



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of SERCIA
Saturday, 9 September 2017
Bologna University (Auditorium)

Members present: Jean-François Baillon, Zachary Baqué, Anna Bisogno, Raphaeëlle Costa de Beauregard, Jean-Baptiste Chantoiseau, Fatima Chinita, Celestino Deleyto, Michele Fada, Kristian Feigelson, Krim Gabbard, Christophe Gelly, Marianne Kac-Vergne, Isabelle Le Corff, Gille Ménégaldo, Chloé Monsaterolo, Elizabeth Mullen, Céline Murillo, Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris, Sara Pesce, David Roche, Zeenat Saleh, Costanza Salvi, Isabelle Schimtt-Pitiot, Dominique Sipièrre, Penny Starfield

Proxies: Roland Carrée, Nicole Cloarec, Anne Crémieux, Xavier Daverat, Mariamne Eliopoulos, Pierre Floquet, Andrea Grünert, Grégoire Halbout, Patricia Kruth, Anaïs Le Fèvre-Berthelot, Delphine Letort, David Lipson, Anne-Lise Marin-Lamellet, Julie Michot, Grégoire Najoua, Melvyn Stokes

The general assembly opens at 11:45 am.

Jean-François Baillon, President of SERCIA, opens the general assembly by asking the members if they approve the minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting, which were sent out on the mailing list. The minutes are approved by a unanimous show of hand.

President's report

Jean-François Baillon begins his report by stating that two recent elements can make SERCIA proud:

- The first one concerns the *agrégation*, a competitive exam for students who wish to become teachers. One of the board's main preoccupations has been the insistence that the study of films should be included in the syllabus of the *concours*. Another concern has been the kind of films to be studied, which has greatly improved. The program for the 2018 *agrégation* includes the adaptation of McEwan's *Atonement* and a major item on western films. This program can be seen as a reward for the collective efforts of SERCIA, but Jean-François Baillon gives special thanks to Claire Dutriaux, Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris, and Penny Starfield for proposing the subject on the West in the Western. He hopes that this situation will go on in the years to come.
- Another element of success is the increase in the number of applications for special grants given by SERCIA for scholarly events organized by SERCIA members. Many requests were made last year, which means that the 500€ envelope had to be split up. Grants were given to the following events: a one-day symposium on Frederick Wiseman in Toulouse organized by Zachary Baqué and Vincent Souladié; a conference on Kubrick organized by Jean-François Baillon in Bordeaux; a conference entitled "Last Pages, Last Shots" organized by Shannon Wells-Lasagne and Armelle Pary in Caen in October; and a future conference on Hitchcock organized by Tifenn Brisset and Dominique Sipièrre. Jean-François Baillon encourages members to inform the SERCIA board about their scientific events and apply for grants.

There are slightly less members than last year, but it is quite usual when the yearly conference is organized abroad. Jean-François Baillon warmly thanks the Bologna team led by Sara Pesce, who have organized a wonderful conference, and welcomes many new interesting members, an encouragement for the future.

Treasurer's report

Céline Murillo shows the balance of the accounts, which is attached at the end of this report.

All of SERCIA's credit money comes from membership fees. Four more members opted for the direct debit option, which represents a slight hike, but Céline Murillo encourages more members to do so. A couple of members pay through PayPal. She explains that a new payment option is now available for European members: regular bank transfers. She also thanks Marianne Kac-Vergne, SERCIA's vice-treasurer, whose dedicated work made it so that the speakers at the conference had all paid their dues on time, before the conference even started, an exploit never heard-of before. SERCIA now has 87 members. Thanks to Sara Pesce and the University of Bologna, a single payment for both membership and conference fees was put in place. This system means that SERCIA needs to transfer the conference fees to the organizers' institution, which involves a little more work than usual but is in fact quite satisfactory. Céline Murillo would like the system to be adopted and feels that, in the future, we should encourage other institutions to let SERCIA collect both membership and conference fees.

As far as expenses are concerned, they are very low this year because very little of the money SERCIA has pledged has been claimed yet. Céline Murillo then makes a list of the pledged money, which includes *Film Journal* and small grants as well as 2000 euros for the Bologna Conference. She explains that no money has been pledged for the publication of the conference in Nijmegen, because they have already received all funding, including for publication.

At the end of 2017, SERCIA will have 8,036€, after the pledged money has been debited, which is a comfortable amount. Céline Murillo announces that the amount of seed money for other SERCIA-related events may be increased.

Celestino Deleyto asks at which date he should set up the periodical bank transfer. Marianne Kac-Vergne answers that February 17 is the date when direct debits happen and that she will send an email in January to remind members.

SERCIA members are asked to approve the treasurer's report, which is unanimously done by a show of hands.

SERCIA Board elections

Two positions have to be elected:

- Board member in charge of relations with other associations, a position held by Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris;
- Board member in charge of the mailing list and the Facebook page, a position held by Julie Assouly.

Both Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris and Julie Assouly wish to be candidates.

A joint vote is organized by a show of hands. Both candidates are unanimously elected by a show of hands and are thanked by a round of applause.

David Roche encourages members who would like to be more active in SERCIA to be candidates for future board positions. He insists on the fact that occasionally board members don't want to run again and feel obligated to do so because there are no candidates, and that new blood and new ideas are beneficial for an association. Raphaëlle Costa de Beauregard adds that board positions give a certain visibility.

Film Journal

Penny Starfield gives her report as editor-in-chief. Over the past year, *Film Journal* has been functioning fully with 2 new positions. The editorial board now includes the editor-in-chief, the assistant editor (Fabrice Lyczba), the book review editor (Jocelyn Dupont), and the occasional papers editor (Nicole Cloarec). *Film Journal* has accomplished its migration from a previous website hosted by University College London. Some minor technical details still have to be resolved, but the website is now fully functioning. Penny Starfield explains that issue 3 is complete: the proofs were read recently and the issue was published. All articles went through the traditional review process by two reviewers and were then, after revisions, read twice by the editor-in-chief and another editor. *Film Journal* is now waiting to get an ISSN number. Penny Starfield quotes Charles Foster Kane: "It is fun to run a journal" and insists that all work is done as a team.

As Assistant Editor, Fabrice Lyczba has introduced new features on the website (download, print, author page). If you are a past contributor and would like your information to be included in the author

page, you should get in touch with him (fabrice.lyczba@dauphine.fr). He has also reformatted issue 2 and will do the same for issue 1.

Penny Starfield thanks Taïna Tuhkunen, the guest editor of issue 3, and explains that issue 3's late publication is due to the transitional period of *Film Journal*, but that issue 3 will be dated 2016.

Issue 4 will also be worked on very soon, which means it should be online quickly. Articles for Issue 5 on the supernatural are currently under review. Penny Starfield adds that SERCIA members who wish to be part of the reviewing committee can send her a message with their blurb and research specialties. Historically, *Film Journal* has functioned under the figure of the editor-in-chief who has a pivotal position liaising with the editorial committee and the scientific committee. Penny Starfield describes the work with the editorial committee as very democratic. She then shows the proposal for a constitution that she drafted. She also mentions the role of the international advisory committee set up by Melvyn Stokes in 2008 and praises the visibility *Film Journal's* presence gives to its contributors and reviewers. She regrets that Jocelyn Dupont had to resign as book review editor. He was recently named programmer for the Institut Jean Vigo, yet remains on board with *Film Journal* and Sercia in general. She concludes that being an editor for *Film Journal* is a demanding but rewarding job.

The election for the three positions (two renewable positions and a vacant one) is then organized. Penny Starfield reminds members that *Film Journal* board members are elected for 2 years, with the possibility of 2 supplementary 2-year stints.

For the positions that have to be renewed:

- Penny Starfield presents her candidacy as editor-in-chief. It was sent out to all members before the general meeting. She would like to finalize what she has started by putting out two more issues and by preparing the work of the future editor-in-chief.
- As Fabrice Lyczba wishes to renew his position as assistant editor, Penny Starfield presents his candidacy.
- For the book review editor, there has been no application prior to the general assembly. Fatima Chinita presents her candidacy in front of the general assembly. Penny Starfield explains that such a spontaneous candidacy cannot be accepted because it has not been vetted by *Film Journal's* editorial committee. Fatima Chinita wonders whether any discussion of a candidacy before the general assembly could act as a form of filtering, considering that general assemblies are meant to be free. A discussion then starts on the legality of a spontaneous candidacy. Raphaëlle Costa de Beaugregard and Gilles Ménégaldo understand the potential administrative problems but feel that since there is a valid candidate, the general assembly should be wise to take advantage of it in order to solve the vacancy as soon as possible. Jean-François Baillon contends that the administrative vetting of a candidacy should not hinder the freedom of the general assemblies, since it could send the wrong message to potential candidates. Penny Starfield regrets that the other *Film Journal* editors cannot have their say in the matter. Even if it's unfortunate that the position cannot be filled this year, there is an administrative procedure that has to be respected. She concludes that if the assembly takes a vote on the Book Review Editor's position, she will be forced to resign. Fatima Chinita withdraws her candidacy.

Following the discussion, the general assembly then proceeds to vote by secret ballots. The results are the following:

Editor-in-chief of *Film Journal*: candidacy of Penny Starfield

- 18 in favor
- 13 against
- 6 blanks
- 2 for Fatima Chinita

Penny Starfield is renewed as editor-in-chief of *Film Journal*

Assistant editor of *Film Journal*: candidacy of Fabrice Lyczba

- 30 in favor
- 1 against
- 4 blanks

Fabrice Lyczba is renewed as assistant editor of *Film Journal*.¹

Thesis Award

David Roche thanks the Award for Best PhD in English-Language Cinema committee (Emmanuelle Delanoë Brun, Sarah Hatchuel, Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris, Yann Roblou, Melvyn Stokes) for all of its hard work. They will continue to work together for another year. This year, there were not that many applications. He encourages more PhD recipients to apply and explains that this award is meant to be a financial help toward the publication of the PhD dissertation. Although the board's role remains primarily to deliver an award, it will also give advice on how to improve the book proposal.

This year's laureate is Hervé Mayer, who wrote a PhD dissertation on the myth of the frontier in post-western cinema. Hervé Mayer thanks SERCIA and the thesis board.

Relation with other Associations

Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris's remarks are read by Céline Murillo: the relation with SAES has greatly improved as the *agrégation* topics prove. Connections have been made with NECS (Numerical Engineering Consulting Service-European Network for Cinema and Media Studies), and Kristian Fergulson reminds the members present that the next NECS conference will take place in Amsterdam. Personal relation with U Penn faculty was also made, which may lead to future collaborations. Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot and Christophe Gelly are warmly thanked for all their work organizing the Film Studies workshop at the yearly SAES congress.

Website

David Roche is happy to report that SERCIA's website has not been hacked this year. Changes in images are envisioned. In the forthcoming future, the website will include the minutes of the general assemblies, SERCIA's constitution and the guidelines for conference organizers. Celestino Deleyto suggests that the link to the *Film Journal* website should be further highlighted.

SERCIA Books

The publications of books following SERCIA conferences are presented:

- Bordeaux (2014): the book entitled *Représentations du contrat dans le cinéma anglophone* should be published within a couple of weeks or months. The book includes over 20 chapters and is the only SERCIA-related book of recent years to be entirely in French.
- Arras (2015): two books are underway, Marianne Kac-Vergne and Julie Assouly explain. The one in English, published by IB Tauris, will probably come out next year; another bilingual book will come out in June 2018 by the Presses Universitaires d'Artois.
- Paris-Diderot (2016): two books are being prepared by Anne Crémieux and Ariane Hudelet: 17 chapters have been submitted for the English book that should be published by Routledge; 12 chapters have been received for the French book, which will be published by the Presses Universitaires de Tours (collection "Séries"). The articles are being peer-reviewed.
- Nijmegen (2013): Frank Mehring has already received SERCIA funding for the publication of a book. He is very committed to the book and apologizes for the delay and has said he will attend the 2018 SERCIA conference.
- Bath (2011). The conference was organized by Wendy Everett. The articles were sent; some authors got feedback from reviewers, while others did not. The SERCIA board has gotten in touch with Wendy Everett to suggest that it was ready to help her out with peer-reviewing, copy editing, and so forth. But as for now, nothing has led the board to believe that there has been any substantial progress on the manuscript. The general assembly is asked to vote on the following proposal: if no significant progress has been made by April 2018, a date suggested by a member in the audience, the SERCIA board will take over by contacting authors and working on either a themed issue or a book proposal. The general assembly approves this proposition by a unanimous show of hands.

¹ The discrepancy between the total number of votes in each election can be explained by the fact that some members had to leave early to catch a plane.

Next conferences and grants for SERCIA-related events

Fatima Chinita presents the location and theme of next year's conference. It will be held in Sweden, at the Växjö campus of the University of Linnaeus during the first week of September 2018. Its theme will be: "Symbiotic Cinema: Confluences between Film and Other Media". The official call for papers will be sent out in a couple of weeks. Fatima Chinita insists that it will definitely be a film and television conference and that the encounter between Swedish scholars working in a research center focused on intermedial studies and SERCIA members should be productive. Three keynote speakers have already accepted to be present: François Jost, Miriam De Rosa, and Lucia Nagib from the University of Reading.

As for the 2019 conference, it will be held in Brest. Elizabeth Mullen and Isabelle Le Corff are still working on a theme, which may revolve around the notion of "trouble": and they have already secured Janet Staiger (University of Texas at Austin) as one of the keynote speakers.

Jean-François Baillon asks SERCIA members to come up with suggestions for later conferences.

The general assembly gives its unanimous support by a show of hands for Céline Murillo's proposal that 800€ be used for support to SERCIA-related events. Applications should be sent to Jean-François Baillon and Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot by the end of March 2018 and should include: a description of the event, a provisional budget, a list of guests and potential participants, and the call for papers.

Final Remarks

Jean-François Baillon concludes the general assembly by renewing his warm thanks to all the organizers of the Bologna conference, Sara Pesce and Michele Fadda, with the necessary help of Costanza Salvi, the technicians and caterers.

2017 Balance account

Recettes		Dépenses	
cotisation	2 556,00 €	Tenue de compte	66,92 €
		Frais Internet	578,44
		autres (cadeaux et remboursements	101,00 €
		subventions versees	513,00 €
TOTAUX	2 556,00 €		1 259,36 €
resultat de l'exercice		€1 296,64	

Situations des comptes au 31/08/2017

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BRED	6 634,27 €
Livret A	9 606,01 €
TOTAL	16 240,28 €

Informations complémentaires

Frais engagés pour l'année 2016	
FILM JOURNAL	500,00
Subventions	170,00 €
Conférence Bath publication	3 000,00
Conférence Bordeaux publication	500,00
Conférence Arras publication	1 000,00
Conférence Paris organisation	34,00
Conférence PARIS Publication	1 000,00
conférence Bologne organisation	1 000,00
Conférence Bologne publication	1 000,00
TOTAL	8 204,00

Réel encours (ce qu'il nous reste réellement à dépenser)	8 036,28 €
Solde des comptes - frais engagés	