



Production Design
Research & Education Network

CALL FOR PAPERS

Scene & Unseen: The Invisible Art of Production Design

University of Westminster, Regent Street Campus, London W1B 2HW
23-24 October 2025

About PD-REN

Production design plays a fundamental role in film and television production and yet discussion of the practice is often omitted or misunderstood. The Production Design Research and Education Network (PD-REN) is a recently founded network addressing production design's critical yet overlooked role in film studies and training. By establishing an international network of researchers and educators we are working to enhance understanding of the area and bridge the gap between academia, practice and industry.

PD-REN is pleased to announce their inaugural conference, hosted by University of Westminster. This conference aims to bring together an exciting combination of ideas from both industry and academia to provide insight into current practice and suggest approaches to production design research and pedagogies into the future.

The conference will provide a platform for educators, practitioners, researchers and students to explore the field of production design from multiple viewpoints. The work and role of the production designer will be examined from professional and creative perspectives by expanding on themes of authorship, visibility, authenticity, acknowledgment, professional practice, codes of realism and visual storytelling.

Submissions are invited that reflect upon aspects of production design across the fields of **practice, education and research**. They may take the form of presentations, panels or case studies, and could include production diaries, artwork, artefacts or any other materials illustrating aspects of the design process such as video or pre-visualisation.

Topics might include but are not limited to:

- Visualising the script
- Positioning the production designer
- Decolonising knowledge and praxis
- Partnership and collaboration methods
- Industry and training approaches
- Archives and evidence of process
- Practice based research methods
- Historical approaches to TV and film design
- Pedagogies
- Craft and the Academy
- Sustainability and ethics
- Generative AI and Production Design
- Critical methodologies
- World building
- Virtual Production and/or VFX

To be considered for inclusion, you are invited to submit the following by **30th April 2025** to pdren.contact@gmail.com with "PD-REN Conference" in the subject line.

- 200 word abstract
- 150-word author biography
- University affiliation (if applicable)

Timeline

Abstract submission	30 April 2025
Notification of acceptance	23 May 2025
Registration opens	June 2025
Event	23- 24 October 2025

PD-REN Conference Committee

Jane Barnwell	University of Westminster, UK
Natalie Beak	Australian Film, Television and Radio School, Australia
Daniel Kofi Brako	University of Cape Coast, Ghana
Jo Briscoe	University of Melbourne, Australia
May Davies	BFI Film Academy, UK
Juliet John	Deakin University, Australia
Maria Kavalioti	Freelance Educator, Greece
Anne Seibel	La Femis, France
Dawn Snyder	Art Directors Guild, USA
Sebastian Soukup	Internationale Film School Köln, Germany
Noelle Thomas	De Paul University, USA