SRN SCREENWRITING RESEARCH NETWORK

EC MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday 27th April 2026

In attendance: Rosanne Welch (RW), Lucien Georgescu (LG), Isadora García Avis (IGA), Hugo Armando Arciniegas, ERC (HA), Jan Cernik (JC), Juan Carlos Carrillo (JCC), Romana Turina (RT), Clarissa Miranda (CM).

Apologies: Cristina Petcu, ERC in training (CP), Ziphozakhe Hlobo (ZH) - joined right at the end, problem with time zone.

1. Approval of March Minutes. HA proposes, RW seconds.

2. Agreement on date for next month: 18th MAY confirmed.

3. Paolo Russo's update re: SRN 2026:

"For SRN26 we received submissions from around 130 colleagues and we have shortlisted 113. We have a maximum capacity of 120 so we're almost full on that front. Of course, with everything that is going on in the world right now, it remains to be seen how many will actually be able to make it to Oxford next September. We'll see. The great thing is that we have presenters from almost 30 countries, including from Bangladesh, South Africa, China and Japan.

Dates are confirmed: 9 to 12 September. We'll start in the afternoon of Wednesday 9, which will be reserved to a welcome reception, and a couple of warm-up sessions – e.g. a table read led by Max Gee, possibly a screening. Our Chancellor, actor Paterson Joseph has promised to be in attendance to greet the delegates.

The core conference (i.e. panel sessions) will be on Thursday 10-Friday 11-Saturday 12. Thursday and Friday will be full-on, whereas the schedule on Saturday will depend on the final number of presenters actually attending. We'll have tea breaks on all days, and lunch on Thursday and Friday; not on Saturday, I am afraid, but delegates will be able to buy something at one of the cafes.

Conference dinner will be on Friday evening at Browns' Restaurant in the city centre. The dinner fee should be around £40 for a 3-course, sit-down menu. The restaurant is very nice and we'll have pretty much the whole venue for ourselves.

We will have two keynote speakers. I have already secured one. But the big name I have invited is the current president of the Writers Guild of Great Britain, Jack Thorne, who is also the screenwriter of Lord of the Flies, Adolescence and Enola Holmes among many others. However, he has not replied to confirm yet, therefore I am getting a little on tenterhooks. Let's hope he gets back soon.

My hope is to be able to stream the two keynotes live, so everyone will be able to watch from anywhere, not just the conference delegates. Over the Summer, I will also try and see whether I can add at least one panel from remote, even if it means recording it and making it available on the website.

Despite the wide range of presentation formats suggested in the CfP, almost everyone will be presenting regular 20-minutes paper. We have four pre-constituted panels from as many universities and countries, all of which promise to be very interesting; one table read; and two workshops. The rest will be individual papers.

I've started designing the website, which I hope will go live in a month or so. Around the same time, we plan to open registrations: fees should be as planned – around £110 (regular rate) and £70-75 (PhD students and postdocs).

In May I am due to meet Ian Macdonald for one of our podcast episodes. I will tell him that we wish to give him a honorary award; let's see how he feels about it and then we'll decide how to organize it."

4. Membership. JCC: Current number of mailing list subscribers is **798.** Although this number fluctuates month to month, it has been more or less stable, around 800 members, for the past couple of years.

RW suggests we should remind other colleagues about joining the mailing list.

5. Book Awards. CM has posted the call for nominations and updated info on the website. **IGA** has sent e-mail through the mailing list. **CP** has also shared the details on social media.

6. Working Group updates:

RT shares update on the conference on Comparative Screenwriting + on organizing a Script Reading Working Group Zoom.

HA offers to post videos from RT's WG on the official SRN youtube channel. **RW** thinks this is a great idea, as it will showcase the wide breadth of all the things the SRN does.

JC has found someone else to lead the Sustainable Screenwriting WG. These are the new details, which CM will post on the website: "For more information or to join the Sustainable Screenwriting Working Group, please contact **Heidi Philipsen** at heidij@sdu.dk"

Creative PlayWG - Chris Neilan's update:

"Creative Play sessions are progressing nicely - we've had recent sessions led by Paul Gulino, Phil Mathews of Bournemouth University and MattKirton of De Montfort University (and, of course, the incomparable Rosanne Welch), exploring creative screenwriting prompts from different angles, and have an upcoming session: Weds, May 13 th - Laura Kirk, the University of Kansas. We'll then take a break and have more sessions starting up around Sept/Oct. Anyone who wants to attend the sessions can email me at c.neilan@napier.ac.uk and ask to join the mailing list, and I'm keen to hear from network members who'd like to run a session. All you have to do is facilitate a creative screenwriting exercise just as you would for students in a classroom, and then discuss the exercise afterwards with participants.

The aim, as ever, is to share creative exercises that screenwriting educators can use to inspire creativity in the classroom, and to create a space for busy network members in amongst the demands of academia and other commitments to be creative and focus on the importance of play. Previous sessions available here. Teams links will go out shortly before each session. If anyone else would like to lead a session, shoot me an email."

7. Calendar of EC duties throughout the year. We all agree that the best idea would be to create a Drive with the existing SRN Gmail address. Then we can put all the necessary documents and templates in that Drive, so that future ECs can have access to them.
CM will look into reactivating the Gmail address and creating the Drive folder.

8. Next newsletter.

JC confirms that the next edition is almost ready to go. Deadline to receive any new content is May 4th. After this newsletter, the following one will be sent out in September, for the SRN Conference.

JC will ask Paolo if there is any info about SRN 2026 he wants to share with everyone.
RT will also send info re: Atlanta Conference, so that it can be mentioned in the newsletter.

9. Website.

CM has made all the required website updates from last meeting. **CM** has also created a Google Form to be posted on the website, which people could use to request the use of the SRN logo/brand. We all approve of this. **JC** points out that the contact address should be changed to the SRN Gmail account, so that all requests go there directly.

10. Regional conferences.

Florianopolis: No news yet. **CM** hopes to have more info next month.

Bucharest: LG suggests doing joint promotion for both SRN 2027 and the Bucharest conference at Oxford, noting that they are different events.

LG: Bucharest will be a joint endeavour in itself, SRN + European Assoc. of Creative Writing Programs (EACWP). LG will be travelling to the EACWP conference in Granada and will discuss final dates with them. Now LG is 80% pro organizing this event in May. LG is still thinking about the theme, but it will probably have to do with the following question: "Is screenwriting creative writing?" LG wants to address a mix of different theoretical debates. After Granada, LG will have a more defined idea, and will give us the final theme in May.

RT. Re: chapter in the book that she has edited on the idea of screenwriting education being helpful for writers as well. This has inspired an idea: dedicating a moment during the conference for creative writing and comparative screenwriting events.

LG: Chris Neilan's and Maxine Gee's WGs do this as well. SRN has started to include this little by little, with a couple of sections in some conferences... But EACWP is a different kind of creative conference. The whole conference is geared towards creative / fun exercises. LG will definitely include something like this in Bucharest. It won't be about submitting academic abstracts; it's more about quick, practical activities. The focus is completely different. There will be more attendees from EACWP than from the SRN. **LG** encourages **RT** to think about what kind of activity she would like to develop for this conference. **RT and LG** will talk about this more in detail.

LG: There will also be a Book Festival at Bucharest.

11. SRN Conversations.

LG: Adelaide edit still in the works. Problem: not enough material. Craig Batty will be guest lecturer for Creative Writing at LG's university. He will use the recording from that lecture as an added angle for the video. It should be ready next month.

Leeds Conversations might be combined with a special video to celebrate the Honorary Award for Ian Macdonald, with the possibility of turning it into a video about the origins of the SRN. **LG** will talk to Paolo, to see if Ian will be able to come to SRN 2026. **RW**: Even if he is not able to attend SRN 2026 in the end, it would be great to do a special video like this.

LG shares idea about another video re: the future of the SRN. What's going to happen in the next few years, maybe even some promotion for SRN 2027. LG would like to interview JCC and Diego Sheinbaum about this while in Oxford.

13. SRN 2027.

JCC: No overlap with the Bucharest theme. They are thinking about organising the conference around the concept of voice / local voices as a theme.

HA shares they had their first meeting last month, and their next meeting is next week. Although they initially wanted to host the conference in both universities, the logistics would be too complicated. **One single venue: Universidad Panamericana (UP).** It's smaller, nicer, surrounded by hotels.

RW: That's a good decision, although some of us would like to visit UNAM too.
IGA has a suggestion: maybe the 3-day conference can take place at UP, but then there can be a tour of UNAM right before or after the conference itself, for those who can attend.

14. Social media monthly results.

HA says CP is very professional. She is more than ready to take on the full social media position in September.

Re: SRN Shorts. Who else can do one? How do we encourage members who aren't actively at conferences OR in leadership positions? We will talk about this in our next meeting.

15. Succession planning begins.

HA confirms he will submit his candidacy to become a regular EC member.
LG + RT will also have to resubmit.
RW: We will discuss this more in detail next month. For now, let's think about anyone else we want to encourage to join us.

16. Other topics.

ZH is looking for script readers for a project. Get in touch with her for more details.

NEXT MEETING:
Monday 18th May