

ECREA Film Studies section – Activity Report 2019

Management team 2018-2020

Chair: Gertjan Willems (University of Antwerp/Ghent University)

Vice-chair: Mariana Liz (University of Lisbon)

Vice-chair: Sergio Villanueva Baselga (University of Barcelona)

Interim ECREA Film Studies section conference in Ghent

The conference theme was **Research Methods in Film Studies: Challenges and Opportunities**

Conference date and location: 24-25 October 2019, Ghent, Belgium

Conference website: <https://ecreafilmstudies2019.wordpress.com/>

The conference, hosted in Ghent, was organized by the ECREA Film Studies Section in collaboration with the University of Antwerp and Ghent University. Co-organizing bodies were:

- Centre for Cinema and Media Studies (Ghent University, Department of Communication Sciences)
- Visual and Digital Cultures Research Center (University of Antwerp, Department of Communication Sciences)
- Research Center for Visual Poetics (University of Antwerp, Department of Literature)
- DICIS (Digital Cinema Studies network)
- Popular Communication division of NeFCA (Netherlands Flanders Communication Association)

The conference welcomed 99 delegates from all over Europe and beyond, resulting in 63 presentations and three keynote talks: Barbara Flueckiger (Zurich University) opened the conference with an impressive overview of how she has applied digital tools for the analysis of historical film colors, Catherine Grant (Birkbeck, University of London) made a convincing plea for ‘playing’ with editing tools as a method to acquire aesthetic insights into films, and Richard Dyer (King’s College London) closed the conference with an outstanding talk on textual analysis (i.e. ‘making sense of films) and serial killing.

Sponsoring

Sponsoring means that the ECREA Film Studies attaches its ‘brand’ to the symposium and that we communicate the symposium via our communication channels (in our mailings, on our website and on our Facebook page). Sponsoring is beneficial for both parties: it increases the visibility and the activity of our Film Studies section, and it increases the visibility and network of the event we sponsor.

Media Mutations 11 conference at the University of Bologna

The section has sponsored the conference ‘MEDIA MUTATIONS 11 Media, Diplomacy and Soft Power. Exploring the Relations Between Emerging Markets and Western Countries’, at the University of Bologna (Italy), on 20-21 May.

Conference website: <https://site.unibo.it/mediamutations/en/previous-editions/2019>

International Seminar on Mutations in documentary films on social contestation:

The section has sponsored the International Seminar on Mutations in documentary films on social contestation, exploring new forms of representation, communication, participation and social impact evaluation in documentary films. It was held in Valencia (Spain) on 4-5 July.

Edited book with the Gender and Communication Section

Vice-chair Sergio Villanueva Baselga submitted a proposal for an edited book to the ECREA Book series of the Routledge Studies in European Communication Research and Education Series, together with the board of Gender and Communication Section and entitled *Gender and sexuality in the European media: Exploring different contexts through conceptualisations of age*. Currently they are in the process of reviewing contributions and it is planned to be published by the end of 2020.

Annual business meeting

- The business meeting at the Ghent conference was attended by Gertjan Willems, Mariana Liz, Sergio Villanueva Baselga, Marco Cucco, Andrea Virginas, Helle Kannik Haastrup, Miguel Fernandez Labayen, Paolo Noto, Chris Meir
- We made an evaluation of the past activities and discussed possible future roads for the section.
- Mariana Liz will be the conference chair for the film studies section at the ECREA 2020 conference in Braga. Several of the attendees of the business meeting are willing to volunteer as peer reviewers for the Braga conference submissions.

Communication

- The website for the Film Studies section is: <https://filmstudiesearea.wordpress.com>
- After the 2016 Prague conference, we've created a Facebook page to increase visibility of the section: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1736261050029748/> The Facebook group is growing a lot: currently (January 2020), it has 890 members (last year there were 355, the year before 205) and there's quite a lot of activity with a variety of people posting all kinds of relevant news items.

Plans for 2020

- Organization of the Film Studies section panels during the general ECREA conference in Braga (2 Oct. – 5 Oct.)
 - o Film Studies section description: Ranging from early cinema experiences in European metropolises to contemporary blockbusters and multiplexes, film has always been at the forefront of European popular culture and of vital artistic creation. The Film Studies section invites contributions that deal with film from a broad variety of perspectives: film as cultural artefact and commercial product, as embodied and social experience, as a symbolic field of cultural production, and as a mediating technology. We strive towards theoretical and empirical engagement in studies of both historical and contemporary cinema. Thus, cultural studies perspectives, historical and theoretical approaches, textual as well as institutional analysis, and audience research all find their place within the Film Studies section.
- Election of new management team during the Braga conference