

**Minutes for The Diaspora Screen Media Network – Second Steering Committee Meeting (5/11/2019, 10am-3.30pm)**

**In Attendance**

This was a virtual meeting held via Zoom (with UN core members in person). Those who took part in the meeting were Janet Wilson (PI) Rajinder Dudrah (Co-I), David Simmons (Re-Co), Meriem Lamara, SC member Ian Sergeant, SC member Amy Smart, SC member Jade Turner.

**Apologies**: Dina Iordonova, Tre Ventour.

**Proceedings:**

The PI ran through the minutes from the last meeting and the action points.

Meriem Lamara, (Meriem.Lamara@Northampton.ac.uk) who will take over many of the duties related to the populating and maintenance of the website introduced herself to the SC.

SC member, Ian Sergeant introduced himself to the rest of the SC as did SC member Amy Smart.

The PI has written to the parties recommended by SC member Dina Iordanova but not had any reply as of the date of the meeting. She will follow up.

The PI heard from Dr Nabeel Zubari from the University of Auckland, PI is going to meet Zubari in Auckland, New Zealand to discuss potential collaboration with the network.

The Co-I identified required updates to the DSMN website and detailed these to Meriem Lamara and those present.

Structure of the first workshop

A significant part of the meeting was taken up with a thorough discussion of the structure for the first workshop event, to take place at The University of Northampton on 5th February 2020. All present SC members were involved in this discussion. The provisional structure was agreed as follows:

* ‘Icebreaker’ – General introduction by PI and Co-I, aims of the network etc will be discussed and those present will be given time to introduce themselves (approx. 1 hour).
* Provocation Session – PI, Co-I, Re-CO and SC member (Ian Sergeant) 10 minutes each then 30 minutes for responses. (90 minutes)
* Lunch

Those present will then split into two groups for

* 2 parallel workshop group sessions – lead by the PI, Co-I where participants will be encouraged to discuss sub questions related to the overarching question for the workshop and relate their respective thoughts and experiences for 45 minutes.
* 45 minute feedback session with all participants involved.
* Final hour - Roundtable chaired by Co-I with student reps, and (potentially) Karen Wilkes (BCU), and Deborah Shaw (Ports) discussing and reflecting upon what has happened on the day while also feeding forward to the next workshop.
* Final hour on planning and discussion of legacy/publication , follow-up for website (for SC and those involved centrally in the network)

It is intended that this session will also involve a short reminder about the website and call for related ephemera.

In order to increase the level of student involvement the CO-I suggested the involvement of student SC members on the final roundtable panel and the idea of students curating/running one of the sessions at the second workshop event.

The Re-Co reminded those present about the requirement to film some of the events taking place during the workshop. The CO-I suggested that a combination of a short (3-5 minute) video sequence capturing a sense of the day’s events and a series of short (3-5 minute) vox pops interviews with willing attendees would fulfil this requirement. This has been factored into the budget

Publishing

PI has contacted Special Issue editors on the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* about the idea of a special journal issue related to the network’s research. This would probably be for the last publication slot in 2021 and would consist of 6-7 articles, and one or two ‘creative’ pieces. The SC envisage contributors coming from the symposium as well as other relevant researchers and academics being involved. The idea of approaching Vijay Mishra as an important scholar in the area, and international keynote for the 2 day conference, was discussed.

POP UP Festival Event, Amy Smart and Ian Sergeant

In response to the SC members’ discussion of a possible pop up DSMN film festival event at the first steering committee meeting as a means of extending the legacy of the project and helping to disseminate its knowledge and findings, part of the afternoon’s proceedings was devoted to presentations by SC members Amy Smart (FilmHub and Flatpack) and Ian Sergeant (BCU/ ex-MAC) concerning their respective wealth of experience running film related, often public facing events. Both Amy and Ian spoke at length and suggested many interesting and useful ideas. Some of the more prominent points to emerge out of the presentations, and the discussions that followed were:

* The issue of accessibility
* The success of making such an event about more than just screening the films – musical performances, afterparties etc were mentioned as useful ways of attracting audiences who might not otherwise attend.
* Ian Sergeant emphasised the importance of integrating co-production into events as a means of appealing to young people.

The Co-I mooted the idea of a collaborative event focused upon an aspect such as soundtracks in British Asian and Black British screen media. The idea of exploring the related concepts of memory and well being in connection to such media was also mooted.

SC members noted the considerable amount of work that is involved with organising and running a successful event like that outlined. The Co-I proposed the idea of working in collaboration with an established event/festival as a means of ‘testing the water’ for a pop up Diaspora screen media event.

Monitoring and Review Procedures

The continuing importance of effective monitoring and self-appraisal procedures was discussed by those present. The PI reflected on the need to continue stringent foregrounding of the self-appraisal process including encouraging all SC members to contribute their thoughts and feelings on the approaches, the methodologies, and the practicalities emerging from the meetings. As part of this the PI proposed circulating the ‘milestones’ document to all SC members for ongoing reflection.

Legacy/Afterlife

All present contributed their thoughts to what would make for a successful , enjoyable afterlife, what would be the highlights, e.g. (AS) if a Festival don’t do it once but find ways to follow up , create content, how do audiences engage . We could have pop-up with an existing Festival in 2021 as part of DSMN afterlife.

Question of legacy objectives-- how to achieve and monitor them- build into all meetings, symposia etc

**Actions**

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| Details of Action | Who for | Aim to be completed by |
| To make contact with stakeholders at BBC3/ IPlayer, Apple (Britbox ) about potential interest/involvement in the network. | PI | ASAP |
| Send minutes from meeting and meeting agenda to Meriem Lamara to publish on the network website | Re-co | ASAP |
| Look at ways of increasing publicity for the website/increase traffic to the website, including ways of alerting interested parties when the website is updated (possibly via Twitter/social media platforms) | PI, CO-I, Re-Co, Meriem Lamara | ASAP |
| To write and publish (via the website) a call for creatives working in the fields of Black British and British Asian screen media to get involved with the network/website | Re-Co | ASAP |
| Populate the website with short (500 word) blogs on related topics, on a rotational basis. | All SC members | ASAP |
| Contact someone from the MAC about attending the first network workshop in February | CO-I | ASAP |
| Select a short piece of video content, accessible online, to distribute to SC members and those attending the first workshop in February | Ian Sergeant | 15th November 2019. |
| To construct a filmography/reading list to place on the website in pdf format. This will be sourced from BCU (and Northampton University) librarians. | PI, CO-I, Re-Co | ASAP |
| Populate website ephemera exhibition section with material and create short (50 word) contextual paragraph that will accompany material. | Ian Sergeant | ASAP |
| Send DSMN related logos to Meriem Lamara | Re-Co | ASAP |
| Source institution’s consent form for filming. | Re-Co | ASAP/before February 5th 2020. |
| Put together a formal proposal to submit to the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* | PI, CO-I, Re-Co. | July 2020. |
| Explore possible avenues for funding a pop up festival event | PI, Co-I, SC members Ian Sergeant, Amy Smart, Jade Turner. | Ongoing. |
| Draft a one page document focused on the legacy of the network and its research, including  Making our academic research accessible  Partnerships  Public Engagement | PI, CO-I | February 5th |
| Contact all of those who suggested they would like to attend the 5th February workshop event to confirm their continued availability/wish to attend | Re-Co | 15th November 2019 |
| Collate information that is relevant to construct a bid for ‘follow on’ funding for the network. | PI, CO-I, Re-Co | Ongoing. |
| Explore rough windows of opportunity for a pop festival like event. | Amy Smart | Ongoing/When Relevant |
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