

## SPARC NSW Meeting – 21 February 2012

In Attendance: Associate Professor Gillian Leahy - UST, Associate Professor Hart Cohen – UWS, Professor Ross Harley – COFA, Dr Susan Kerrigan – UoN  
Apologies – Maree Delofski

1. Recapped on the SPARC project and its aim to explore *Sustainable Post Graduate Research Development in 22 Australian Film Schools*. Discussed concept of creating a CRC for the sector but agreed that a National Research Centre, as outlined in the SPARC documents would be the most achievable way forward, at this point in time. Confirmed the amount for state research projects was \$4000. Looked over topics for state projects from WA, QLD and VIC.
2. Prof Ross Harley outlined the sector's achievements over the last 5 years, That ERA has allowed a national benchmarking system to determine national research outputs , COFA received a 5, UWS received a 3, UoN received a 3 in the most recent round. Another success is that there is now a national approach to DCA's and Creative Practice PhD's within most institutions.
3. Screen Practice academics are challenged by University Research committees, who continue to undervalue Screen Practice Research outcomes.
4. Discussed possible ways of benchmarking NSW Post Graduate Screen Research, ideas included:
  - Confirmed differences exist between *Practice-led Research* and *Research into Creative Practice*, and the importance of seeing those different approaches (Hart).
  - *Research as Creative Practice Paradigm* - explore criteria of DCA's and PhD's to confirm the similarities of RHD programs across institutions Examine successes and failures from these programs. Securing permission from RHD candidates to discuss 'failures' in an anonymous way was noted.
  - *Creative Screen Research Practice Exemplars* - Present a series of PhD/DCA works on ASPERA website that shows successful project, their form – genre, length of work, exegesis topic and length. Perhaps could add pointers on challenges that can limit research outcomes. (Gillian and Susan)
  - Discussed the possibility of creating RHD Screen Research data that could be taken back to Research committees to explain the complexities of achieving Screen Practice outcomes. (Hart)
  - Industry/Academic relationships – Screen Australia's funding application currently prevents post-grad students from being eligible for funding. Gill wants to seek clarification around the wording on Screen Aust forms and discuss possible partnerships or co-production arrangements between Screen Australia and Academia. Also note RHD students find it difficult to get Industry deals.

We agreed there were many important issues for discussion and a one day Symposium for NSW Screen Production Post Gradates could help continue these conversations. The day's structure would include short speeches and round table

discussions, audio recording would allow the ideas to be transcribed and presentation at SPARC Colloquium in July.

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One day symposium @ UTS on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 2013

**Theme - Burning Questions: post-graduate research approaches to creative screen practice**

Present your burning question on post graduate research at this free one day symposium sponsored by Screen Production and Research Collaboration (SPARC), an ALTC project. The aim is to promote discussion on issues that confound, challenge or celebrate our understandings of Post-Grad Creative Screen Practice. Short focused speeches will be peppered across the day to promote round table discussions between participants.

Still for consideration are:

Keynote invitation - Screen NSW - Megan Simpson Huberman, (Previously Screen Australia), or UTS DVC Research Atilia ???

Invite possible ADA's - Associate Deans of Academic, and Associate Deans of Research to the day - UTS, COFA, UWS or other Sydney institution.

Speeches format - who decides if it's a 5, 10 or 15 minute presentations? - *this probably will get sorted when we see who will come.*

Transcription to occur immediately after symposium, so that raw data can be prepared for SPARC Colloquium to be held, Saturday and Sunday, 6 & 7 July 2013, at VCA & RMIT, Melbourne Victoria.

Budget -

\$1000 Catering - Lush Bucket

\$2000 RA to organize conference - Gill to Administer

\$1000 Transcription - Maisy Cohen