

Media 'Bodies' and Production Practice: interrogating the transnational partnerships that underpin the practice of international co-production

Legal institutions recognise production companies and public agencies as corporate bodies, with rights and obligations comparable to those of individuals. With this in mind, the Co-production Research Network is proposing a panel that examines the relationship between media 'bodies' – both within Europe and elsewhere in the world - and interrogates the cultural, commercial and industrial dimensions of that relationship : what occurs when two or more corporate entities with disparate aims interact ; what are the cultural dynamics of such a relationship ; how is identity and practice influenced by such an interaction ?

The panel is constituted of early- and mid-career researchers from Europe and the United States. All are members of the Co-production Research Network (www.copro-research-network.org), an international consortium of scholars, policy professionals and industry practitioners applying and promoting a pluri-disciplinary approach to the study of international co-production.

Julia Hammett-Jamart presents her analysis of the interaction between public and private agencies on a number of European co-productions and highlights the manner in which these relationships ultimately influenced on-screen representation. **Jaap Verheul** considers co-productions made in the 70s and 80s under the French-Italian treaty, with a particular focus on the manner in which transnational collaboration adversely impacted the cultural and industrial identity of the national film industries at that time. **Christopher Meir** looks at the strategies adopted by contemporary European corporations to withstand the global economic crisis, and considers the extent to which cultural specificity may be threatened by the emergence of transnational European corporations. **Nolwenn Mingant** casts her gaze beyond Europe, presenting her research on the United Arab Emirate's State-backed production company *Image Nation*. Her paper explores the partnerships developed by *Image Nation's* international branch with Hollywood and Chinese production companies, and interrogates the sense of national identity conveyed by the 'offspring' of these mixed marriages.