CALL FOR PAPERS

Transgressive Filmmakers and Their Films

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

DEADLINE for abstracts: June 1, 2016

Area: Transgressive Filmmakers and Their Films

Cinematic transgression is about directors challenging or overcoming the status quo in their films, most often through shock and shlock to wake slumbering viewers with (sometimes hidden) social commentary. While each generation has spawned new notions or means of transgression in film, some have remained constant: sex, violence, gore, sacrilege, drugs, race, gender performance, etc. These films frequently are made by a director who is also an embodiment of transgression, whether or not they work within the mainstream system.

How have our constructions of cinematic taboos and transgressions shifted over time, and how do these influence the wider culture? When and how do cinematic transgressors become cinematic (or cultural) heroes and icons? Can a member of the status quo create transgressive work if the product is from their imagination or under their creative control?

This area invites papers that explore contemporary directors (considered, or who could be considered, transgressive), their films, and the ways in which transgression is portrayed (both as a director and their films). Possible themes and topics include, but are not limited to:

- Portrayals of sexuality
- Gore, splatter flicks, “roughies,” and exploitation
- Gender expression and identity
- Technical elements, including setting, scenery, costuming, etc., and transgression
- Transgressive directors and the influence on their movies
- Comedy as a safe exploration of the transgressive
- Heteronormative directors challenging the status quo
- The (un)identified threat in the status quo
- John Waters, David Lynch, Dennis Hopper, Quentin Tarantino, Roger Corman, Ken Russell, and other transgressive figures
- From transgression to mainstream and back: selling out and going off the rails

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 June 1, 2016, to the area chair:
Michelle Martinez
Associate Professor, Sam Houston State University
mmartinez@shsu.edu