

Screen Studies Research Group

Building a Career in Screen
Studies Academia: a Roundtable

- Professor Richard Berger
- Dr Max Gee
- Dr Austin Fisher



Austin's Tip #1

Publish your thesis

- Look through your bibliography. Which publishers keep appearing? They specialise in your area.
- Get the names of commissioning editors or series editors, and email them directly with a brief, snappy pitch, outlining the need for the book and its “hook”. Why will it sell?
- If they like the idea, they’ll invite you to write a full book proposal.
- Publish articles from the thesis as well. Milk it for all it’s worth.

Austin's Tip #2

Engage with networks

- Join scholarly societies in your subject area. E.g., SCMS, BAFTSS, NECS.
- Attend their annual conferences & join their SIGs (Scholarly / Special Interest Groups).
- If there are no SIGs that fit your research area, create one yourself.
- Use these networks to develop research ideas / collaborations / publications / bids.

Austin's Tip #3

Use conferences wisely

- Send off abstracts to small conferences, symposia etc.
- At large conferences, go to SIG / caucus meetings & meet leading lights in your field.
- At large conferences, go to the publisher exhibitor stalls & talk to commissioning editors about your work.
- Take breaks between panels. See the city, go to cafes and chat, with new & old acquaintances. The most productive time at a large conference is outside the panels.

Austin's Tip #4

Do the research you love

- Don't allow HE buzzwords / trends to dictate the research you do.
- “Impact”, “outreach”, income and REF metrics are important, but these shouldn't be the sole motivation for research.
- Excellent research in any field has demonstrable value, so pursue your passions & don't compromise your scholarly integrity.
- Happiness isn't a metric!

Austin's Tip #5

Game the REF

A couple of caveats around my previous tips:

- Monographs are very valuable for your research profile, but aren't rewarded properly in the REF, so get journal articles out too.
- "Impact" is important, and sometimes it's easier to demonstrate through certain kinds of research, so a balance is needed.
- The REF is a game you will have to play, so learn the rules and be strategic.

Max's 5 top tips – in no particular order

1. Network – attend conferences, meet different colleagues within your universities, identify research communities or practitioner communities. Academia is a space of who you know as well as what you know.
2. Focus on research topics you are passionate about – if you do get a bid then you are spending a lot of time on that topic and will be publishing from it for even longer.
3. Research deadlines far in advance – for funding bids, for articles/books, for conferences. Know your limitations and timelines. (I am not good at this...)
4. Understand the REF cycle – especially as a practice researcher, know the criteria, know the timelines and build in time.
5. Practice research – understanding research questions and context is so important but equally important is knowing how to get that practice work out there to an audience.

TOP TIPS



Get Noticed...!



Don't get too wedded to your own academic field...!



Use tools like UKRI's 'Funding Finder'...!



Develop your identity as a professional researcher...!



'Game' your research profile (e.g. BRIAN, LinkedIn, ResearchGate, etc)...!

Funding opportunity

AHRC responsive mode: Curiosity Award: round two

Opportunity status:	Upcoming
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Funding type:	Grant
Maximum award:	£100,000
Publication date:	19 October 2023
Opening date:	30 October 2023 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	20 January 2024 4:00pm UK time

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UKRI Future Leadership Fellowships.



 Arts and Humanities Research Council 

New Generation Thinkers 2025 Open Now

Host programmes/units for 2025

Woman's Hour | Front Row | Free Thinking and Thinking Aloud | Science Programmes Unit, Cardiff | Arts and Music Unit, Glasgow

Search "AHRC NGT" for details

Funding opportunity

AHRC responsive mode: Catalyst Award: round five

Opportunity status:	Closed
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Funding type:	Grant
Award range:	£100,000 - £300,000
Publication date:	15 July 2024
Opening date:	31 July 2024 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	30 October 2024 4:00pm UK time

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