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## Welcome to the SRN Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026

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### Call for Papers:

## 18th SCREENWRITING RESEARCH NETWORK CONFERENCE

Oxford Brookes University (UK), 9–12 September 2026



We are delighted to announce another annual international conference of the SRN. This time taking place in the UK at Oxford Brookes University from 9–12 September 2026.

The theme of the conference will be Shapes of Future.

### Key Information

- Deadline for submission of all proposals: 20 February 2026.
- Details in the [Full Call for Papers](#).
- New presentation formats announced (Pecha Kucha, Posters).
- Address any query regarding abstracts, registration, programme, etc. to [paolo.russo@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:paolo.russo@brookes.ac.uk)

Please answer [“will you” poll!](#)

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## NEWS FROM PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

*Palgrave Studies in  
Screenwriting Series*

### New Commissioning Book Editor in film, television, and theatre

As many of you know, the SRN has had a long association with Palgrave Macmillan, supporting the Palgrave Studies in Screenwriting Series as well as many individual projects on their lists, including landmark projects such as *The Palgrave Handbook of Screenwriting Studies*, *The Palgrave Handbook of Script Development*, and *Women Screenwriters: An International Guide*.

In that time, many of us in the network have had the pleasure of working with dedicated Palgrave Editors, among the most long term of those being Felicity Plester and Lina Aboujeb, whom we have come to think of as colleagues. This is an update that after ten years on the film and television list at Palgrave Macmillan Lina has been offered another job within the company, and will be leaving the list. Lina was kind enough to declare (and I quote) 'how much I've enjoyed our collaboration and how proud I am of what we have achieved'.



Recruitment for a replacement has now been completed and I am very pleased to inform you all that Kathy Cacace is the new standard bearer of the list. She will serve as the Commissioning Book Editor in film, television, and theatre, and will be handling proposals for scholarly monographs, handbooks, major reference works, edited collections, textbooks, and Palgrave Pivots in film studies, television studies, and theater studies. Kathy is based in New York and can be contacted at [katharine.cacace@palgrave-usa.com](mailto:katharine.cacace@palgrave-usa.com).

Welcome Kathy!

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## SCREENWRITING AND MYTHOLOGY IN ANIMATION

*Call for papers*

Call for Papers: Screenwriting and Mythology in Animation

Special issue of Journal of Screenwriting, edited by Xuguang Chen and Shaopeng Chen

The year 2025 has marked an unprecedented moment in the global animation landscape. The phenomenal success of *Nezha 2* (2025), which has set new box office records of animated films globally and sparked unprecedented public discussion, highlights the growing cultural and industrial significance of myth-based storytelling in contemporary animation. Together with the sustained popularity of China's *New Gods: Yang Jian* (2022), *Nezha: Birth of the Demon Child* (2019), and *Monkey King: Hero is Back* (2015), Japan's *Princess Kaguya* (2013) and *Spirited Away* (2001), European co-productions *Wolfwalkers* (2020), *Song of the Sea* (2014), and *The Secret of Kells* (2009), and Disney's *Moana* (2016) and its long-standing engagement with Greek myths, it is clear that mythology has become one of the most influential narrative engines in contemporary animation worldwide.

This special issue seeks to foreground screenwriting and mythology in animation. We welcome theoretical discussions, detailed textual analyses, case studies, practice-based research, and examinations of writing cultures across different national and transnational contexts.

In the first instance, please email abstracts of up to 400 words and a short biography of up to 100 words no later than 13 February 2026, to the guest editors at [s.p.chen@seu.edu.cn](mailto:s.p.chen@seu.edu.cn).

Draft articles of between 6,000 and 8,000 words (in accordance with the Journal of Screenwriting house style: <https://www.intellectbooks.com/journal-of-screenwriting>) should be sent by 1 September 2026.

Key dates:

- Abstracts and short bio to be submitted by 13 February 2026.
  - Acceptance/rejection of abstracts will be completed by end of March 2026.
  - Draft articles for peer review are due by 1 September 2026.
  - Final articles are due by 1 May 2027, to ensure publication in November 2027.
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## SIGHTLINES

### Sightlines: Filmmaking in the Academy Journal Issue 8

#### *Call for Submissions*

The editors from the ASPERA Research Sub-Committee warmly welcome submissions for Issue 8 of Sightlines: Filmmaking in the Academy journal. The issue is open to all screen media formats (including screenplays), noting the necessity to publish online. We especially invite submissions from those who presented at the recent SRN/Sightlines conference - Hyphen - held in Adelaide in September, 2025.

This audio-visual publication provides a platform for screen works made in a research context within the higher education sector.

Such works are submitted alongside a research statement of 750 to 1,500 words covering the work's research background, contribution and significance.

Submissions will be double peer-reviewed, and peer-reviews will be published alongside accepted works. We encourage submissions that work across the full range of filmmaking research, including collaborations with industry.

#### **Deadline: 28 February 2026**

Submissions open 25 November 2025.

All works must be submitted by 28 February 2026.

The issue is scheduled for publication in November 2026.

#### **Submission Guidelines:**

Complete [this form](#) with:

- 1) details of your work
- 2) a URL or download link for the work
- 3) a URL or download link for the work a still image (screen capture or screenplay title page) and
- 4) a URL or download link for an accompanying research statement (750 to 1,500 words)

#### **Please note:**

- a) works should be from the period 2020 - 2026.
- b) the title of the creative work and research statement should be consistent with each other. The research statement supports the creative work and is not considered to be a submission in its own right.
- c) please use the Chicago author-date for referencing in the research statement. A style guide is available [here](#)

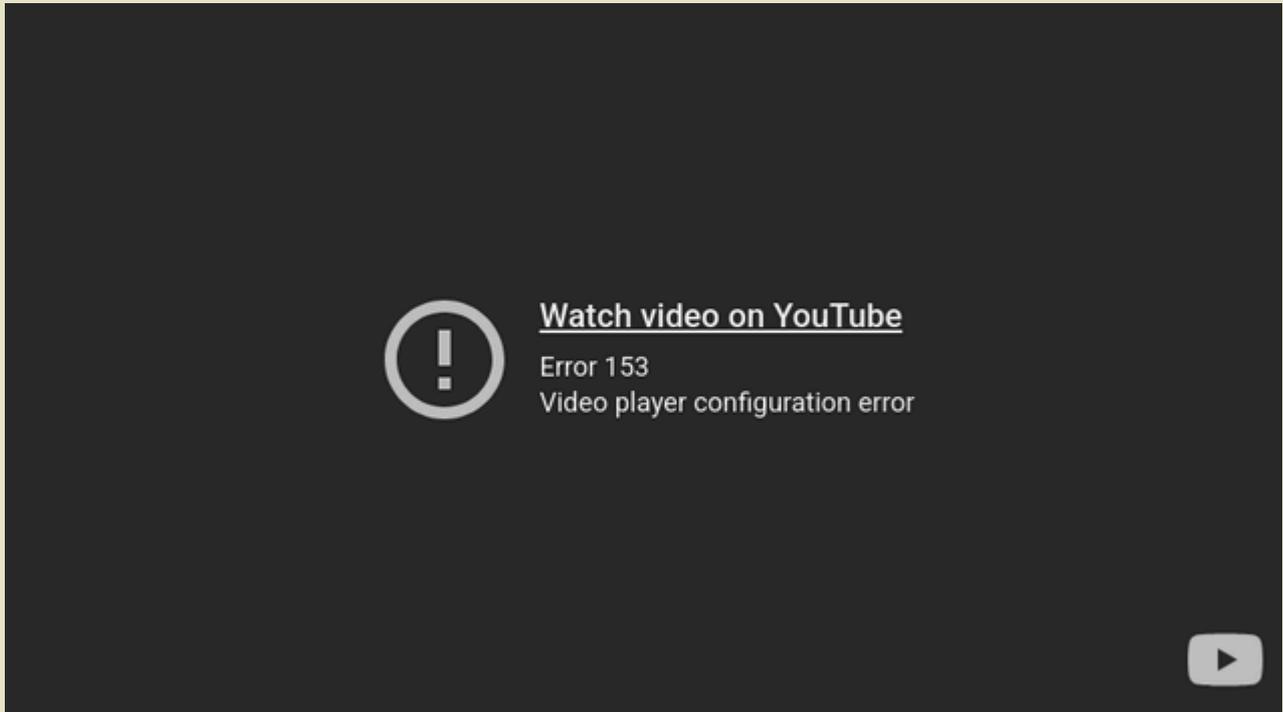
Please refer to previous issues of Sightlines to see conversations between peer reviewers and submitters.

For [more details on previous issues](#).

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## CREATIVE PLAY 10      Creative Play #10 with Paul Gulino

Working Group



We're excited to announce that [the recording of the lecture is now available for viewing!](#)

Organized by Chris Neilan, the session featured Paul Gulino - award-winning screenwriter and playwright best known for his influential books *Screenwriting: The Sequence Approach* and *The Science of Screenwriting*. He has taught at Chapman University since 1998 and continues to lecture internationally on storytelling strategies.

In this session, the group discussed methods to "push students into the water" rather than just lecturing on theory.

Paul shared a prompt where students write three dialogue-free scenes set in the same location over time: 1) Unfamiliar/Mysterious, 2) Familiar/Friendly, and 3) Deserted/Nostalgic. This teaches students how to treat screenwriting as a game where the audience actively pieces the story together (constructivist psychology).

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We've got three more sessions coming up, all taking place on Wednesday evenings at 6pm UK time:

- Weds, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> - Christiane Hitzemann, Filmuniversity Babelsberg Konrad Wolf
  - Weds, March 4<sup>th</sup> - Matt Kirton, DeMontfort University
  - Weds, May 13<sup>th</sup> - Laura Kirk, the University of Kansas
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## SRN SHORTS

[SRN Shorts](#) at Instagram!

Are you part of our organization and want to share your research interests and your latest publication—whether it's a book, book chapter, or academic article?

Or, on the other hand, if you just want to tell us about the research work you're currently working on, it doesn't matter if it hasn't been published recently.

Do you want to share your research but haven't been able to attend the organization's most recent conferences for some reason? This is also your chance!

If so, we invite you to participate in SRN Shorts, which will be published on our official Instagram account: SRN Instagram

These will be short videos (max 1 minute 30 seconds) where you can:

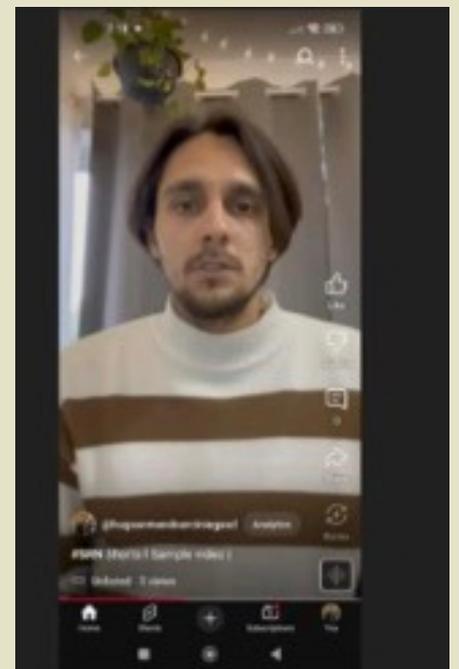
- Introduce yourself
- Talk about your research interests
- Share your latest publication
- Briefly explain what it's about
- Tell us where we can find it

Ready to join? We'd love to feature your work!

Additional guidelines:

We recommend recording with your mobile phone in a vertical format, as that's the format YouTube will later convert into a Short.

Video length: Maximum 1 minute and 30 seconds.



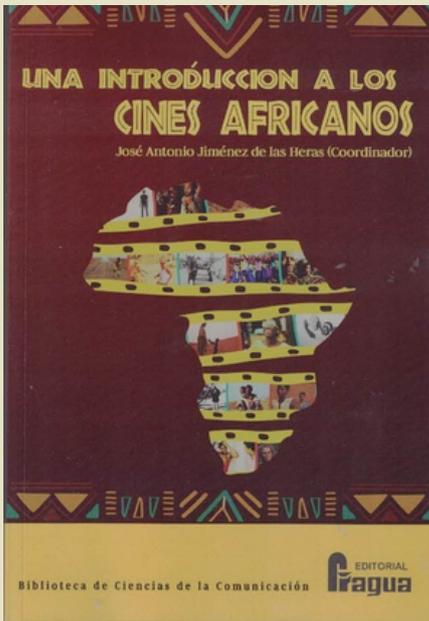
Aspect ratio: vertical portrait videos, medium shot.

No music: When recording the video, please make sure there's no background music to avoid copyright problems when we publish it on the channel.

Please send your short video to this email address, and our social media coordinator will get in touch with you: [hugoarciniegas@comunidad.unam.mx](mailto:hugoarciniegas@comunidad.unam.mx).

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## NOTABLE RECENT PUBLICATIONS



Gutiérrez, J. S. (2025). "Tilāi de Idrissa Ouédraogo: cine, tradición y disidencia en la comunidad africana". In J. A. Jiménez de las Heras (Ed.), Una introducción a los cines africanos. Madrid: Fragua.

SRN member Julia Sabina Gutiérrez (University of Alcalá) has contributed a chapter to the newly published book *Una introducción a los cines africanos* (An Introduction to African Cinemas), edited by Jose Antonio Jiménez de las Heras.

In her chapter, titled "Tilāi de Idrissa Ouédraogo: cine, tradición y disidencia en la comunidad africana", Gutiérrez analyzes the 1990 film *Tilāi* by the renowned Burkinabé filmmaker Idrissa Ouédraogo. Drawing on film anthropology, the text explores themes of tradition, dissidence, and the unique aesthetic sensibility of Burkina Faso, highlighting how Ouédraogo's work combines social critique with deep affection and tenderness.

The book, published by Fragua (Madrid), is a significant academic contribution in Spain, aiming to introduce general audiences to the rich history and diversity of Sub-Saharan African cinema.

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We welcome **contributions** and feedback! Please send announcements, articles or calls you'd like to share with members to [jan.cernik@upol.cz](mailto:jan.cernik@upol.cz).

**SRN Executive Council members:** Rosanne Welch, Isadora García Avis, Lucian Georgescu, Clarissa Miranda, Romana Turina, Juan Carlos Carillo, Ziphozakhe Hlobo, Cristina Petcu, Hugo Armando Diaz, Jan Černík.

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