

DIGITAL MEDIA RESEARCH CENTRE

visitor seminar



with visiting fellow

PROF BETH JOHNSON

University of Leeds, UK



MONDAY

2 DECEMBER 2024



TIME

10AM - 12PM



VENUE

OUT KELVIN GROVE,
Z9-607



MORNING TEA

FROM 10AM

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Framing Inequalities: The Hidden Dynamics of Intersectionality in the Screen Industries

This talk will explore the hidden dynamics of intersectionality within the UK screen industries, examining how inequalities related to class, gender, race and region shape media commissioning, production, representation and reception. Drawing on her research-led film series *Industry Voices* (2020) and her current AHRC-funded project, *What's on? Rethinking Class in the UK Television Industries*, the talk will examine the different visibilities afforded to diversity both on screen and behind the scenes, and highlight the importance of structural rather than scheme-based change to address persistent barriers.

It will critically engage with the ways in which these intersecting inequalities are reproduced within institutional practices and decision-making processes, and discuss the need for deeper, systemic shifts in industry culture and policy. By situating these issues within the broader context of media power dynamics, the talk will challenge dominant industry narratives of diversity and inclusion, urging a rethinking of how the screen industries can truly reflect the diverse communities they aim to represent.

Following the research talk, we will have a traditional TMIC 'tell us about your career' session with Beth.

Biography | Beth Johnson is Professor of Television and Media Studies at the School of Media and Communication, University of Leeds, UK. She is PI of the AHRC-funded research project 'What's on? Rethinking class in the television industry' (2023-2026) - an intersectional study of class inequalities in commissioning, production, representation and reception of UK television drama, undertaken in partnership with the BBC and Channel 4. Specialising in inequalities on and off screen, she is executive producer of the research-led film series *Industry Voices* (with Anna Hall of Candour), Vice Chair of Royal Television Society Yorkshire, Principal co-editor of the *British Journal of Cinema and Television*, and an academic consultant for the Sir Lenny Henry Centre for Media Diversity. Her latest book on TV creator, writer and director Sally Wainwright, co-authored with Prof. Kristyn Gorton, is due for release in early 2025.



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