

## **Elizabeth Bolton – AIPS Travel Grant Final Report Narrative**

Attending the Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies was a valuable experience for my professional development. As a junior scholar who is currently working on completing my dissertation, presenting at conferences is an important part of this process. After the presentation of my paper, I was able to receive feedback on my work from senior scholars in the field, colleagues, and media practitioners. Having returned from the conference, I am using their helpful feedback to improve my dissertation and rethink some of my approaches to the discussion of my topic. By attending other presentations, I learned from colleagues, junior scholars and senior scholars in the field about the latest trends in theoretical work, and the variety of approaches that scholars are taking to discuss topics similar to my own. Being able to engage with other scholars in person, rather than through reading their books and articles is a vital part of my academic growth. Although academic work often seems quite individual there is a social aspect to it and a larger conversation occurring that one can tap into in a better way through being present in person.