



The British Film Institute (BFI) and the ECF scheme

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Overview

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK's lead organisation for film and the moving image.

Our mission is:

- To support creativity and actively seek out the next generation of UK storytellers.
- To grow and care for the BFI National Archive, the world's largest film and television archive.
- To offer the widest range of UK and international moving image culture through our programmes and festivals – delivered online and in venue.
- To use our knowledge to educate and deepen public appreciation and understanding of film and the moving image.
- To work with Government and industry to ensure the continued growth of the UK's screen industries.



ECF Research Priorities

Screen crafts: Devised archival practices for screen crafts. One of the legacies of film studies is to place a premium on the screened output. We are interested in projects and practices that reconsider the whole lifecycle of filmmaking in its archived state, revaluing where the creative process and creative acts might sit, who contributes to these acts, and offering an expanded understanding of filmmaking and its contributors.

Open and Equitable Practices: We are particularly engaged with questions around curatorial and archival practice (civic, critical, feminist, eco-critical, context responsive etc); and as an organisation are committed to questions of anti-racism. We are interested in questions around equitable practice and how this can be embedded across co-collecting, co-curation and cataloguing; our built and digital spaces; and our engagement with industry and creative partners



ECF Research Priorities

Engaging New Audiences: Our collections are deeply relevant to contemporary society – from questions around the environment, to the hidden labour of filmmaking, to the future of television - with the potential to engage new audiences across the UK, supported by detailed research. We are looking to support projects that provide deep and new research into the BFI's collections, and which have the ability to translate directly into public programming with wide relevance including seasons, artistic responses, exhibitions, publications, learning and community outreach, digital and online.

Collecting: Research into the histories of our collections, shaping how we develop and manage them in the future. Projects in this area may include provenance research; investigating the lives and legacies of collections donors and donor organisations; and BFI histories of collecting.