

## Call for Papers

### CFP: The Golden Age of Television Drama

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

Golden Ages: Styles, Personalities, Genres, and Histories

October 29-November 2, 2014

The Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club

Madison, WI (USA)

**Deadline for Abstracts: June 1, 2014**

Area: The Golden Age of Television Drama

The television drama has been, and continues to be, one of the most important and contested elements of television production in the United States and around the world. In America, the genre—mostly episodic in style—came into its own in the late 1940s and early 1950s, experiencing what many call its first “Golden Age.”

In the 1980s, series like *Hill Street Blues*, *Miami Vice*, *L.A. Law*, and *thirtysomething* marked the medium's second “Golden Age.” These series adapted the serial form associated with the production of daytime soap operas in order to create stories that were long form, more complex in structure, and designed to attract a more educated and upscale audience. With the airing of shows such as *Sex and the City*, and *The Sopranos* on HBO in the 1990s, and *Mad Men*, *Breaking Bad*, and *The Walking Dead* in the 2000s on AMC, television critics suggest that America is experiencing its third “Golden Age” of television dramas.

Why has the television drama continued to be one of the most vibrant forms of programming? How has the genre been able to incorporate numerous changes in terms of format, content, style, and production methods over time? This area invites 20-minute papers dealing with all aspects of understanding television drama and its relationship to the evolution of the medium and society.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Early forms of American television drama such as *Studio One*, *Kraft Television Theater*, *Playhouse 90*
- Anthology forms of drama series such as *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Twilight Zone* and contemporary iterations in series like *American Horror Story* and *True Detectives*
- Early writers and creators of television drama such as Rod Serling, Paddy Chayefsky, Stephen J. Cannell, etc.

- The Role of cablevision in creating a new landscape for television drama, with series like *The Sopranos*, *Deadwood*, *The Shield*, *Justified*, *Mad Men*, *Breaking Bad*
- Television drama Showrunners like Matthew Weiner, Graham Yost, Vince Gilligan, David Chase and the nature of television drama auteurship
- The future of television drama in relation to convergence and transmedia
- Changing modes of exhibition and reception for television dramas such as “binge-watching”

Proposals for complete panels (three related presentations) are welcome. All proposals must include an abstract, contact information, including email for each presenter. For updates and registration information about the upcoming meeting see the *Film & History* website ([www.filmandhistory.org](http://www.filmandhistory.org)).

Please email your 200-word proposal by 1 June 2014 to the area chair:

Dr. Brian Faucette  
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute  
brfaucette@gmail.com