



**Report of the 2021 SERCIA general assembly
September 10, 2021
26th SERCIA Conference
University of Zaragoza, Spain**

Present: Julie ASSOULY, Marimar AZCONA, Zachary BAQUÉ, Andrés BARTOLOMÉ, Xavier BITARD (procuration à Céline Murillo), Andrés BUESA, Sophie CHADELLE, Nicole CLOAREC (proxy to Isabelle Schmitt), Anne COMBARNOUS, Raphaëlle COSTA DE BEAUREGARD, Christophe CHAMBOST, Celestino DELEYTO, Julia ECHEVERRIA, Christophe GELLY, Pablo GOMEZ, Marianne KAC-VERGNE, Martin KNUST (proxy to Julie Assouly), Sébastien LEFAIT, David LIPSON, Anne-Lise MARIN-LAMELLET (proxy to Céline Murillo), Cristelle MAURY (proxy to Zachary Baqué), Gilles MENEGALDO, Monica MICHELIN (proxy to Zachary Baqué), Julie MICHOT (proxy to Isabelle Schmitt), Céline MURILLO, Anne-Marie PAQUET-DEYRIS, Sara PESCE, Emmanuel PLASSERAUD (proxy to Julie Assouly), Andrea REGUEIRA, Costanza SALVI, Isabelle SCHMITT, Dominique SIPIÈRE (proxy to Gilles Menegaldo), Marine SOUBEILLE (proxy to Sophie Chadelle), Anne SWEET (proxy to Marianne Kac-Vergne), Mikaël TOUZLA, Isabel TREVIÑO.

Present online: Xavier DAVERAT, Glenn MAN, Nolwenn MINGANT, David ROCHE, Melvyn STOKES

Unfortunately, and probably due to the unusual hybrid nature of the General Assembly, we forgot to ask the people present to sign their names, so that we are concerned that the above list may not be complete. We hope you will excuse us and thank you for letting us know if your name is missing so that we can add it.

Celestino Deleyto, vice-president of SERCIA, opens the General Assembly meeting at 11:30am by thanking the organizers of the conference and all the participants, whether physically present or online.

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2019 General Assembly (Brest)

The text of the report is available here:

http://www.sercia.net/images/pdf/SERCIA_AG_2019_ANG.pdf

The report is unanimously approved by show of hands.

2. President's report

David Roche, president of SERCIA, reads his report online:

I would like to start by thanking the conference organizers for making this conference happen and for making it such a successful event. Many of us had, what with the COVID,

been fantasizing about this conference for so long, it's great it came true. I would also like to thank the board and Celestino Deleyto in particular for coming through so naturally and presiding the AGM. I am very sorry not to be with you right now, but I also know I made the right decision not to come (and I thank you dearly for the drunken messages that came in at 1am last night). I'll proceed with the President's report and let Celestino Deleyto take over from there.

The surreal two-year leap we have experienced because of the pandemic has a strange and yet logical consequence: it makes it look like we got a lot more done since the previous AGM in Brest took place 2 years ago. This is especially the case of SERCIA publications. The two-year leap has somewhat enabled us to make up for lost time: the articles from the Bath conference of 2011 are being published in two issues of *Film Journal*, thanks to the hard work of Julia Echeverría, Isabelle Schmitt, Wendy Everett, and the editors of *Film Journal*; eight of the pieces from the Nijmegen conference of 2014 were published last spring in issue 22 of the on-line journal *Miranda*, and I want to thank co-editor Céline Murillo whose genius brain came up with the central argument for the introduction; the 2016 conference of Paris produced 2 collected volumes, edited by Anne Crémieux and Ariane Hudelet, one in English published by Routledge, and another one in French by the University Press of Tours. The books following the 2015 conference of Arras (thank you Julie Assouly and Marianne Kac-Vergne) and the 2017 conference of Bologna (thank you Sara Pesce, Michele Fadda and Costanza Salvi) are now entering the production phase. The *Film Journal* team, helmed by Philip Drummond (from 2018-2020) and Sébastien Lefait, has been very active over the past three years, publishing one issue a year. So I'd like to thank all the editors for being so efficient!

If we are delighted that these projects have moved forward or are moving forward, other essential aspects of SERCIA life have proved more difficult to navigate in these troubled times. We have been able to continue awarding the prize for the Best PhD in spite of it all, but it is very sad that we didn't get the chance to celebrate the PhD award with the 2020 winners, Emilie Herbert and Vincent Jaunas, and this year's winner, Patrick Adamson, either. It is also very sad that so many PhDs, such as Andrés Bartolome Leal's, took place online, and I hope this year they'll be in person. Organizing academic events has been particularly difficult what with the threat of lockdown constantly looming, so few members applied for funding over the past 2 years. Organizing a SERCIA conference is always a lot of work, but I can only imagine how stressful it must have been for Marimar Azcona, Julia Echeverría, Pablo Gomez and their team in this context. Finally, the cancelation of the 2020 conference and, more generally, of other events in which we members enthusiastically promote our society, not to mention a blunder by yours truly who forgot to send the conference organization vademecum to the organizers in Zaragoza (for which I truly apologize), has led SERCIA membership to go down by 25%.

Notwithstanding COVID, the past years have been difficult for academia, science and the humanities in general because of the ideological framework governments and institutions have been imposing on research and higher education. The pandemic has exacerbated many systemic problems not only in health and social services, but also in education and research around the world, and it appears that nothing is being done to remedy these problems. Even though the forms these problems take are specific to each country, there are several common denominators: a tendency to exacerbate competition between scholars instead of cooperation; to dictate the aims of research and the frameworks with which they should be conducted: to favor the short term instead of the long term; to put young scholars in a

precarious economic situation; to create an atmosphere of constant stress that is not conducive to good, healthy teaching and research for tenured and non-tenured faculty alike, as well as for our colleagues in charge of administration and technical aspects and, of course, our students. It is this context, and the fact that many SERCIA members have expressed their anxieties and concerns to us over the past two years, that we the board believe that the time has come for SERCIA to take a stand and join the many academic societies who have been protesting against the deterioration of our working conditions and defending our freedom to conduct research. We have thus drafted a statement which we would like to submit to the General Meeting today. If the majority of members vote it, the statement will circulate on various mailing lists and be published on the SERCIA website.

Celestino, I leave it to you. Sorry for leaving you with the hard task of uplifting us after this bumper of a President's report! And again thanks everyone for being here!

Celestino Deleyto then presents the following statement drafted by the board.

WHERE WE STAND

SERCIA would like to join the many academic societies that have been defending higher education and research in the humanities around the world.

Research requires time, freedom and respect for human dignity.

TIME

The neo-liberal ideology that celebrates competition and short-term objectives has wreaked havoc on our planet and in our societies. It has proven unable to rise to the challenge of climate change and, faced with a global pandemic, is proving equally incapable of learning from its mistakes regarding research and higher education policies. In our universities, it has led us to a crisis of meaning whereby more time is spent carrying out administrative tasks and less time is devoted to our main goals: educating students and producing knowledge. The COVID pandemic has exacerbated and brought out more clearly the issues that undermine the academic communities in the current neo-liberal policy framework in particular: increased administrative workload and increased digital workload (teaching and educational platforms, e-mail availability). We have now reached a tipping point that is putting students, teachers and administrative personnel at risk physically and psychologically.

FREEDOM

As an academic society that promotes the study of mainstream, national and independent cinemas alike, SERCIA opposes the utilitarian bent that has led to the shutting down of so-called dying fields, and denounces the competition this ideology has introduced between various fields or subjects in the name of their economic viability. Research objectives should not be dictated by the market but should be chosen by researchers themselves. As a community that studies the representational quality of cinema, SERCIA is particularly worried about political attempts to restrict academic freedom in exploring how film engages with society.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

Finally, the imposition of a neo-liberal paradigm on research and higher education has created a system that exploits non-tenured faculty that universities and other higher education institutions could quite simply not do without. It has bred competition, dissatisfaction and anxiety within the departments that impact students.

WHAT WE WANT

In order to reassert the value of science and the humanities, SERCIA asks of all governments and higher education bodies that they demonstrate their faith in science and the humanities, in students, and in the future by creating tenured jobs for all higher education personnel, increasing grants for students, raising salaries for teachers, researchers and administration, providing sustainable funding for fundamental research and guaranteeing the freedom to do our work.

It is suggested that the text would have more strength if it were signed by other associations. The board answers that the text will be widely circulated and that it should be considered as a starting point.

The statement is approved unanimously by show of hands.

3. Treasurer's report

Céline Murillo, treasurer of SERCIA, gives her yearly report. It is attached at the end of this document.

Due to a technical and organisational glitch, there are slightly less members than in the previous years. 52 members with French bank accounts now use direct debit. Céline Murillo and Marianne Kac-Vergne encourage members to use yearly permanent bank transfer as it is automatic and free. Members have to inform the treasurer and the assistant treasurer if they change banks.

The expenses in the latest budget include some fees related to direct debit, the PhD grant and the money given to a SERCIA-related event (see below).

After a brief discussion, the treasurer report is unanimously approved by show of hands.

Celestino Deleyto encourages people to become regular members of SERCIA.

4. Election of the committee

Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer: Céline Murillo and Marianne Kac-Vergne explain that, should they be elected, this would be their last term each. They would be more than happy to help their successors manage a smooth transition. They are reelected unanimously by show of hands.

Secretary: Zachary Baqué is elected unanimously by show of hands.

Assistant secretary: Julia Echeverría presents her candidacy:

My name is Julia Echeverría, lecturer in English Studies at the University of Zaragoza, and I would like to present my candidacy for the position of Associate Secretary at SERCIA.

My relation with the SERCIA association dates back to 2011, when I first participated in the "Cinema and the Crossing of Frontiers" conference held in Bath, UK. The conference gave

me access to an academically inspiring and at the same time welcoming Film Studies community. I've been an active member of the association since then and have collaborated with the association and its members in various ways. I have attended different SERCIA conferences in the last years, and I am co-organizing the 2021 "Cosmopolitan Aspirations" conference in Zaragoza with my colleagues María del Mar Azcona and Pablo Gómez.

In 2018, I received the SERCIA "Best PhD Dissertation on English-language Cinema Award," which offered me financial support to publish my PhD thesis on contagion films, a project I am currently undertaking with Wayne State UP. I have authored several articles in journals like *Transnational Screens* and *English Studies in Canada* and have co-edited Issue 7 of the SERCIA *Film Journal*, *Crossing Borders: Geography, History, Social Classes* (2021), with the current SERCIA Secretary Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot. I have published several book chapters, including "The Women Who Killed Too Many: *Contagion* (Steven Soderbergh, 2011) and Female Virality" in the volume *Women Who Kill: Gender and Sexuality in Film and Series of the Post-Feminist Era* (Bloomsbury, 2020), edited by David Roche and Cristelle Maury.

All these experiences and exchanges with different SERCIA members have proven to be very valuable both academically and at a personal level, and I am eager to continue working closely with the association and its members. For me, it would be an honor to become a member of the SERCIA board.

Julia Echeverría is then elected unanimously by show of hands.

President: David Roche is reelected by 36 secret ballots.

Vice-President: Celestino Deleyto is reelected by 34 secret ballots.

Julie Assouly adds that she will not be running again for the position of Webmaster in 2022; members interested can contact her and the board to express their interest in the position.

As she concludes her final term as secretary, Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot thanks all the members of SERCIA. David Roche thanks her for everything she has done, not just as Secretary, but also as a regular member who has organized the 2012 SERCIA conference, coedited two SERCIA volumes, coedited issues 7-8 of *Film Journal* and coorganized the SERCIA panel at SAES for 4 years. She is warmly applauded.

5. *Film journal*

Sébastien Lefait presents the latest issues of *Film Journal* and thanks all the members of the editorial committee. Issue 7 is entitled "Crossing Borders: Geography, History, Social Classes" and was guest-edited by Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot and Julia Echeverría. It includes a foreword by Wendy Everett. Issue 8, also edited by Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot and Julia Echeverría, is on its way. The call for papers for Issue 9 entitled "Screening the Box," edited by Nicole Cloarec and Sébastien Lefait, is still running. Sébastien Lefait reminds SERCIA members that *Film Journal* welcomes occasional papers, book reports and themed issues.

The elections for the editorial committee are then organized.

Chief editor: Sébastien Lefait is unanimously reelected by show of hands.

Editor of Occasional Papers: Nicole Cloarec is unanimously reelected by show of hands.

Book Review Editor: Pablo Gomez presents his candidacy.

Dear SERCIA members,

When I joined SERCIA a couple of years ago and attended my first SERCIA Conference in Brest, I was immediately drawn to the association. I was taken by the vibrant atmosphere at the conference, the strong commitment of its members to the study of film and media and their investment in academic debates. The conference in Brest was also special because I received the 2019 SERCIA PhD Award for my dissertation "A Better World? Cosmopolitan Struggles in Twenty-First Century Science-Fiction Cinema". A revised and updated version of this project is currently under contract with Routledge and should be published in 2022. My experience with SERCIA has been so positive that when my colleagues María del Mar Azcona and Julia Echeverría told me about the possibility of organizing a SERCIA conference in Zaragoza, I did not hesitate for a second.

My main research interests are transnational cinema, science fiction, borders, cosmopolitanism, precarity, spectacle, and climate change. Two of my most recent publications are "The Alien as a Vehicle for Cosmopolitan Discourses: The Case of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*" (published in *Atlantis: Journal of the Spanish Association for Anglo-American Studies*) and "Dystopias Go Global: The Transnational Reorganization of Territories and Societies in *Elysium*" (published in *ELOPE: English Language Overseas Perspectives and Enquiries*).

It would be an honor to serve such a dynamic network of academics and it is with great pleasure that I present my candidacy for the position of Book Reviews Editor at *Film Journal*. If I were to hold this position, I would try my very best to contribute to the endeavor of bringing illuminating and inspiring reads to the attention of the journal's readership. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Pablo Gomez is unanimously elected by show of hands.

6. SERCIA publications

Eight articles from the 2014 SERCIA conference in Nijmegen on music were published in spring 2021 in *Miranda* in an issue entitled by "Unheard Possibilities: Reappraising Classical Film Music Scoring and Analysis," edited by Céline Murillo and David Roche: <https://journals.openedition.org/miranda/36214>

Two volumes were published comprising material from the 2016 conference in Paris on seriality: *La Sérialité à l'écran* at Presses Universitaires François Rabelais and *Exploring Seriality on Screen* by Routledge, both edited by Anne Crémieux and Ariane Hudelet.

Julie Assouly and Marianne Kac-Vergne explain that the English book following the 2015 conference in Arras on masculinity/feminity has just been resubmitted to Bloomsbury, while the French volume will shortly be submitted to the Presses Universitaires d'Arras.

Sara Pesce presents the book coming from the 2017 conference in Bologna. It will be published by Mimesis international and will include 22 articles in English divided in 5 sections.

Material from the 2018 conference in Växjö is currently being compiled as an issue of the journal *Interfaces*, edited by Fatimà Chinita and Andrea Virginás, which should be published in the winter of 2022-2023.

As for the 2019 conference in Brest, Nicole Cloarec and Elizabeth Mullen are working on a book proposal on Trouble in US-American cinema they wish to submit to Routledge or another British publisher, and will then put together a French issue of the on-line journal *Motifs*.

7. Website and Facebook page

The board asks SERCIA members to send their online CVs so that they can be linked to the SERCIA website. It is now possible to share relevant information directly on the SERCIA Facebook page. Mikaël Toulza (Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès) volunteers to help manage the Facebook page.

8. Relations with other Associations

Celestino Deleyto presents the 2022 SCMS conference. There will be an online conference one month before the in-person conference in Chicago. SCMS has its own parameters for paper and panel proposals. They are available on their website: <https://www.cmstudies.org> Nolwenn Mingant explains that the board wishes to increase the presence of SERCIA members at NECS events. Even if it focuses on European cinema, comparisons with other cinemas are possible. Nolwenn Mingant will organize an online workshop to help members create a panel for NECS. Information will be circulating shortly.

The call for papers for the panels devoted to cinema at the yearly AFEA conference will be sent on the SERCIA mailing list. Non-French members of EAAS are welcome to submit as well.

The SERCIA panel at the SAES conference is now organized by Emilie Cheyroux and Nolwenn Mingant. They are joined by David Lipson who is unanimously elected by show of hands. Again, non-French members of ESSE are welcome to submit as well.

Gilles Menegaldo mentions that there will be a panel on pre-code Hollywood cinema at the new ESSE conference and describes the work of the International Gothic Association, whose next conference is planned in Dublin.

9. Forthcoming conferences

The 2022 conference will be organized from September 7 to 9 in Clermont-Ferrand by Christophe Gelly and Caroline Lardy. Its theme is "Corruption". The keynote speakers will be Tricia Jenkins (Texas Christian University) and Martine Beugnet (Paris Diderot).

The 2023 conference will be organized at Université Sorbonne Paris Nord by Céline Murillo.

The board is looking for prospective locations for the 2024 conference. It is reminded that the conference organizers also choose the theme of the conference.

The 2025 conference will be organized in Montpellier.

10. Grants for SERCIA-related events

200€ were awarded to the symposium “Researching the Influence of Feminist Film Theory on 21st Century Films and TV,” organized on November 18 and 19 by H el ene Charlery, Emilie Cheyroux and Cristelle Maury. Janet Staiger will be the keynote at that event.

Applications for grants have to be sent to the president, vice-president and the secretary by March 1, 2022 and have to include the call for papers and a general budget. See website: <http://www.sercia.net/index.php/fr/grants-awards/30-grantsconferencessymposiums/40-symposiums>

11. SERCIA PhD Award

Concerning previous winners of the SERCIA PhD Award, Herv e Mayer, the winner of the 2018 award published in early 2021 *Guerre sauvage et empire de la libert e* with Presses Universitaires Blaise Pascal. Julia Echeverr ıa’s book will be with Wayne State University Press and Pablo Gomez’s will be with Routledge.

The 2021 winner is Patrick Adamson (University of St Andrews) for his dissertation entitled “‘Americanism in Action’: The 1920s Epic Western and Hollywood Historical Cinema.”

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, 2022. It must be sent to all five members of the jury. See website: <http://www.sercia.net/index.php/fr/grants-awards/31-grantphddissertation/41-phd-dissertation>

The General Assembly ends at 2pm with renewed thanks for the organizers of the Zaragoza conference: Marimar Azcona, Julia Echeverr ıa and Pablo Gomez.

Report written by Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot and Zachary Baqu e

Recettes		Dépenses	
cotisation	2 016.00 €	Tenue de compte + frais	156.77 €
extourne		Frais Internet	631.00 €
		Grants	700.00 €
		remboursements cotisations	300.00 €
TOTAUX	2 016.00 €		1 787.77 €

Situations des comptes au 5/09/2020

BRED	7 772.23 €
Livret A	9897.46
TOTAL	17 669.69 €

Informations complémentaires

Frais engagés pour l'année 2021-2022		
subventions 2021		Gelly metafiction
Subventions 2020		
Subvention 2019	100.00	
Prix de thèse	1 500.00	
Conférence Arras publication	1 000.00	
Conférence Bologne Publication	1 000.00	
conférence vaxjo publication	1 000.00	
conférence Brest Publication	1 000.00	
Conférence Sarragosse organisation	1 500.00	
Conférence Saragosse publication	1 000.00	
Conférence Clermont	1 000.00	
Conf Clermon publi	1 000.00	
TOTAL	10 100.00	

Réel encours (ce qu'il nous reste réellement à dépenser)	7 569.69 €
Solde des comptes - frais engagés	

Phd Mayer+ Conference Feminist theories