

Workshop: “Broadcast History – Where We Stand”

Seven active media historians review some of what is known—and yet to learn—about American radio and television history.

Noah Arceneaux, San Diego State University. “Players and Policies Before 1927”

Assesses recent research into the formative pre-1927 era, and the difficulties of studying this period as government records before 1927 are in such disarray (indeed, those prior to 1920 are even more so). What impact does this fragmentary documentary record have on what we know about this defining period in radio development?

Louise M. Benjamin, Kansas State University.” Truth Will Out: Questioning Historical Myths”

Some things we’ve long accepted as “true” turn out, on closer examination, to be difficult or even impossible to confirm as there’s little or no documentary evidence to support them. This paper explores several examples.

Louise Benjamin is a professor and the Ross Beach Chair in Electronic Media in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Kansas State University. Her research interests include the history and regulation of electronic media, especially early broadcast radio.

Mike Adams, San Jose State University. “Researching a Radio Pioneer’s Work in Film”

How does a researcher remain objective when personal archives are often self-selected by the subject? Have some historical figures received a "free pass" from researchers while others are expected to meet a higher standard? Lee de Forest developed a sound on film process as a series of patents and 175 sound films made in 1921-28 demonstrate. Why did the major studios ignore him for nearly 30 years?

Mike Adams teaches Radio-TV-Film at San Jose State University. In 2006 he taught History of Broadcasting at the Shanghai Theatre Academy School of Television. Mike’s latest book is *Charles Herrold, Inventor of Radio Broadcasting*. He is writing a book for Springer Publishing on Lee de Forest and Phonofilm.

Susan Brinson, Auburn University. “Historical Trends in a Leading Journal”

Reviews some of the problems with and limitations of "historical" research submitted to the *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media* and what that work suggests for the field. This paper will also discuss women's "behind the scenes" (and largely unrecorded) contributions to radio in the 1930s and 1940s.

Susan Brinson is Professor of Communication at Auburn University and the current editor of the *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*.

Craig Allen, Arizona State University. “Old Events, New History”

Based on continuing research into the first history of Spanish language television, this paper surveys the story of Univision, the No. 1 network in almost every major U.S.

market (and often nationally as well). While it's 50 years old and has a revealing history, few scholars know much about it—an illustration that as electronic media change, new historical opportunities arise.

Craig Allen has written extensively on history, political media, presidential communication, and the international mass media. His books include *News Is People: The Rise of Local TV News* (2001) and *Eisenhower and the Mass Media* (1994). An International Radio and Television Society (IRTS) Fellow, his works have appeared in *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, *American Historical Review*, and *Journal of American History*. He has been active as a consultant to international television news organizations.

Michele Hilmes, University of Wisconsin-Madison. “Researching Television: National and Transnational”

Researching and writing television’s history involves numerous challenges, from archival access and preservation, to the relationship between different national television systems and the transnational circulation of their programs and practices. This paper explores several examples.

Michele Hilmes is Professor of Media and Cultural Studies and Director of the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her publications include *Radio Voices: American Broadcasting 1922-1952*; *Only Connect: A Cultural History of Broadcasting in the United States*; and *NBC: America’s Network*

Christopher H. Sterling, George Washington University. “Summing Up: What’s Still Missing?”

Despite the plethora of recent research, research gaps in the history of both radio and television are still considerable. The moderator very briefly explores some topics still needing scholarly attention.

Chris Sterling will have taught at George Washington University for three decades by the time he retires at the end of 2011. He has specialized in the history and policy for electronic media and telecommunications, authoring or editing some 30 books over a 40-year career. He earned his degrees right here in Madison, finishing his Ph.D in 1969.