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**Professor Gillian Doyle (PI), Professor Philip Schlesinger (Co-I),  
Professor Raymond Boyle (Co-I), Dr Lisa Kelly (PDRA)**  
Centre for Cultural Policy Research (CCPR), University of Glasgow

## Research Questions

Funded by the AHRC, this research, which is an associate project of CREATE, examines the history of the UK Film Council (UKFC) from inception to demise and it scrutinises how policy is understood and implemented institutionally and organisationally by public support bodies for film. Our research questions cover three themes:

- *Agenda*: What objectives did the UKFC pursue and how and why did these change over time?
- *Impact*: How effective were the schemes and interventions used by the UKFC? How effective was the UKFC in helping the UK film industry adjust to the digital environment?
- *Strategic Thinking*: What strategic lessons can be drawn from the experience of the UKFC?

## Challenges Encountered & Overcome

- *Coverage*: There are areas of UKFC activity that cannot be covered in detail within the two-year research period. This is acknowledged by the project team who have limited the research to specific areas of activity.
- *Methodology*: Challenges arise in terms of adjudicating between different accounts put forward by interviewees and of a retrospective narrative being imposed following the UKFC's closure.
- *Archival Access*: A lack of clarity around the location of institutional internal documents led to a delay in access. Documents from 2005 onwards were eventually secured.

## Value Added & Unexpected Outcomes

- Value added through dissemination opportunities beyond original expectations:
  - Conferences include ECREA European Film Cultures 2013; MeCCSA 2013; Film and Media 2014: Visions of Identity 2014; EuroFilm 2014.
  - Invited to present a research seminar at the University of St Andrews; deliver a plenary at Screen Studies 2013; and to take part in international conferences in Munich and Madrid.
  - Contribute of a book chapter to the *Routledge Companion to the Cultural Industries* (2014)
  - Industry engagement and knowledge exchange

## Progress to Date

- Extensive fieldwork has been conducted, including a wide range of interviews with key policymakers, former UKFC personnel and film industry stakeholders, alongside analysis of policy and strategy documents, board minutes and relevant academic literature.
- A dedicated workshop on film policy research and an End-of-Project symposium are scheduled for September 2014 and dissemination has taken place at a number of international conferences.
- Book proposal accepted by Edinburgh University Press.

## Deliverables Completed:

- Gillian Doyle (July 2014), *Film Support and the Challenge of Sustainability: On wing design, wax and feather and blots from the blue. Journal of British Cinema and Television*. Vol. 11, No. 2-3 : pp. 129-151.
- Philip Schlesinger (forthcoming, 2014), *The Creation and Destruction of the UK Film Council*. In Oakley, K. and O'Connor, J. (eds.) *Routledge Companion to the Cultural Industries*, London: Routledge.



## Next Steps

- Publication of further journal articles in the refereed press (submit by August 2014)
- Deliver manuscript for research monograph to EUP by September 2014
- Conduct workshop for PhD and early career stage researchers in September 2014
- Conduct End-of-Project symposium in September 2014