CALL FOR PAPERS

CFP: Superheroes and Supervillains

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: Superheroes and Supervillains

Post-9/11 America saw a resurgence of the superhero across film and television. These included returning favorites such as Superman, Batman, and the X-Men, who battled villains like Lex Luthor, the Joker, and mutants following Magneto. More recently, as notions of good and evil are continually challenged, we see a greater number and variety of superheroes and their archenemies, often as superhero teams (Avengers, Guardians of the Galaxy, X-Men) fighting against world-destroying supervillains (Ultron, Ronan, Apocalypse). Who they are, as well as how and why they fight, illustrate contemporary issues between good vs. evil, power and subversion, the heroic and the antiheroic.

With this in mind, this area invites papers that address the tensions and issues surrounding superheroes and supervillains in film. Of particular interest are discussions regarding what superheroes and supervillains may illustrate societal tensions regarding power and challenges to that power. For example, how might the struggles between “good” and “evil” address changing notions of power and subversion?

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

- Supervillains createe by society and/or superheroes such as Ultron.
- How do Superhero teams challenge notions of American individualism?
- How may superhero films reflect existing notions of power as well as simultaneously subvert them?
- How do superheroines, such as Gamora and Wonder Woman, illustrate contemporary issues of gender?
- How might younger superheroines, such Supergirl, address young adults?

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 to me 1 June 2016. In the meantime, please let me help, so, feel free to email with ideas, as well!

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