



**SERCIA General Assembly meeting  
September 8, 2018  
Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden**

Minutes written by Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot and Zachary Baqué

**Present:** Julie ASSOULY, Jean-François BAILLON, Zachary BAQUÉ, Fátima CHINITA, Raphaëlle COSTA de BEAUREGARD, Celestino DELEYTO, Phillip DRUMMOND, Claire DUTRIAUX, Julia ECHEVERRÍA, Christophe GELLY, David GOLDIE, Marianne KAC-VERGNE, Sébastien LEFAIT, Gilles MENEGALDO, Hervé MEYER, Elizabeth MULLEN, Silvia MURILLO, Céline MURILLO, Meriam OUERTANI, Anne-Marie PAQUET-DEYRIS, Carmen PÉREZ-RÍU, David ROCHE, Costanza SALVI, Isabelle SCHMITT

**Proxies:** Xavier BITTAR to Sébastien Lefait, Marguerite CHABROL to Elizabeth Mullen, Nicole CLOAREC to Elizabeth Mullen, Anne CRÉMIEUX to David Roche, Xavier DAVERAT to Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris, Joao Pedro DE AZEVODO MACHADO MOTA to Julia Echeverría, Albert ELDUQUE BUSQUETS to Julia Echeverría, Kristian FEIGELSON to Julie Assouly, Anna GUTOWSKA to Fátima Chinita, Grégoire HALBOUT to Isabelle Schmitt, Sarah HATCHUEL to Christophe Gelly, Signe JENSEN to Fátima Chinita, Isabelle LE CORFF to Christophe Gelly, Delphine LETORT à Gilles Menegaldo, David LIPSON to Marianne Kac-Vergne, Anne-Lise MARIN -LAMELLET to Raphaëlle Costa de Beauregard, Cristelle MAURY to Zachary Baqué, Monica MICHELIN to Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris, Julie MICHOT to Silvia Murillo, Chloé MONASTEROLO to Zachary Baqué, Anne PAUPE to Céline MURILLO, Cristina POP-TIRON to Silvia Murillo, Zeenat SALEH to Jean-François BAILLON, Dominique SIPIÈRE to Gilles Menegaldo, Vincent SOULADIÉ to Julie Assouly, Penny STARFIELD to Celestino Deleyto, Melvyn STOKES to Jean-François Baillon, Shannon WELLS-LASSAGNE to Isabelle Schmitt

Jean-François Baillon, president of SERCIA, opens the General Assembly meeting at 2pm by thanking all members for attending the meeting and reminding them that the documents pertaining to the meeting were sent by email.

### **1. Approval of last year's minutes**

Jean-Françoise Baillon asks if the minutes of last year's General Assembly minutes are approved. The vote is made by show of hands, and the minutes are unanimously approved.

### **2. President's moral report**

Jean-François Baillon wishes to make his report not simply on the previous year but on the four years of his presidency.

- He is happy to report that memberships are on the rise, thanks to the work of board members who have strived to encourage young colleagues to become members.

- The creation of a prize to support the publication of a doctoral thesis is an event to be proud of. It has worked for the past two years and is meant to keep on working (point 6).
- Jean-François Baillon also congratulates the collective effort to promote the presence of film studies in the program of the *agrégation*, a French competitive exam meant to recruit future English teachers. This effort finally proved fruitful as the latest program included two film-related topics, the traditional film adaptation of a novel and the “civilization” topic on the construction of the West in the Hollywood western. He especially thanks Claire Dutriaux, Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris, and Penny Starfield for designing the topic. Moreover, for the first time in the history of the *agrégation*, students had to analyze film extracts on tablets, instead of the classical textual analysis. The feedback from students has been positive.
- Jean-François Baillon also reminds all members that SERCIA can give financial support to conferences organized by members. He encourages members to apply (point 9).
- All in all, these have been a very happy 4 years that Jean-François Baillon concludes by thanking the members of the board.

### 3. Treasurer’s report

Céline Murillo presents SERCIA’s budget. The document is included at the end of this report.

- On the income side, she is happy to report that there’s been a significant increase in direct debit. She encourages all members who have a bank account in the Eurozone to use direct debit or a bank transfer to pay their dues, since Paypal can be a problem due to bank fees that are staggering (about 10% of the amount paid). As of today, there are 110 paying members in SERCIA.
- On the expense side, Céline Murillo explains that expenditures were increased last year, which can explain that they are slightly higher than incomes.
- She mentions that the various means of payment and the various registration fees for the conference (which did not match the different SERCIA membership fees) have created extra work for Marianne Kac-Vergne and herself. Similarly, the payment of seed money for conferences organized by SERCIA members has triggered a lot of paperwork. The latter will henceforth be done by the secretaries.

Questions:

- Will the membership fees remain the same? Yes.
- Is it possible to charge more for those who use Paypal? After a discussion, a fee of 33€ (lecturers/researchers) and 17€ (students, retirees, independent scholars) is suggested. The general assembly unanimously agrees with this decision.
- How does the 1000€ sum promised for publications work? This sum is promised to conference organizers, but it is paid only when a contract has been signed with a publisher.

Céline Murillo’s report is unanimously approved by show of hands.

### 4. Election of the committee

Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot and Zachary Baqué present their joint candidacy for secretary and vice-secretary and explain that this will be their last term as secretary and vice-secretary. They are unanimously elected by show of hands.

Céline Murillo and Marianne Kac-Vergne present their joint candidacy for treasurer (in charge of the accounts) and vice-treasurer (in charge of the dues). They would be happy to recruit and train replacements at the end of their two-year term. They are unanimously elected by show of hands.

David Roche presents his candidacy for president of SERCIA. He is unanimously elected, with 52 ballots in favor.

Celestino Deleyto presents his candidacy for vice-president of SERCIA. He is unanimously elected by 51 ballots in favor.

## **5. *Film Journal***

Penny Starfield's report is read to the general assembly.

### Film Journal Editor's report September 2018

Film Journal issues. The backlog due to the migration of Film Journal's website was still felt this year and Issue 4, with the theme "Terms that Matter" and an occasional paper, dated 2017, went on line last July. This backlog should be absorbed shortly and Issue 5, dated 2018 should be on line in December as expected, with the theme "Screening the Supernatural" and at least 2 book reviews. Issue 6, "Actors behind the Camera" is keeping to schedule. A new proposal for a forthcoming theme issue is under way.

As announced in the editorial to Issue 4, from Issue 5 a new section on "New research and conference reports" will be starting. Its aim is to present ongoing trends in film studies on research on English-speaking film in the academic world, focusing on new projects and new theoretical concerns. In the discussion within the board of editors (namely myself, Fabrice Lyczba and Nicole Cloarec), it was decided that conference reports should not consist of a list of speakers and their papers, but should focus on the particular theme and contribution of the conference or seminar, highlighting important and interesting papers and discussions. The section also encourages updates on the state of research in countries where Anglophone film is studied. We felt that, as a film studies organisation with a wide international base and annual conferences in different cities and countries, SERCIA is ideally placed to promote this type of discussion in Film Journal. Assistant Editor, Fabrice Lyczba has agreed to take charge of this section.

A new feature of Issue 6 is the setting up of a log for guest editors. This is basically a time schedule for the various stages of the issue from proposal date to publication. For authors, it makes it possible to keep a record of dates like proposal acceptance, submission, reviewing and acceptance of an article, etc.

As usual, I encourage colleagues to send their proposals for themes to the Editor in chief. An issue requires time before the proposal and final publication. Now that Film Journal is more or less working to schedule, there is a need to have more forthcoming issues under way. Proposals can also be based on conference workshops or seminars, and must also be

submitted to the editor. Out of the 6 issues published, or on their way to being published, 2 themes originated in workshops (one at an EAAS congress, another at an SAES congress).

#### The editorial board

This year, the position of Occasional Papers Editor comes up for renewal. The current editor, Nicole Cloarec, has fulfilled her first term of office and is very willing to continue in a second term. The other members of the board of editors (myself and Fabrice Lyczba) are delighted. The Editorial Committee has accepted this decision unanimously.

The vacancy of Book Review Editor will be decided at the Annual General Meeting this year. There is one application as I write. This application has been approved by Fabrice Lyczba and Nicole Cloarec. (No applications will be accepted after 31<sup>st</sup> August).

I have now served my statutory three terms of office and the position of Editor in chief will also be decided at the AGM. I am pleased to say that two excellent applicants presented

themselves for the position. I have been in close contact with them during the application procedure, their applications were reviewed and interviewed by the Editorial Committee and reviewed by three members of the International Advisory Committee. They were sent to the members of the Editorial Board and to all SERCIA members. Both candidates will present themselves at the AGM.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Melvyn Stokes, former SERCIA president, but also founding editor of Film Journal, for the confidence he placed in me, first as one of three editors of Film Journal, then as potential editor when the journal was restructured. I thank the Editorial Committee of past and present SERCIA presidents with whom I have worked with these last six years, as I thank those members of the International Advisory Committee whose advice I have sometimes sought.

Many thanks to David Roche who helped set up the new version of Film Journal. Very special thanks to Jacques Lerognon, who designed the new layout, and patiently helped us out with the teething problems.

I also thank all those I have worked with over the past years, the contributors to Film Journal, its guest editors, peer reviewers and readers.

Last but not least my thanks go to the Editorial Board, to Fabrice and Nicole, who only came on board two or three years ago and have proved themselves invaluable. Always there, always ready to suggest and innovate, not afraid to correct or criticise. I wish we had thought of starting that way, but we are only academics and have had to learn step by step about running a journal. Thank you, Nicole and Fabrice. The future Editor in chief can be assured of your assistance.

This last year has shown especially how the Editorial Board can work as a team and this is the message I want to pass on to the next Editor in chief. When the new Film Journal was conceived of 6 years ago, there was a single editor who did everything and it was necessary for the Editorial Committee to second this editor in an advisory role. Practically and

understandably, the necessity to turn to the Editorial Committee whenever one wanted to sneeze has diminished, though some decisions, appointments in particular do require their opinion. The Editorial Board is functional for discussion and advice as well as editing and publishing.

There remain some loose ends to tidy up, that we had expected to do this year, but didn't manage to, such as guidelines to guest editors and reviewers (with a possible report sheet), a template for future issues, the *Film Journal* constitution (presented last year), which it seems better for the future Editor to finalise, and finally, the question of migration to *revues.org* or some such that we had begun working on last year.

My very best wishes to the future Editor in chief and team

Penny Starfield

Penny Starfield is thanked for her work. The election for *Film Journal's* board is then organized.

Nicole Cloarec's candidacy is presented: she wishes to remain occasional papers editor. She is unanimously elected by show of hands.

Fátima Chinita presents her candidacy as book review editor. She is unanimously elected by 51 ballots.

For the position of Chief editor of *Film Journal*, Sébastien Lefait explains that Phillip Drummond and he have decided to join forces and run as a joint ticket. The general assembly is asked to discuss the possibility of this proposal: 3 oppose the decision to allow two candidates to run together, while all others are in favor.

Sébastien Lefait and Phillip Drummond are then elected chief editors of *Film Journal* with 49 ballots in favor and 3 blanks.

It is suggested that the new editorial board send all SERCIA members guidelines on how to submit occasional papers, conference reports and book reviews.

## **6. SERCIA publications**

David Roche presents the various publications emanating from SERCIA conferences:

- Bologna, 2017: Sara Pesce sent a message to prospective authors on September 3, 2018; the chapters have to be sent by December 3, 2018.
- Paris 2016: one book will be published in French by the Presses Universitaires François Rabelais (Tours); the manuscript is currently being reviewed; the English book was submitted to Routledge and is undergoing revisions.
- Arras 2015: a book in English published by Bloomsbury (formerly IB Tauris) should be released next year. The second book will be bilingual and will be published by Artois Presses Université.
- Nijmegen 2014: as Frank Mehring has not been answering the majority of emails sent to him by the board, Melvyn Stokes has given the board permission to ask the general assembly how they feel about the publication: should the board take care of the

publication? Should it strongly suggest that someone coedit the book with F. Mehring? The most reasonable proposal at this stage is to deal with Melvyn Stokes again. The situation is particularly problematic considering that the money given by SERCIA for publication (1000€) has already been spent for the organization of the conference. The general assembly unanimously entrusts the board with the authority to publish the Nijmegen conference if nothing is done by December 1, 2018.

- Bordeaux 2013: the book, entitled *La représentation du contrat dans le cinéma Anglophone* (ISBN 979-1030002232), edited by Xavier Daverat, will be released on December 6, 2018 with the Presses Universitaires Bordeaux.
- Bath 2011: Wendy Everett sent texts on which she had already worked. They will be submitted as a special issue of *Film Journal*, edited by Zachary Baqué, Wendy Everett and Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot.

Christophe Gelly suggests that, in order to avoid situations such as the Bath and Nijmegen publications, the SERCIA board make it compulsory that the organizers of the conference work with someone else in charge of collecting papers. His proposal will be discussed at the next AGM.

## **7. Grants to PhD students**

The 2018 winner is Julia Echeverría, from the University of Zaragoza, for her PhD dissertation entitled *The Viral Screen: Viruses, Zombies, and Infectious Diseases in Post-Millennial Films*.

Next year, the winner of the PhD grant will be announced during the dinner conference, instead of at the general assembly meeting.

The rules are recalled: a 500€ grant is awarded to the best PhD defended over the previous year so as to publish the dissertation. The deadline to submit a candidacy for next year's grant is May 15, 2019.

After a discussion, the following rules are agreed upon:

- The thesis should be defended and the doctoral degree granted the year before the conference.
- Candidates should be SERCIA members when they apply.

## **8. Website**

David Roche has created a prototype for the individual pages of SERCIA members. It is visible online: <http://www.sercia.net/index.php/fr/sercia-members>. Members are encouraged to send him their names, institutions and the link to their online CVs.

## **9. Next conferences**

- Elizabeth Mullen presents the next conference in Brest, from September 4 to 6, 2019. The theme will be "Trouble on Screen," and two guest speakers have already accepted to be present: Timothy Corrigan and Janet Staiger.
- Julia Echeverría and Celestino Deleyto present the 2020 conference in Zaragoza, Spain. The theme will be Cosmopolitanism, and the conference will be held on the second week of September from Wednesday to Friday.  
Two conference locations are then submitted to the general assembly:

- 2021 in Clermont-Ferrand, organized by Christophe Gelly.
- 2022 in Lausanne, organized by Alain Boillat and Charles-Antoine Courcoux.

The general assembly unanimously votes in favor of these proposals.

### **10. Grants for SERCIA related events**

SERCIA supports conferences organized by members. The conferences have to focus mostly on English-speaking cinema; they have to include several SERCIA members, and the SERCIA logo must visibly appear on conference materials.

600€ are devoted for this financial help, but the sum may be adjusted depending on the number of applications.

The deadline to submit candidacies is March 1, 2019.

In 2018, the grants went to the following three conferences: one organized by Anne-Lise Marin Lamellet on The Industrial City at the University of Saint-Etienne in November; one organized by Hervé Meyer on the western at Montpellier University in November; and one organized by Jean-François Baillon on Richard Dyer at Bordeaux Montaigne University in December.

### **11. Relations with other associations**

Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris regrets that she has experienced little luck when attempting to establish partnerships between SERCIA and other associations, potentially because they regard SERCIA as competition. No viable solution was found for the SCMS conference. However, personal contacts and collaborations were made.

Christophe Gelly explains that the SERCIA workshop at the SAES conference had trouble finding enough colleagues to join the panel. He indicated that the workshop could occasionally pave the way for a publication, for instance in *Film Journal*, which would be a way to attract colleagues. Isabelle Schmitt-Pitiot and Christophe Gelly ask for volunteers to replace them in 2019-2020. They admit that the SAES regulations have become particularly stringent, as the CfP must be written in September and panels must be constituted by December 1!

Jean-François Baillon concludes the general assembly meeting by thanking Fátima Chinita for organizing a stimulating conference in Växjö.

Recettes		Dépenses	
cotisation	3 359.27 €	Tenue de compte	136.99 €
		Frais Internet	579.04
		publication bordeaux	500.00 €
		organisation Bologne	1 000.00 €
		autres ( cadeaux frais postaux	212.85 €
		contributions colloque et éditio	199.00 €
		Organisation Vaxjo	1 000.00 €
<b>TOTAUX</b>	<b>3 359.27 €</b>		<b>3 627.88 €</b>

Situations des comptes au 01/09/2018

BRED	9 582.21 €
Livret A	9 750.65 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19 332.86 €</b>

Informations complémentaires

Frais engagés pour l'année 2018	
subventions 2018	600.00
Prix de thèse	500.00
Conference Arras publication	1 000.00
Conference Paris organisation	34.00
Conference PARIS Publication	1 000.00
Conférence Bologne Publication	1 000.00
conference vaxjo publication	1 000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5 134.00</b>

<b>Réel encours</b> (ce qu'il nous reste réellement à dépenser)	<b>14 198.86 €</b>
Solde des comptes - frais engagés	

A

excedent annuel -268.61 €