



**Minutes of the 2023 SERCIA General Assembly
28th SERCIA Conference
September 8, 2023
Université Paris 13, France**

Present: Jean-François BAILLON, Guilhem BILLAUDEL, Hélène CHARLERY, Anne COMBARNOUS, Raphaëlle COSTA DE BEAUREGARD, Celestino DELEYTO, Claire DUTRIAUX, Julia ECHEVERRIA (en visio), Christophe GELLY, Joséphine GRÉBAUT, Marianne KAC-VERGNE, Argyrios KELERIS, Martin KNUST, Hubert LEBOISSELIER, Sébastien LEFAIT, Delphine LETORT, Stella LOUIS, Glenn MANN, Cristelle MAURY (en visio), Gilles MENEGALDO, Nolwenn MINGANT, Céline MURILLO, Anne-Marie PAQUET-DEYRIS, Sarah PESCE, Nathan RABORD, David ROCHE, Costanza SALVI, Marine SOUBEILLE, Joséphine SOURGNES, Mikael TOULZA, Shannon WELLS-LASSAGNE.

Proxies: Julie ASSOULY (to M. Kac-Vergne), Zachary BAQUÉ (to M. Toulza), Sophie CHADELLE (to D. Roche), Emilie CHEYROUX (to G. Billaudel), Nicole CLOAREC (to S. Wells-Lassagne), Anne CREMIEUX (to D. Roche), Gaspard DELON (to A-M. Paquet-Deyris), Sara EL MAHJAD (to M. Soubeille), Hadrien FONTANAUD (to G. Billaudel), Sarah HATCHUEL (to M. Kac-Vergne), Anita JORGE (to M. Toulza), Isabelle LE CORFF (to D. Letort), Anne-Lise MARIN-LAMELLET (to C. Murillo), Hervé MAYER (to A-M. Paquet-Deyris), Monica MICHLIN (to H. Charlery), Zeenath SALEH (to R. Costa de Beauregard), Dominique SIPIÈRE (to G. Menegaldo), Andrea VIRGINÁS (to C. Deleyto).

David Roche, president of SERCIA, opens the general assembly at 11 a.m. by warmly thanking Céline Murillo for her hard work and commitment organizing the 28th SERCIA conference, as well as Nicole Cloarec, Anne-Marie Paquet Deyris and Mehdi Achouche for their contribution to this year's conference organization, Jeffrey Sconce for his stellar keynote conferences, as well as the laboratory PLEIADE and all the students and colleagues who contributed to making the 2023 conference such a memorable event.

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 General Assembly in Clermont-Ferrand

The minutes are unanimously approved by show of hands.

2. President's report, proposal for honorary members and Manifesto + vote

As always, the President's report is actually the President's and the Vice-President's report and seeks to sum up the board's work over the past year, as well as that of many other SERCIA members. After a cautious 2022 conference in Clermont-Ferrand, it really does seem like the COVID pandemic is behind us, which is a major relief for everyone of course, but which also means that our association is starting to recover some of the momentum it had gained prior to 2020. As of today, SERCIA currently has 90 members, which is steady but still below pre-pandemic numbers (about 115 in 2019). Yet, while the

pandemic has stymied the association's growth, SERCIA has been very active in these trying times. We are very happy that some of our younger members have gotten tenured positions and that other members have brilliantly defended PhDs or HDRs this academic year. SERCIA PhD Award laureates Julia Echeverría and Pablo Gómez have published the book version of their PhDs with Routledge. SERCIA members have been busy organizing events (two of which received funding from SERCIA), submitting ANR projects, attending NECS and organizing panels at SCMS, SAES and AFEA. (I hadn't attended the AFEA conference in years and it felt to me like the AFEA conference in Dijon was a mini-SERCIA/GUEST conference!)

The follow-up publications to the 2011 Bath and 2018 Växjö conferences have been published in the journals *Film Journal* and *Interfaces*. The second collective volume from the 2015 Arras conference, the collected volume from the 2017 Bologna and the English issue from the 2019 Brest conference will come out during the winter 2023-2024. The Zaragoza conference organizers are working on a collected volume to be submitted to Routledge, and the Clermont-Ferrand organizers will be publishing a selection of articles as an issue of *Film Journal*. Publishing in academic journals has proven to be a good option, and there are many French-based journals we can still try and work with in the future (*E-Rea*, *LISA*, *Mise au point*, etc.). We would like to thank all the editors (Julia Echeverría and Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot; Fátima Chinita; Michelle Fadda, Sara Pesce and Costanza Salvi; Julie Assouly and Marianne Kac-Vergne; and Nicole Cloarec and Elizabeth Mullen) for their dedication to these projects that are never easy to see through. One of the major accomplishments this year involves the *Film Journal* team, who have successfully applied for Open Edition and are currently working on the transfer. Thank you so much Sébastien Lefait, Fabrice Lyczba, Nicole Cloarec and Pablo Gómez for their work on the transfer and, of course, on recent issues.

The board would like to encourage members to apply for the PhD Award and for funding for their conference events, to submit proposals for themed issues to *Film Journal* and, of course, to volunteer to organize future conferences, notably outside of France in 2026 and 2028.

While these successes are undeniable, major challenges remain. This year's agrégation program has proven that not much has changed in twenty years since Gilles Menegaldo and Dominique Sipièrè's early efforts: not only is film relegated to the role of illustrating a work of literature, with jury members telling others that discussing the film is optional even for the *leçon*, but the *directoire* of the agrégation continues to favor coffee-machine solicitations for the syllabus rather than considering the 15-something topics SERCIA as an academic association had submitted under Jean-François Baillon's presidency. But there are more important challenges to tackle. Expanding SERCIA membership outside of France has always been one of our main goals and remains our greatest challenge, the pandemic having countered our efforts on this front. And more profoundly, given how it impacts our working conditions, the humanities as a whole are under threat from today's dominant neo-liberal ideology—an ideology that would deprive us of resources all the while increasingly dictating the criteria by which teaching and research should be evaluated at a dizzying rate as well as what counts as worthy research topics and methodologies. So, we are grateful to the colleagues (Hélène Charlery, Emmanuelle Delanoë-Brun, Claire Dutriaux, Delphine Letort, Nolwenn Mingant) who proposed the "Doing Research after #MeToo" panel for this year's conference; organizing such panels was a project of Celestino Deleyto and Nolwenn Mingant's that was basically compromised by COVID and we would like to pursue such panels.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who will be leaving the SERCIA and *Film Journal* boards: Nolwenn Mingant for her new ideas; Sébastien Lefait who, with the help of Philip Drummond and the rest of the team, has taken *Film Journal* to another level; Celestino Deleyto, whose wisdom and calm have been such a comfort for the entire board; and Céline Murillo, whose devotion to SERCIA knows no bounds, whether as a treasurer of 14 years or the head of the 2023 organizing committee. Céline, Nolwenn, Celestino, Sébastien, thank you so much. In recognition of their commitment to SERCIA, the board would like to propose that Céline Murillo and Celestino Deleyto

become honorary members of the board. Becoming an honorary member of the board is only automatic for former Presidents, so this requires the assembly's approval.

Finally, the SERCIA board would like to propose that today's assembly vote for or against supporting the manifesto for the defense of academic freedom, which was sent last Monday along with the minutes. It was written by a group of scientists and academics, hence the broad scope of the text which is meant to speak to the concerns of scholars in the hard sciences and in social sciences and the humanities alike. Their goal is to get it published in a major French newspaper. I as President have already signed the text but it would carry more weight if SERCIA would sign it as an academic society.

Céline Murillo and Celestino Deleyto's election as honorary members of the board is unanimously supported by show of hands. Murillo and Deleyto show their gratitude with SERCIA.

After a brief debate on what supporting the French manifesto for the defense of academic freedom (attached at the end of this report) entails and our practice as an association to promote the values of this text (reduce the impact of CO2 emissions in SERCIA conferences, for instance), the manifesto is unanimously supported by show of hands.

3. Treasurer's report + vote

The treasurer's report is attached at the end of this report.

The treasurer, Céline Murillo, explains that there were some incidents with the membership payments, as some people retired and others changed status. All SERCIA members are kindly encouraged to set up a yearly permanent transfer with their bank.

The expenses between September 2022 to September 2023 amount to 1,331.40 €. Bank charges are 154.40 €, which are the normal direct fees charged by the bank every year. SERCIA paid for Pablo Gómez's publication (PhD grant). There was no candidate for this year's PhD publication grant.

The incurred costs (pledged money) amount to 9,358 €. There is money pledged for PhD publication grants and, especially, for SERCIA conference publications. SERCIA still has to pay for two events and for conferences organized by SERCIA members.

SERCIA currently has a remaining budget of 10,504.01 €. Céline Murillo believes it would be wise to spend it slowly.

The associate treasurer, Marianne Kac-Vergne, explains that, as of today, SERCIA counts 90 members, 13 more than last year, with the numbers getting closer to pre-pandemic figures. Kac-Vergne explains that there will need to be a change of bank account with the change of treasurer, as it is hard to open an account in the name of the association. The new account will be in the new treasurer's name, and it will be announced to SERCIA members. She encourages members to take this opportunity to transition to yearly permanent transfer, which is free of charge. Bank fees change when there is a change of bank accounts or member's status (retirement, promotion). She trusts members to change their fees accordingly.

The 2023 balance is unanimously approved by show of hands

4. Election of committee members

The first series of elections is conducted by show of hands.

- **Secretary:** Zachary Baqué, who could not be present in Paris, wishes to submit his candidacy for a second term.
- **Associate Secretary:** Julia Echeverría wishes to submit her candidacy for a second term.
- **Associate Treasurer:** Marianne Kac-Vergne wishes to submit her candidacy for a third term.

Zachary Baqué is unanimously reelected as Secretary by show of hands.

Julia Echeverría is unanimously reelected as Associate Secretary by show of hands.

Marianne Kac-Vergne is unanimously reelected as Associate Treasurer by show of hands.

The second series of elections is conducted with ballots. The President and Vice-President must always be elected and re-elected by ballots.

- **President:** David Roche submits his candidacy for a third and final turn.

I am honored to present my candidacy for a third and *final* term as President of SERCIA. For those of you who do not know me, I am Professor of Film Studies at Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3, where I co-head the Master's Program with Chloé Delaporte and the local branch of the SNESUP-FSU union. I am also a Senior member of the IUF and a member of the ANR project FEMME, headed by Delphine Letort and devoted to the study of women directors, screenwriters and producers from a feminist perspective in the British, French and US film industries. My recent publications include the monograph *Meta in Film and Television Series* (Edinburgh UP, 2022), and the collected volumes *Women Who Kill: Gender and Sexuality in Film and Series of the Post-Feminist Era* (Bloomsbury, 2020), *Transnationalism and Imperialism: Endurance of the Global Western Film* (Indiana University Press, 2022) and *Edgar Poe et ses motifs à l'écran* (PUR, 2023), edited with Cristelle Maury, Hervé Mayer and Vincent Souladié respectively.

I have been a member of SERCIA since 2004 and a member of the board since 2007, first as Secretary, and then as Vice-President. After so much time on the board, I am not sure I have that much more to offer, but I promise to do my best. My objectives for this final term are fairly simple: (1) to organize a great SERCIA conference in Montpellier in 2025, with the help of a team including Claire Cornillon, Anne Crémieux, Sarah Hatchuel, Hervé Mayer and Monica Michlin among others; (2) to continue strengthening SERCIA's position on the international scene (something which has always been a challenge); (3) to ensure that SERCIA's immediate future for future SERCIA Presidents, Vice-Presidents and board members (something which I'm not too worried about given the great people on the board and the many SERCIA members who have yet to become board members); and (4) to encourage SERCIA to take position politically vis-à-vis the many challenges that face academia and humanity in general: the assault of neo-liberalism on higher education and research and, more broadly, all forms of discrimination and violence, systemic injustice and, of course, adapting to climate change. I must say I will miss working with Celestino Deleyto, who, I am sure, will continue to act as a fervent SERCIA advocate. But I can also say that I very much look forward to working with Delphine Letort whose candidacy I fully support.

- **Vice-president:** Delphine Letort presents her candidacy for Vice-president. She wishes to highlight how SERCIA has always been supportive of young scholars and PhD candidates, and cherishes its warm, intimate and friendly atmosphere. She will work towards activating and exploring networks and connections with people abroad for future conferences and collaborations.

Dear Sercian colleagues,

I am pleased to present my candidacy for the position of Vice-President of SERCIA, currently held by Celestino Deleyto from the Universidad de Zaragoza.

I have been a member of the association since 2000 when I was a Ph.D. candidate. It will be an honor to pursue the work accomplished by SERCIA beside David Roche as President at a time when film studies are facing new challenges in the wake of #MeToo and other social movements.

Originally a film noir researcher interested in the cultural politics of representation, I have written and co-edited books and articles on a diversity of topics -- including war and documentary, gender and TV series, African American history and cinema. A professor of film studies at the University of Le Mans since 2017 (and MCF since 2005), I have been the director of the [3L.AM](#) Research Center (Laboratoire Langues, Lettres, Linguistiques des Universités d'Angers et du Mans, 2018-2023) and the editor-in-chief of *e-LISA Journal* since 2016 (with Nicole Cloarec since 2019). These experiences can be useful for the organization and promotion of SERCIA's activities, including *Film Journal*.

I see SERCIA as a safe and stimulating space for film scholars and students to explore thought-provoking topics and share challenging ideas. I hope to help contribute to the warm and welcoming atmosphere of SERCIA conferences by nurturing the intellectual and friendly links that gather Sercians around film and TV series studies.

Best regards,

Delphine Letort

University of Le Mans

- **Treasurer:** Claire Dutriaux presents her candidacy for treasurer.

Dear Sercians,

I am writing to apply for the SERCIA Treasurer position, soon to be left vacant by Céline Murillo, who has done an amazing job over so many years, and whom I hope to emulate.

For those of you who don't know me, I am Associate Professor in US history and culture at Sorbonne Université, Paris, France. My current research focuses on Hollywood censorship in the US South but I have also written on representations of race, gender politics, social issues, as well as film genres such as the western.

I have been a member of SERCIA since my PhD, and participated in my first SERCIA conference in Bath in 2011. For now more than a decade, I have never ceased to enjoy SERCIA and its members - a community where researchers are warmly welcomed, share ideas, and collaborate. I would like to give back some of what SERCIA has given me over the years – and also, I am pretty good with budgets and Excel tables.

Warmly,

Claire Dutriaux

- **Relations with other associations:** Christophe Gelly wishes to present his candidacy. Gelly organized last year's conference in Clermont-Ferrand. He expresses his strong belief in SERCIA as an association and in trying to establish relations with other associations.

Dear Sercian colleagues,

I am pleased to apply for a position in charge of External Relations in the SERCIA board, currently held by Nolwenn Minguant (Université d'Angers), who has been very helpful in the past years and whom I wish to thank for the work she did.

I have been a member of the association since 2008, and I co-organized the 2022 conference in Clermont-Ferrand. I am a Professor in British literature and film studies at the Université Clermont Auvergne, France, and my research focuses mainly on film genre (film noir, SF, and dystopia), film adaptation, and film theory in general. Among other topics, I have written books and articles on Raymond Chandler, Sherlock Holmes and H.P. Lovecraft adaptations, and I have a book coming out this fall on dystopia in literature and cinema. I am part of the editorial board of Ecrans (<https://classiques-garnier.com/ecrans.html>). For many years I used to organize the cinema workshop at the SAES yearly conference, together with Isabelle Schmidt, which gave me some experience in managing the relationships with other academic associations. I am a member of AFFECAV, SAES, and other learned societies. I hope to extend the international visibility of SERCIA through promoting collaborations with foreign associations. I also wish to contribute to the specific SERCIA atmosphere, which is to me both congenial and stimulating.

Looking forward to seeing you in September in Paris, I wish you all a nice summer.

- President:** 48 votes in favor, 1 blank. David Roche is reelected as President.
- Vice President:** 49 votes in favor. Delphine Letort is unanimously elected as Vice President.
- Treasurer:** 49 votes in favor. Claire Dutriaux is unanimously elected as Treasurer.
- Relations with other associations:** 47 votes in favor, 1 blank. Christophe Gelly is elected to be in charge of relations with other associations.

Celestino Deleyto wishes to thank SERCIA for his years as Vice-president. He is happy to see the society grow academically and to see its mounting quality and the high number of “unstoppable” younger scholars. He wishes to thank every member of the association for their cooperation, and for being so kind and welcoming to people outside France. He values the intimate and friendly atmosphere of the association and its conferences. He will continue working for SERCIA, helping with the organization of next year’s conference in Milan and organizing a seminar/round table on tips on how to attend SCMS conferences.

5. *Film Journal*

Sébastien Lefait wishes to thank every member of *Film Journal*—Nicole Cloarec, Fabrice Lyczba and Pablo Gómez—for their excellent work this year. Issue 9, *Screening the Box*, edited by Nicole Cloarec and himself, is well under way. He announces the journal has been accepted for OpenEdition (Open Access), which is a huge achievement, since OpenEdition includes top-quality journals in the Humanities. The journal’s page is already online but the issues haven’t been transferred yet:

<https://www.openedition.org/42079#:~:text=Film%20journal%20est%20une%20revue,www.sercia.net>

Dear Sercians,

Two years ago, through this very same mailing list, I declared myself happy to remain editor in chief of *Film Journal* adding that I would not run again two years from then. So here we are: the position will be up for grabs at the September Sercia AGM.

A new era will soon dawn for *FJ*, which will be available through OpenEdition as of September, which should be an incentive for anyone hesitating to run. Potential candidates should also feel free to contact me with queries, and I will of course make myself available to ensure a smooth transition period.

I want to extend many thanks to the *FJ* team, our assistant editor Fabrice Lyczba; our occasional papers editor Nicole Cloarec, and our book reviews editor Pablo Gómez Muñoz, and to my dear friend and colleague Phillip Drummond for his help as joint editor in chief for more than two years.

I look forward to seeing most of you in September in Paris.

All the best.

Sébastien

- **Editor-in-chief:** Cristelle Maury, online, expresses her enthusiasm in succeeding to Sébastien Lefait as editor-in-chief.

Dear Sercians,

I'm writing to apply for the position of editor-in-chief of *Film Journal*, which will soon be vacated by Sébastien Lefait, whom I thank warmly for all he has done for *Film Journal*.

I'd be delighted to work together with Fabrice Lyczba, Nicole Cloarec and Pablo Gómez Muñoz to continue the work. One of the team's major achievements is that *Film Journal* will soon be available on Open Access, which will enable *Film Journal* to gain greater visibility, and will provide editorial guidance and technical support to oversee the digital publishing process.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Associate Professor of English and Film Studies at the Université Toulouse 2 Jean-Jaurès. My research focuses on classic and contemporary film noir through the prism of gender and sexuality studies. I have been a member of Sercia since my PhD, and attended my first conference in London in 2004. My editing experience includes guest editing journal issues and co-editing collected volumes.

Unfortunately, for personal reasons, I won't be able to attend the Sercia conference in September.

I wish you an excellent conference,
Best,
Cristelle Maury

- **Occasional papers editor:** Nicole Cloarec wishes to submit her candidacy for a second term.
- **Book reviews editor:** Pablo Gómez wishes to submit his candidacy for a second term.

Dear Sercians,

It has been a pleasure to serve as *Film Journal's* Book Reviews Editor for the past two years—two years that have flown by! Being a reviews editor has been a highly rewarding job, allowing me to come across fascinating books and be in touch with scholars who have been fantastic to work with. I would be delighted to continue editing reviews at *Film Journal* and so I am sending this message to present my candidacy for the position. During this two-year term, six reviews have been published or are about to be published and five more are currently in preparation. The circulation of calls for reviewers has been very useful in this respect and I would like to thank all the members who have kindly responded to the calls and offered to write a review. If I were reelected for this position, I would like to continue circulating calls for reviewers in the future, so if you have just published a monograph, edited a volume, or contributed a chapter to it, please do not hesitate to let me know (pgomez@unizar.es). In some cases, Sercians have also offered to review recently-published books that they were planning to read and I would like to keep working along these lines as well. Finally, I would like to thank the *Film Journal* editorial team, especially Sébastien Lefait, for his help and support with the reviews section and I look forward to continuing working with Fabrice Lyczba, Nicole Cloarec and the new Editor in Chief.

Best wishes,

Pablo Gómez-Muñoz

Nicole Cloarec is unanimously reelected as occasional papers editor by show of hands.

Pablo Gómez is unanimously reelected as book reviews editor by show of hands.

Cristelle Maury is unanimously elected as editor-in-chief, with 49 votes in favor.

Sara Pesce suggests it would be important to explore ways to index *Film Journal* by Scopus to improve the attractiveness of the journal outside France regarding its ranking and visibility.

6. SERCIA publications (other than *Film Journal*)

Celestino Deleyto presents recent and forthcoming SERCIA publications.

A second series of articles from the Bath 2011 conference were published as a second issue in *Film Journal* (Issue 8) in 2022, edited by Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot and Julia Echeverria.

The 2018 Växjö conference has been published as issue 48 of the journal *Interfaces*.

The second collective volume from the 2015 Arras conference will soon be published by the PU Artois by Julie Assouly and Marianne Kac-Vergne.

The Bologna 2017 conference should be published in February 2024 as a collected volume titled *That's Entertainment! Spectacle, Amusement and Leisure Culture*, edited by Sara Pesce and Michele Fadda, and published by Mimesis International.

The English articles of the 2019 Brest conference will be published in the e-journal *Motifs* by the end of 2023, and the French articles will be published later as another journal issue.

The 2021 Zaragoza conference organizers have submitted a collected book proposal to Routledge that has been received favorably.

The 2022 Clermont-Ferrand organizers will be publishing a selection of articles as an issue of *Film Journal*.

7. Website and Social Media

Mikaël Toulza reminds new members to send him a message (serciamail@gmail.com) so that he can add them to the mailing list. He also encourages members to send him a very short message if they wish to advertise book publications or events on social media accounts (on Facebook and on X, formerly known as Twitter, user: @SERCIA_FR) since the number of characters is limited. He takes the opportunity to express that the change in ownership and name of X/Twitter does not fit the values and spirit of the association and remarks the need to address this in the near future.

Toulza informs the members that the content management system for the SERCIA website has repeatedly been hacked recently. This adds to the problem that Jacques Lerognon, who is in charge of keeping up with the website's technical issues, is retiring. Also, the server costs keep increasing. Toulza believes this is a good opportunity to decide what to do with the website, either keep it on Joomla, the current management system, or create a new website altogether on a new open content system like Wordpress.

Jean François Baillon believes there should be a process of collective thinking about the changes we want to make to the website, since it provides great visibility to the members' publications. The same applies to the X/Twitter account – Baillon thinks we cannot afford to lose visibility.

David Roche concludes that the best idea will be to check with Jacques Lerognon what the best option and possibilities for the website are.

Roche and Toulza wish to thank the website manager, Jacques Lerognon, for his work and technical support during all these years.

8. Relations with other associations

Celestino Deleyto addresses this point.

NECS. This year's NECS conference was celebrated in Oslo last June. Deleyto recounts the Oslo conference had a high academic quality, a good atmosphere and was smaller than he remembered, although this may have been specific to Oslo due to the supposedly low number of accepted papers and the high cost of living. Next year's conference will take place in Izmir (Turkey), on the 26-29 June, and the topic is "Emergencies". Deleyto encourages SERCIA members to send proposals and claims he did not notice any hostility to US mainstream cinema after a question raised by Marianne Kac-Vergne.

SCMS. Costanza Salvi, David Roche and Celestino Deleyto participated in the SCMS conference celebrated in Denver this year in two different panels. Deleyto encourages members to think about proposals and panels. Next year's conference is in Boston. The proposals for individual papers and panels must be sent during the summer, normally in late August, as well as the membership renewal. Deleyto will organize a panel at next year's SERCIA conference in Milan to talk specifically about SCMS.

David Roche addresses the French associations.

AFEA. There were 4 panels organized by SERCIA members.

SAES. There were various panels organized by SERCIA members this year. Next year's conference will be held in Nancy. Emilie Cheyroux has been the panel coordinator for three years and would like to stay on another year or two. Vincent Jaunas has volunteered to help her.

Would everybody be happy with letting Vincent Jaunas organize the SAES panels with Emilie Cheyroux? Agreed unanimously by show of hands.

Agrégation. Roche believes discussing this point during the GA would take a lot of time. He proposes to hold a Zoom meeting for French members during the year to tackle these questions:

- A) How important is this for us?
- B) Strategies we should use to address it.

Christophe Gelly will organize the meeting.

9. Forthcoming conferences

Deleyto presents the **2024 SERCIA conference**. The conference will be organized by Germán Duarte in downtown Milan (Chinatown), from the 4-6 September. The conference's provisional title is "Science Fiction and the Contemporary Imaginary." The venue is Fabbrica Del Vapore, an old industrial building repurposed as a higher school for contemporary arts. One of the confirmed keynote speakers is Naomi Mandle, from the University of Jerusalem. The CFP should be out in January.

Céline Murillo reminds the organizers to include the treasurers at an earlier stage so that SERCIA membership is paid on time.

The **2025** conference is planned for Montpellier and will deal with the environment.

Mikaël Toulza has already expressed an interest in organizing the **2027** conference in Lille.

There are currently no candidates for the **2026** and **2028** international conferences. Roche notes that it is always much more difficult to organize conferences abroad, since there are not enough non-French members that come regularly to the conferences. He reminds any future candidates that they can be helped by SERCIA members who could co-organize such an event with a colleague abroad.

Jean-François Baillon notes that maybe SERCIA should discuss the relevance of organizing conferences abroad in order to reduce CO2 emissions.

10. Grants for SERCIA-related events

One grant was awarded this year for SERCIA-related events:

- “Expanded Gus Van Sant” at the Université de Toulouse – Jean Jaurès, on May 23, organized by Zachary Baqué, Sophie Lécole-Solnychkine and Vincent Souladié.

Applications for grants have to be sent to the president, vice-president and the secretary by March 1, 2024 and have to include the call for papers and a general budget.

11. SERCIA PhD Award

Pablo Gómez published his book with Routledge, *Science Fiction Cinema in the Twenty-First Century: Transnational Futures, Cosmopolitan Concerns* (2023), and Julia Echeverría’s book *Epidemic Cinema: The Rise of a Genre* (Routledge) will come out at the end of this year.

This year is the first time there have been no candidates for the PhD Award. We invite young scholars to submit their candidacy in the hope that next year there will be more candidates.

The award is given to a PhD on English-language film and TV in English or French. Along with the dissertation, candidates must submit a book proposal, the minutes of the defense and a letter of recommendation by May 15, 2024. It must be sent to all members of the jury.

12. General Questions

Claire Dutriaux presents the conference “Hollywood Before the Code”, to be held at the Université Paris Nanterre & Sorbonne University, on 27-29 June 2024, and organized by Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris, Claire Dutriaux and Gilles Menegaldo. The deadline for proposals is November 15, but will probably be extended. Keynote speakers: Thomas Doherty (Brandeis University), Charles Wolfe (University of California, Santa Barbara) and Marguerite Chabrol (Université Paris 8).

The general assembly ends at 13:18.

Report written by Julia Echeverría, with help from Mikaël Toulza and Zachary Baqué.

Manifeste pour la liberté d'engagement des scientifiques

Cher·e·s collègues,

Nous demandons à votre conseil, comité ou société de soutenir les scientifiques qui exercent leur liberté d'expression académique en alertant sur les crises écologiques et climatiques à travers l'engagement non-violent de leur choix.

Le changement climatique et l'effondrement de la biodiversité, qui se déroulent à des vitesses jamais observées dans le passé, annoncent des crises sans précédent. Les premiers effets s'en font déjà sentir et augurent un futur dramatique pour l'ensemble des êtres vivants et plus particulièrement l'humanité.

La première mission des institutions et acteurs de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche publique (ESR) est de produire des connaissances scientifiques qui sont un bien commun au service de l'intérêt général [1].

Cela fait plus d'un demi-siècle que des dizaines de milliers d'articles scientifiques documentent le changement climatique et l'effondrement de la biodiversité et alertent les décideurs sur l'urgence à agir. Les scientifiques du GIEC [2] et de l'IPBES [3] ont produit et publié des synthèses toujours plus complètes, offrant non seulement aux décideurs des constats scientifiques solides, mais décrivant également des scénarios et des solutions pour prévenir et atténuer les effets des crises à venir. Ces efforts sont globalement restés vains et leurs impacts largement en-deçà des enjeux [4,5], ne faisant qu'accentuer l'urgence. La constitution d'un socle de connaissances fiables n'a donc pas suffi à mettre en œuvre des actions adaptées.

La seconde mission de l'ESR, tout aussi importante, consiste à diffuser ces connaissances auprès du public, afin de répondre aux besoins de la société et de permettre à chacun·e de faire des choix éclairés. Or, on ne peut que constater un défaut d'information des populations sur les enjeux qui les concernent. Ce défaut est en partie dû à la difficulté de diffuser la connaissance dans un contexte de crise de la médiation scientifique qui participe à la confusion entre faits scientifiques documentés et opinions.

À cette difficulté se rajoute la fabrique du doute par la propagation de discours contradictoires venant d'acteurs ayant tout intérêt à repousser les changements qu'impliquent les transitions écologique et sociales [6, 7]. Il est très inquiétant de voir aussi augmenter, à la mesure de l'urgence, des communications publiques ou gouvernementales qui relèvent du greenwashing, à tel point qu'elles sont sujettes à des sanctions judiciaires [8] et à des désaveux d'institutions publiques et de leurs membres [9].

Aujourd'hui, l'accès à ces connaissances scientifiques permettant une appropriation des enjeux écologiques systémiques est nécessaire pour l'ensemble des citoyen·ne·s et notamment les plus vulnérables, qui subissent en premier les effets de ces crises [10].

Dans ce contexte, il est du devoir des scientifiques, au service des citoyen·nes, d'investir de nouveaux moyens d'interagir avec la société, en entrant dans l'espace public et médiatique pour promouvoir les connaissances scientifiques et dénoncer de toutes les manières possibles les entreprises de désinformation dont nous sommes les témoins. Le devoir de neutralité est parfois mis en avant pour discréditer l'engagement des scientifiques dans le débat public. Il est essentiel de rappeler que la neutralité de la science est une utopie : si la méthode scientifique vise à

l'objectivité, nos objets de recherche, nos questionnements, nos financements, les applications qui sont faites de nos résultats sont le produit de nos sociétés humaines et en portent les orientations. Quand bien même elle serait atteignable, la neutralité scientifique ne s'oppose de toute façon pas à la mission d'alerte du public, en particulier devant l'accumulation des preuves des crises écologiques et de leurs impacts négatifs sur les populations et les systèmes sociaux et économiques.

Ce rôle de lanceur·se d'alerte des scientifiques s'inscrit dans la notion d'engagement personnel, c'est à dire toute prise de position publique sur des enjeux moraux, politiques ou sociaux [11]. Les prises de parole médiatiques, le soutien à des causes, la participation à des manifestations ou à des actions de désobéissance civile non violente en sont différentes modalités, toutes porteuses de cet engagement. Dans le cas particulier des scientifiques, cet engagement relève directement de la liberté académique [12], qui inclut le droit des universitaires "d'exprimer librement leurs opinions sur l'institution ou le système au sein duquel ils travaillent ainsi qu'à diffuser sans restriction le savoir et la vérité" [1, 13].

Pourtant, certain·e·s collègues subissent des pressions ou des sanctions de la part de leurs institutions qui leur reprochent l'exercice de cette liberté académique. Récemment, Rose Abramoff (géologue) a été licenciée de l'Oak Ridge National Laboratory (USA) pour avoir brandi une banderole lors du congrès annuel de l'American Geophysical Union, dans le but d'encourager ses collègues à s'engager dans l'espace public. Le motif de licenciement avancé : s'être livrée à une activité personnelle dans le cadre d'une mission professionnelle [14].

Cet exemple démontre, s'il en était besoin, que les institutions de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur ne sont, pas plus que les universitaires qu'elles emploient, des entités neutres. Les directions de ces établissements sont parfois également soumises à des pressions extérieures venant de financeurs ou d'administrations de tutelle, qui peuvent les inciter à s'écarter de leur vocation initiale et à exercer une censure illégitime sur l'engagement public de leurs agents. A l'inverse, des institutions comme l'Université de Lausanne [11] ont conclu à la nécessité de soutenir et de défendre cette liberté académique et de ne pas entraver la liberté d'expression et d'engagement des universitaires.

Il est désormais crucial que la communauté scientifique dans son ensemble, et notamment les corps intermédiaires que sont les sociétés savantes et les instituts, se positionnent massivement pour défendre l'engagement des chercheur·se·s comme un des piliers de leur liberté d'expression.

Nous invitons votre conseil, comité ou société à se positionner en faveur de la liberté d'engagement des scientifiques, en vous saisissant de ce texte et en contribuant à sa diffusion dans votre communauté dans sa version originale ou amendée.

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- [14] Désobéissance civile : « Les climatologues sont aussi des citoyens et des êtres humains », *Le Monde*, 26 Janvier 2023

Recettes		Dépenses	
DUES	2,578.00 €	BANKING FEES	154.40 €
		INTERNET AND SITE FEES	560.00 €
		OTHER (presents, & refunds	227.00 €
		GRANTS	390.00 €
TOTAUX	2,578.00 €		1,331.40 €

Situations des comptes au 8/09/2022

BRED	4,696.60 €
Livret A	15,165.41
TOTAL	19,862.01 €

Informations complémentaires

Pledged money	
grants	315.00
training film journal	443.00
Thesis publication grant	2,500.00
Arras publication grant	1,000.00
conference Brest Publication	
conference paris pub	1,000.00
Conference Paris organisation	1,100.00
Conférence Saragosse publication	1,000.00
Conférence Clermont	1,000.00
Conf Clermon publi	1,000.00
TOTAL	9,358.00

Réel encours (ce qu'il nous reste réellement à dépenser)	10,504.01 €
Solde des comptes - frais engagés	