CALL FOR PAPERS

CFP: Subversive Masculinity

An area of multiple panels for the 2016 Film & History Conference:
Gods and Heretics: Figures of Power and Subversion in Film and Television
October 26-October 30, 2016
The Milwaukee Hilton
Milwaukee, WI (USA)

DEADLINE for abstracts: June 1, 2016

AREA: Subversive Masculinity

Heroic masculinity in film and television has often served to reinforce patriarchal order. However, other male figures that subvert hegemonic order have regularly appeared in films, often responding to the tensions of American society – from the film noir antiheroes of the 1940s to the male ensembles of The Big Short and Spotlight. This area, then, invites papers on masculinity in American film that presents a critique, or at least a negotiation, of patriarchy.

Of particular interest to this area is the subversive potential of nonwhite masculinity. Whether in leading or supporting roles, whether the sole nonwhite character or part of a community, the nonwhite male often provides direct or indirect commentary on American social order. These characters have the potential to present alternative versions of American masculinity. Even when these characters appear to support traditional masculinity, this performance of conformity may represent a complicated negotiation.

While papers are welcome that examine specific films or genres, papers may also focus on the work of a specific actor. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- The work of actors such as Samuel L. Jackson, Morgan Freeman, Andy Garcia, Antonio Banderas, Benicio del Toro, Will Smith, Eddie Murphy, Jamie Foxx, Jackie Chan, and others
- Film noir antiheroes and hardboiled detectives in films such as The Maltese Falcon, Citizen Kane, The Big Sleep
- In the company of men: ensemble casts (The Big Short, Spotlight, Suits)
- Geek as hero (CSI, Bones, I Am Legend)
- Hannibal, Dexter, and other subversive psychopaths

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 2016 to the area chair with “Subversive Masculinity” in the subject line:

Elizabeth Abele
Nassau Community College
abelee@ncc.edu