

CALL FOR PAPERS

SCREEN PRODUCTION AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION

**SPARC
National Colloquium**

July 2013

Melbourne, Victoria

Time and Venue: TBA

Hosted by the OLT Innovation and Development funded project:

**Developing A Collaborative National Postgraduate Research Program For 22
Australian Film Schools**

Screen production is a complex, inter-disciplinary and group-based activity. Because of its complexity most undergraduate and honours programs commit themselves to the straightforward version of the production process – namely the making of short productions. It has been customary for postgraduate researchers to simply extend the short production form to longer forms such as feature films and documentaries.

From the point of view of future planning there are two problems associated with this conventional postgraduate research path:

- it is politically unrealistic and economically unsustainable to expect all screen production postgraduate researchers to produce expensive feature length "masterpiece" in a country that has a small and marginal film industry. It is likely that only exceptional candidates will be able to work in this market driven format;
- in a world that is ever more reliant on image communication the domain of screen production is ever expanding and changing. These changes should be reflected in any postgraduate program.

Accordingly, to formulate a successful and sustainable postgraduate program in screen production it will be necessary to:

1. account for exceptional filmmakers working in the existing paradigm of research
2. explore new paradigms of production that are relevant to the needs of the times

Both options present difficulties including:

- difficulties of finding funds for practice-based postgraduate research in screen production;
- difficulties of having viable postgraduate research programs in screen production without adequate funds;
- difficulties associated with the changing paradigm of screen production research as a result of changes in technology and cyber technology in particular

A network of researchers organized as a national inter-university research centre offers one solutions to these problems. By collaborating together researchers can undertake major research projects they cannot undertake individual.

To achieve this type of collaborative potential a number of major structural, funding and practice-based research problems needed to be addressed. This OLT Project initiated sector-wide consultations regarding conditions required for a viable postgraduate research development. Using the existing intercampus links this project attempted to map out synergistic network of national screen production research hubs, regional nodes and local knowledge trails.

Can this framework be used to form a viable inter-university research centre to service postgraduate researchers with supervisors and to actively seek production grants?

Can it lead to a more directed, sustainable and mix-funded national postgraduate development in screen production, one with local as well as global connections?

Are there other innovations in postgraduate research development in screen production that we should explore?

You are invited to address these questions either individually (20-30 minute paper presentation) or in a panel (1 hour)

EOI:	1 February 2013
Abstract Deadline:	1 April 2013
Full papers:	1 June 2013