

The Screenwriting Research Network (SRN)

Constitution

Adopted 16th September 2012, Sydney

Amended 19th October 2014, Potsdam

Amended 21st June 2021, via online consultation

Amended 22nd September 2023, at AGM, Columbia, Missouri, USA

1. Name and Definitions

1.1. The Association shall be known as the Screenwriting Research Network.

1.2. The Association serves all researchers and **scholars** who wish to engage in discussion, debate and information exchange on the subject of **screenwriting studies**. For the purposes of this constitution, **screenwriting studies** is understood to mean the study and research of the conceptualisation of moving image narrative, and the study and research of the practices of such conceptualisation. The range of such study and research is defined constantly by peer review. This definition is designed to provide a clear focus for the Association, and is not intended to restrict discussion or debate on the nature of **screenwriting studies**, nor to restrict collaboration and information exchange between members.

1.3. A **scholar** of screenwriting is considered to be a person with a demonstrable interest in study and research as noted in 1.2 above, whatever his/her field or professional activities. He/she need not be affiliated to a Higher Education institution.

2. Aims

2.1. To facilitate the sharing of views and information between, and collaborative working amongst, scholars of screenwriting studies, in pursuance of the development of research within, and in relation to, the field of screenwriting studies.

2.2. To seek, and create opportunities for, the practical, creative and intellectual development of research into screenwriting.

2.3. To represent the views of members of the Association to interested parties, including governmental and quasi-governmental bodies, in furtherance of Aims 2.1 and 2.2 above.

2.4. To enter into agreements with interested parties, including governmental and quasi-governmental bodies, in accordance with the views and wishes of members of the Association, in furtherance of Aims 2.1 and 2.2 above.

3. Objectives

3.1. To collect and share information on screenwriting studies.

3.2. To provide an international forum for scholars of screenwriting, encouraging discussion of issues and exchange of information concerning screenwriting studies and its development as an academic field.

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- 3.3. To encourage and support peer-reviewed publications in the field.
- 3.4. To create conferences and other events which assist in:
 - 3.4.1. the sharing of research within, and related to, screenwriting studies,
 - 3.4.2. the development of intellectual thought concerning the field of screenwriting studies,
 - 3.4.3. the discussion of issues affecting the teaching and pedagogy of screenwriting studies,
 - 3.4.4. other acts in furtherance of the aims of the Association.
- 3.5. To promote policies which encourage full participation in screenwriting studies by all sections of society; and which address issues of gender and sexual orientation, ethnicity and disability.
- 3.6. To establish, maintain links with, and encourage dialogue with similar Associations and other appropriate bodies, both nationally and internationally.
- 3.7. To do all such other lawful acts which may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Aims and Objectives of the Association.

4. Membership

- 4.1. Membership shall be open to any individual of 18 years or over, defined as a scholar of screenwriting in 1.3 above.
- 4.2. Membership shall also be open to institutions whose aims coincide with, or support, the aims and objectives of the Screenwriting Research Network as defined in sections 2 and 3 above.
- 4.3. Eligibility for membership, and acceptance of membership, shall be decided upon by Executive Council. In the event of dispute that cannot be resolved, the matter shall be decided by the Association's membership at a General Meeting (AGM), or through a special call to the membership (CTM).
- 4.4. The Executive Council shall have the power to create additional categories of membership (e.g. Associate Membership, Patron Membership, Honorary Membership), but such action must be approved by the Association at the next annual General Meeting (AGM) or through a special call to the membership (CTM).
- 4.5. An annual General Meeting (AGM) or special call to the membership (CTM) may for good reason terminate the membership of any member; provided that an opportunity for representation by the member (or delegate representing the member), has been extended by either the Executive Council or the AGM/CTM to the Member concerned.
- 4.6. The Association may, if it so desires, require the payment of a membership subscription. Decisions on rates and types of subscriptions are made by Executive Council, and must be ratified by the next AGM or CTM.

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4.7. It is the responsibility of a member to inform the Secretary as soon as possible of any changes which may affect their membership status, rate of subscription or any other aspect of their membership of the Association.

5. Management of the Association

5.1 The Association shall be managed by an Executive of a minimum of five persons, and a maximum of nine persons aged 18 or over, and who have been members for one year or more. The current Executive shall decide on the total number of Executive members for the following year.

5.2. The Officers of the Executive Council shall be Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer and Membership Secretary. One office may be combined with another office, if this is deemed appropriate by the Executive.

5.3. The Executive Council shall serve for two years, except for the first year of operation when two posts will be elected to serve for one year.

5.4. Where nominations to serve on the Executive Council exceed the number of Officers, there shall be elections to the Executive Council.

5.5. Upon reaching the end of the usual period of service, an Executive Council member may offer himself/herself for re-election.

5.6. Candidates for election to the Executive Council shall be nominated and seconded, and shall make available for circulation to members a short supporting statement (max. 250 words) on the reasons why they are seeking (re-) election.

5.7. Nominations for election to the Executive Council, and supporting statements, must be made by members of the Association in writing, and must be in the hands of the Association's Secretary at least four weeks before the date of the election. These nominations and statements must be available to the Association's membership no later than 14 days before the date of the election. Should nominations exceed vacancies, there shall be an election by secret ballot.

5.8. Election to the Executive Council shall be by members of at least one year's standing. It shall be managed by two scrutineers chosen by the Executive Council for their impartial standing, and in accordance with the wishes expressed by the membership. At least one of the scrutineers must be a member of the Association. Neither scrutineer may be a member of the Executive Council, and neither may be nominated for election to the Executive Council.

5.9. Elections to the Executive Council will be conducted by secret ballot, by means appropriate to an international Association: these may include votes received at an AGM as well as postal ballot, e-mail, e-messages, web-based survey tools and other means with proof of membership, *provided that* appropriate anonymity arrangements are in place.

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5.10. The Executive Council has the power to co-opt on to the Council any member deemed worthy of co-option. The reason for co-option must be recorded. A co-opted member has no power to vote in Executive Council.

5.11. The Executive Council shall have the option to include 2 Early Career Representatives (ECR) each appointed for a 2 year term, where terms overlap, allowing each new ECR to be mentored and assist the incumbent ECR. ECRs will take on a role suited to their skills to assist in the full functioning of the Executive Council as do other EC members, under the direction of the Chair and in consultation with all EC members.

6. Meetings and Proceedings of the Executive Council

6.1. The Executive Council is the servant of the Association, and shall act in accordance with the wishes of the Association.

6.2. The Executive Council shall decide policy and strategy, and make decisions for and on behalf of the Association, in accordance with the wishes of the Association.

6.3. The Executive Council has a duty to consult the membership over matters deemed by the Council as significant for the wellbeing of the Association.

6.4. Proceedings of the Executive Council may take place via email, phone and video conferencing and other appropriate means.

6.5. The Executive Council shall keep records (including minutes where appropriate) of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Council and of any subcommittees, and shall publish these to the membership within a reasonable time via appropriate means, and no less than annually.

6.6. The Executive Council may appoint one or more subcommittees consisting of one or more members of the Executive Council and not more than five other full members of the Association, provided that all acts and proceedings of the said subcommittee shall be promptly and fully reported to the Executive Council.

7. Meetings and Proceedings of the Membership

7.1. There shall be a General Meeting of the membership held annually (Annual General Meeting, AGM). This will be called by the Executive Council, which will give two months' notice of the date and location of the AGM.

7.1.1. The AGM will normally be held in person at a specified location (i.e. usually, the location of the Annual Conference).

7.1.2. Where, due to *force majeure*, it is not possible or reasonable to hold the AGM in person at a specified physical location, it may exceptionally be held virtually (e.g. through video-conferencing) albeit with analogous procedures *provided that* reasonable steps are taken to ensure the broadest participation possible.

7.2. The Chairperson of the AGM shall normally be the Chairperson of the

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Executive Council.

7.3. The Executive Council shall present to each Annual General Meeting the report and accounts of the Association for the preceding year. This report and accounts will be circulated to all members no later than 14 days before the AGM.

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7.4. The Executive Council may call a Special General Meeting of the Association at any time. At least six weeks' notice in writing shall be given, and the notice must state the business to be discussed.

7.5. At any Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called by the Executive Council, proper account shall be taken of the views of members who are unable to attend in person, and who have made those views known to the Meeting. Where the views of absent members call for a substantive change in policy, strategy or Constitution, and where the numbers of these members exceed the numbers of those opposing such change, whether in attendance or not, the Executive Council must consult the membership by appropriate means and act in accordance with article 6.1 above and with article 10 below.

7.6. The Executive Council may consult the whole membership of the Association through email and other internet-based technology, as a general Call to Membership (CTM). The Council must allow a reasonable time for responses to be formulated and made by the membership.

7.7. Executive Council must respond within a reasonable time to direct requests from Association members to issue a Call to Membership for purposes of (re-)considering policy and strategy. Provided at least five Association members of good standing make the request, the Executive Council must consult the Association via appropriate means.

7.8. The Association's Secretary, or nominee, shall keep a full record of proceedings at every general meeting (annual or special) of the Association, and shall publish those proceedings to the membership within a reasonable time, via appropriate means.

7.9. The Association's Secretary, or nominee, shall keep appropriate records of the working of the Executive Council, including minutes of meetings (whether actual or via technology), emails and Calls to Membership (CTM).

8. Powers

8.1. In furtherance of the aims and objectives but not otherwise the Executive Council may exercise the following powers to:

8.1.1. receive or solicit funds

8.1.2. make contracts, employ staff and incur expenditure

8.1.3. open bank accounts

8.1.4. organise meetings and events

8.1.5. publish literature

8.1.6. affiliate with any similar Association

8.1.7. do any lawful thing calculated to secure the promotion of the above aims and objectives.

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9. Income, expenditure and accounts

9.1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the planning and financial control of the Association. He/she shall notify members of fees due to the Association, and shall advise the Executive Council of members who are in arrears.

9.2. The funds of the Association, including all donations contributions and bequests, shall be paid into account(s) operated by the Executive Council in the name of the Association at such bank or other financial institution as the Executive Council shall from time to time decide.

9.3. The Executive Council shall cause:

9.3.1. the keeping of accounting records for the Association

9.3.2. the preparation of annual statements of account for the Association

9.3.3. the auditing or independent examination of the statements of account of the Association.

10. The Constitution

10.1. This constitution is subject to the laws of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

10.2. Subject to the following provisions of this clause the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of Association members of at least one year's standing. The notice of the General Meeting or Call to Membership made for this purpose must include notice of the resolution, the context for the alteration and the wording of the proposed alteration.

10.3. No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the Association cease to be an Association at law.

11. Dissolution

11.1. Subject to the following provisions of this clause, the Association may be dissolved by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of Association members of at least one year's standing. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution, the context for the dissolution and any other proposals to be put to the Meeting concerning matters related to the dissolution.

11.2. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other Association or charitable institution having objects similar to the Association as the Executive Council shall determine; or failing that shall be applied to some other charitable purpose as the Executive Council shall determine.