

Scottish Screen, 4 February 2009

Present

John Izod, Karl Magee, Kathryn Mackenzie, Isabelle Gourdin-Sangouard, Philip Drake, Sarah Neely (all University of Stirling), Niamh Stack, Karen Lury, John Caughie (all University of Glasgow), Aimee McNair (University of Strathclyde), Alastair Scott (University of the West of Scotland), Scott Donaldson (Scottish Screen), Janet McBain and Ruth Washbrook (Scottish Screen Archive)

Introduction - Scott Donaldson

Archive film will be used quite extensively in schools, via the GLOW network, through the developing 'Scotland on Screen' project (LTS, SS and NLS partnership). Looking at the possibility of introducing a Moving Image Arts A-level to Scotland which includes a 60% practical element, taking a 'creative arts' approach rather than sociology/media studies approach. Keen to in raise the profile of NLS Scottish Screen Archive film in HE, for the 'added value' that HE research can bring to the material, through its interrogation, discoveries, and new perspectives.

Preparing bids for funded research - John Izod & Karl Magee

J Izod spoke about the process of putting together a successful application to the AHRC for 'The Cinema Authorship of Lindsay Anderson' project:

<http://www.is.stir.ac.uk/libraries/collections/anderson/index.php>

Strengths of the application were that it brought together two separate areas (archives and

research) in a single project; and that it had a range of outcomes, including:

- A major conference on the use of the archives of filmmakers ('Archives and auteurs', University of Stirling, 2-4 September 2009)
- Publications including a book on Anderson, an edited volume of conference papers and articles in peer reviewed journals
- A touring exhibition of material from Anderson's personal and working papers
- An item-level catalogue of Anderson's correspondence (available online)

In assessing likely costs of the project, J Izod noted that it was important not to underestimate the amount of time you would spend on a project when allocating your time in the application.

J Caughie noted that when assessing applications AHRC panels are 'cost-blind' - the cost of a project should not be the major decision-making factor, it is the project outcomes that are the most important element. It is value for money that is important rather than cost, with knowledge transfer and public access outcomes being vital elements of successful applications. The average cost of projects is around £400,000.

K Magee spoke about a project currently in development between the Changing Room, Stirling's centre for contemporary visual art, and the University of Stirling. The project invites a pair of young Scottish artists (Luke Fowler and Katy Dove) to produce new works emerging from their use of the archives of John Grierson and Norman McLaren which are held in the university library:

<http://www.is.stir.ac.uk/libraries/collections/spcoll/media/grierson.php>

<http://www.is.stir.ac.uk/libraries/collections/spcoll/McLarenHome.php>

Funding from the Scottish Arts Council has enabled the first phase of the project to get underway. Additional funding will be sought, possibly from the AHRC Beyond Text programme:

<http://www.beyondtext.ac.uk/>

. Anybody in the consortium interested in getting involved in the project (and re-visiting / challenging the role of Grierson in documentary filmmaking) should contact K Magee (

karl.magee@stir.ac.uk

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Scottish Screen Archive: Research Opportunities - Janet McBain & Ruth Washbrook

J McBain presented an introduction to the resources held in the Scottish Screen Archive. Approximately 90% of its holdings are non-fiction films including documentary, newsreel, shorts, educational, advertising and promotional films. Some STV and Grampian material is held (no BBC material as they have their own archive). The Archive receives copies of any films that receive funding from Scottish Screen (and also holds the production files for many of these films). A catalogue of 5,000+ titles (with 1,000+ illustrative clips) can be found at: <http://ssa.nls.uk/>.

The Archive has received funding from the National Library of Scotland for digitisation of films and is piloting a digitisation-on-demand service. The first material will go online in Spring 2009.

Other moving image collections online include:

The British Universities Newsreel Database:

<http://www.bufvc.ac.uk/databases/newsreels/index.html>

Newsfilm Online:

<http://www.nfo.ac.uk/>

The National Archives Public Information Films:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/films/aboutfilms.htm>

North West Film Archive - BBC Manchester collection:

www.nwfa.mmu.ac.uk

R Washbrook spoke about a number of educational projects the Archive is involved in. Education and outreach covers all areas (from Primary School to Lifelong Learning). Recently added 6 hours of archive film to GLOW (an intranet for Scottish schools): <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/glowscotland/>

Also contributed to other projects including:

Using Moving Image Archives in Academic Research, a training course for PhD students run by UCL and the University of Nottingham:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/filmstudies/movingimagearchives>

Amateur Cinema Course, University of Glasgow (focuses on amateur cinema in Britain and the US between 1930s-1970s)

Pantomime in Scotland, University of Glasgow:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/theatrefilmtelevisionstudies/research/pantomimeinscotland/>

Discussion

The key areas for AHRC applications were noted as being:

Research Grants

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Pages/RG-StandardRoute.aspx>

Collaborative Doctoral Awards

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Pages/CollaborativeDoctoralAwards.aspx>

Research Networks and Workshop Scheme

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Pages/ResNetWork.aspx>

Material from the Scottish Screen Archive also being made available via the JISC Films & Sound Online: Films of Scotland

http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/catalogue/coll_faso_fs.aspx?keywords=films+of+scotland

It was suggested that the Scottish Film Consortium would be asked to set up an 'Archive forum' for sharing information between colleagues and highlighting related resources and funding opportunities. Meantime a collective email list of attendees and other interested parties would be shared.

K Magee

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