

# SRN SCREENWRITING RESEARCH NETWORK

**Welcome to the quarterly newsletter from the Screenwriting Research Network. We hope to keep you updated with events around the network and in the world of screenwriting research.**

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## Executive Council News

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The Executive Council recently circulated the call for organizers for future SRN annual conferences, 2021-2023. The text can be found at: <https://screenwritingresearch.com/2019/03/05/call-for-conferences/> Please forward to colleagues who may be interested. SRN members can contact any member of the EC if there are matters you would like brought up at our monthly Skype meetings.

## From the organisers of Porto 2019

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Between the 12th and the 14th of September 2019, the School of Arts of the Catholic University of Portugal will host the XII SRN Conference, in Porto. The conference, with the theme "Screen Narratives: Order and Chaos", will present keynote speeches by researchers with different theoretical approaches on narrative: the widely published Thomas Elsaesser, who developed the concept of the mind-game film; Christoph Bode, head investigator of the funded interdisciplinary project "Future Narratives"; and Maria Poulaki, the first author who applied the Complex Systems Theory to film narrative. In addition to presentations, the program will include the SRN General Assembly and Working Group meetings. If you wish to arrive in Porto on the 11th, you can join a touristic program in Porto's downtown, a city well reputed for the Port Wine and which was awarded the distinction of European Best Destination. There will be some relaxing moments during SRN XII, in this city close to the beach, such as the conference dinner and conference party. For more information, please, take a look at <http://artes.porto.ucp.pt/en/SRN2019>

## SRN Awards 2019

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These annual awards for outstanding achievements in screenwriting research were established by the Executive Council recently, with the first awards to be given out at the Porto conference in September. There are two categories: Book and Research Article. Further detail can be found under News at <https://screenwritingresearch.com/> Nominations are coming in for the book award but nominations for the award for best research article are very thin on the ground. The EC wishes to encourage all network members to identify suitable articles and get nominating!

## General News

- Following on from the 'script development' special issue of the *Journal of Screenwriting* (8.3) in 2017, Craig Batty (UTS) and Stayci Taylor (RMIT) are co-editing two major new collections, both of which feature many researchers from the SRN. The first, *Script Development: Critical Approaches, Creative Practices, International Perspectives*, will continue to lay the foundations for research in this area, and will feature chapters *looking into practice* and those *looking out from practice*. It is due to be published in 2020. The second, *The Palgrave Handbook of Script Development*, a case study approach and will feature over 30 chapters from around the world. It is due to be published in 2021.
- *Palgrave Studies in Screenwriting* is the first book series devoted to screenwriting research and study. The current series editors (Steven Maras, JJ Murphy, Eva Novrup Redvall) are actively considering proposal ideas at the moment. The next book (the 6th) in the series will be a volume by Adam Ganz and Steven Price titled *Robert De Niro and the Working Screenplay*, which looks at De Niro's unique approach as an actor to interpreting screenplays. All five books in the series are now available in paperback, thus at a more suitable price for students. For more information about the series see <https://link.springer.com/bookseries/14590> Palgrave have kindly offered a discount of 20% on books in the series at the moment to members of the SRN, valid to 31st March 2019. Please use the promotional code PM19TWENTY1. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please contact Steven Maras <[steven.maras@uwa.edu.au](mailto:steven.maras@uwa.edu.au)>. Or contact Lina Aboujieb at Palgrave directly <[Lina.Aboujieb@palgrave.com](mailto:Lina.Aboujieb@palgrave.com)> The Palgrave publishing process is outlined here: <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/why-publish/publishing-process> Sample book proposals can be provided for those new to the book proposal genre.
- The ever-prolific Stephen Follows has recently published his report on the content of the average screenplay, using data from more than 12,000 scripts. Article can be accessed at: <https://stephenfollows.com/what-the-average-screenplay-contains/>

### *Recent publications of note*

**Creating Dialogue for TV: Screenwriters Talk Television** edited by Monika Bednarek. Interviews with five Hollywood professionals talking about the art and craft of writing dialogue. <https://www.routledge.com/Creating-Dialogue-for-TV-Screenwriters-Talk-Television-1st-Edition/Bednarek/p/book/9780367139582>

**OffScreen's** Oct issues contains a series of essays from Tom Stempel looking at American screenwriting since 2000 and two articles from Elaine Lennon discussing *When Women Wrote Hollywood* (edited by Rosanne Welch) and *Transcultural Screenwriting* (edited by Carmen Sofia Brenes, Patrick Cattrysse and Margaret McVeigh). <https://offscreen.com/issues/view/volume-22-issue-10>

In January, a special issue of the *Journal of Media Practice and Education* on **Filmmaking in the Academy** was published, edited by Susan Kerrigan and Joanna Callaghan. Issue can be accessed at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjmp21/current> Paolo Braga recently published an article examining subtext in cinematic dialogue and sketching a map of the main types of subtext titled **Mapping Subtext by Using Thematic Coordinates** and is available at: <https://jomec.cardiffuniversitypress.org/articles/abstract/10.18573/jomec.187/> Joe Velikovskys's reprinted "The Holon/Parton Structure of the Meme, or The Unit of Culture" at <https://storyality.wordpress.com/2017/06/22/storyality144-the-structure-of-the-meme-the-unit-of-culture-encyc-of-infosci-tech-2017/>

## On the subject of archives

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### **Screenwriting Archives and Resources Project (SARP)**

Just a reminder to contact Ian Macdonald if you have information to add to the database of screenwriting resources held by archives or related sources: [i.w.macdonald@leedsd.ac.uk](mailto:i.w.macdonald@leedsd.ac.uk)

### **From Hilary Swet, archivist at the Writers Guild Foundation, Los Angeles**

The Writers Guild Foundation's Shavelson-Webb Library is the only library on the planet focused entirely on writing for the screen. It is open to the public and home to almost 40,000 items. Our mission is to preserve and promote the craft, history, and voices of screen storytelling. To meet that goal, we collect scripts and related materials, and make them available to everyone who comes to visit - not just Writers Guild members. Our core collection consists of produced film, television, radio and video game scripts, many of which have received major writing awards. This includes 28,000 television scripts; 5,800 film scripts; 1,300 radio scripts; 150 new media and video game scripts; 3,000 books on writing, writers, and the entertainment industry; and 1,400 taped programs, events, seminars, and interviews hosted by the WGA and WGF over decades.

The Writers Guild Foundation Archive preserves and promotes the art, craft and history of screenwriting, and records the memory of the entertainment industry's first labor union, the Writers Guild of America. The rare and unique collections include Screen Writers Guild historical materials, produced and unproduced scripts, letters, photographs, production notes, memorabilia, oral histories, and personal papers of film, television and radio writers. Notable manuscript collections are from the following writers: Stephen J. Cannell, Leonard Freeman, Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, John Gay, Jackson Gillis, Roy Huggins, George Kirgo, Mort Lachman, Norman Liebmann, Del Reisman, Dean Riesner, Howard Rodman (Sr.), Caroline Thompson, Mel Shavelson, Mel Tolkin, Matthew Weiner, and Linda Woolverton. American television scripts and related development material make up the bulk of library and archival holdings.

The library's collection is non-circulating and for on-site reference use only. Items in the core collection (catalogued individually) are available upon request in the library. Archival materials (catalogued as collections) are available by appointment only. Librarians and archivists provide research and reference assistance in person or via email on topics such as writers' credits and biographies; history of writers in Hollywood; major industry writing awards; WGA history; inquiries about specific titles; matters related to creative and business aspects of writing.

Website: [www.wgfoundation.org](http://www.wgfoundation.org)

Catalog: <http://librarycatalog.wgfoundation.org/Presto>

Finding Aids: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/institutions/Writers+Guild+Foundation+Archive>



We welcome contributions and feedback which can be sent to Christina Milligan, Auckland University of Technology: [christina.milligan@aut.ac.nz](mailto:christina.milligan@aut.ac.nz)

For suggestions on the layout please write to Margaret McVeigh: [m.mcveigh@griffith.edu.au](mailto:m.mcveigh@griffith.edu.au)