

Professor Gillian Doyle

The UK Film Council: lessons for policy from the rise and demise of an iconic screen support agency

Professor Gillian Doyle delivered her talk – The UK Film Council: lessons for policy from the rise and demise of an iconic screen support agency – as part of Liverpool John Moores University’s Liverpool Screen School Research Seminar.

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The UK Film Council: lessons for policy from the rise and demise of an iconic screen support agency

A new cultural agency, the UK Film Council, was set up by the Labour Government in 2000, charged with promoting industry sustainability. The Film Council was the lead public support body for film in the UK for a decade but its tenure came to an abrupt end in 2010 when the election of a new Conservative-led Coalition Government precipitated the announcement that the UKFC, along with a number of other quangos, would be shut down as part of a general cost-cutting exercise. Reactions to this announcement were mixed, reflecting some sharply divergent views on the efficacy of the UKFC and whether it was truly 'fit for purpose'. Based on original empirical research carried out as part of a recent UK Arts & Humanities Research Council-funded project, this paper examines how the UKFC's sense of strategic direction was determined, how and why the balance of objectives it pursued changed over time and what these shifts tell us about the nature of film policy and the challenges facing bodies that are charged with enacting it in the 21st century.

Biography:



Gillian Doyle is Professor of Media Economics and Director of the Centre for Cultural Policy Research (CCPR) at the University of Glasgow where she directs Glasgow's MSc in Media Management. A member of the European Expert Network on Culture and Audiovisual (EENCA), she has led a number of media-related research projects funded by bodies including the UK Research Councils, the Council of Europe and the OECD. Gillian is a former President of the Association for Cultural Economics International (ACEI).