SCMS Anti-Harassment Statement

As an association, the Society for Cinema and Media Studies is strongly committed to building and supporting a robust scholarly and educational community built on the tenets of equity and the free and civil exchange of ideas with fundamental respect for the rights, dignity, and value of all persons (See SCMS Position Statement November 21, 2016). The standards of respect, equity, and nondiscrimination should inform conduct whether in speech or act; whether in formal, informal or social settings; whether in-person or remotely.

At our national conference and throughout the year, SCMS is committed to providing an environment where all members, participants, and volunteers are treated with equal consideration in a harassment-free space. Certain behavior is specifically prohibited and will not be tolerated in person, in writing, or remotely, including: harassment or intimidation based on race, religion, language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, appearance, or other protected group status; sexual harassment or intimidation, including verbal harassment, unwelcome sexual attention, stalking (physical or virtual), sexual coercion, or unsolicited physical contact; the use of power or professional status to threaten, coerce, or harass someone, whether verbally or physically; and/or threatening behavior, whether verbal or physical. During the annual conference as well as any SCMS sponsored events, participants (whether members, presenters, staff, students, attendees, guests, vendors, contractors, exhibitors, volunteers, or media representatives) are expected to observe these rules and behaviors in all conference venues, meetings, special events, tours, receptions, hotel spaces, as well as online and at social events on or off site that involve members.

Within the context of SCMS policy and the professional practices of scholarship, critical examination of beliefs and viewpoints does not, by itself, constitute hostile conduct or harassment. Similarly, the use of imagery or language in the context of a professional discussion might not constitute hostile conduct or harassment.

If you have experienced any unwelcome behavior or harassment, please contact a member of hotel security, and/or a local police officer, and, if you wish, any member of the Board of Directors. Please report any physical assault or threats to the local police department and/or to hotel staff. Reporting an incident of harassment does not obligate the complainant to pursue any further action.

As a voluntary professional organization with a small staff, SCMS is unfortunately limited in its ability to respond formally to charges of sexual harassment. Nonetheless, within these constraints the SCMS will follow its professional and ethical responsibility to respond to reports of sexual harassment among its membership. Everyone will be treated fairly and with dignity and respect. SCMS leadership can serve as sounding boards, confidantes, and informal advisers; they can also confer with you confidentially about possible next steps. All allegations will be documented by a designated member of the Board of Directors or SCMS Home Office and may, if warranted, be referred to local law enforcement. SCMS will handle matters that fall under a violation of these policies individually, in a manner deemed fit by the Board of Directors.