

CALL FOR PAPERS

CFP: Film Noir

An area of multiple panels for the 2014 *Film & History* Conference:

Golden Ages: Styles and Personalities, Genres and Histories

The Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club

Madison, WI (USA)

October 29-November 2, 2014

DEADLINE for abstracts: June 1, 2014

AREA: Film Noir

Emerging during World War II and reaching its peak in the decade that followed, film noir emerged from the seamy underbelly of popular culture. It drew from pulp detective stories and the hard-boiled crime novels of authors like James M. Cain, flouting the dictates of the industry's moral guardians and embracing violence, blatant sexuality, and societal conflict. This style forced audiences to re-examine American values, including traditional gender roles, race, and sexuality; and as its social context changed, so too did film noir's critique.

What can be said about the effects that film noir has had upon traditional Western societies? What cultural or historical factors affected audience perceptions of these stories, and their subsequent pleasures? How did female spectatorship figure into postwar narratives? How has the anti-hero figured prominently in the deconstruction of patriarchy, if at all? This area, comprising multiple panels, explores the concept of Golden Ages across the production systems surrounding Film Noir. Topics might include the following:

- Decoding the Production Code through Film Noir
- Feminism, female sexuality, and fandom
- Gay, Lesbian characters and Queer considerations
- Racial relations, and social disruption
- The existence, or non-existence, of Neo-Noir
- The Family in Film Noir
- The military man or woman in wartime Films Noir
- The recognizable star vs. the unknown actor in Films Noir
- The Tough Guy guise, and the fascination with the Femme Fatale
- Wet, dangerous, and dark: the visual tropes of the Film Noir city

Proposals for individual papers should include a 200-word abstract and the name, affiliation, and contact email of the presenter. Proposals for complete panels (three related presentations) are also welcome, but they must include an abstract and contact information, including an e-mail address, for each presenter. For updates and registration information about the upcoming meeting, see the Film & History website (www.filmandhistory.org).

Please e-mail your 200-word proposal by 1 June 2014, to the area chair:

Darrell M, Newton
Salisbury University
dmnewton@salisbury.edu