-2018):
The current BAFTSS SIG Funding scheme began in 2017 and closed in December 2018. The scheme allowed for each of the 15 SIGs to apply for £250 per year (rolling over to apply for £500 if an application was not submitted in one of the two years).

BAFTSS SIG funding scheme received applications from: 9 SIGs
Applications received were for amounts between: £210 - £500.
Funding was requested for: 12 events
Successful applications: 11

BAFTSS expenditure on SIG Funding Scheme (2017-2018)
2018: £1470
2019: £1170
Total: £2640

Summary of the Reports: The SIGs increase and sustain the membership of BAFTSS through the formation of research groups. SIG activities raise the profile of BAFTSS and build links to existing organisations. For example, SIG activities have included film screenings, symposia, organising conference panels, SIG-specific websites and blogs. The work of the SIGs also connects BAFTSS to other research organisations and journals, which include: BFI, BFI Film Hub South West, Film Philosophy Journal and researchers, Royal Anthropological Institute, Studies in French Cinema journal, Colour Group (GB) and the German Screen Studies Network’s German Film Club project as public engagement and education research. This work was facilitated by the BAFTSS SIG Funding Scheme. The funding scheme was initiated in 2017 and was open to all SIGs until December 2018. The BAFTSS SIG Funding has supported and/or part-funded 12 projects, organised by 8 SIGs. The SIGs in turn offer funding opportunities and points of collaborative research projects between scholars, filmmakers, archivists at various career stages. Whilst some SIGs were established specifically as BAFTSS projects, the work of representing BAFTSS members means that SIGs do productively engage with existing research projects, journals and groups: the reports reflect this (some emphasise SIG-specific activities, others foreground links to other research groups and journals, or signal the individual work and publications of their members. I would suggest that all approaches and combinations are welcome and work well as part of BAFTSS aims. The array interests represented by the SIGs is important as it is indicative of the work BAFTSS does. Thus, the array, activity and connections to journals and other organisations and projects are important in considering the future of the SIGs. The BAFTSS funding has worked well to facilitate the work of SIGs and I would recommend the continuation of the scheme (see questions and action points). Report by Liz Watkins as BAFTSS SIG Coordinator (16.1.19).