

Liverpool Film Seminar

2015 – 2016 series

Every year, Liverpool Film Seminar invites six experts to deliver a series of talks. Topics vary greatly and the series does not focus on a specific aspect of film. Instead, a range of genres and approaches are celebrated, from historical reach to the internet's impact on cinematic material.

Michele Hilmes

Co-Production and Conflict: Locating the Transnational in Television

For television, strongly based in national contexts, mandates, and policies, the presence of “foreign” programs on the schedule has long been regarded as problematic. Yet between the US and Britain, transnational influences and practices are a long-established, integral tradition, despite occasionally arousing more drama behind the screens than on them. Here I will briefly trace a history of this uneasy relationship, looking closely at one of its most contested practices: trans-Atlantic co-production, from *Civilisation* to *Downton Abbey*. What prompted this long-standing relationship? How is creativity negotiated in a transnational situation? What changes has digital distribution made – and is television still “national” at its core?

Biography:



Professor Emerita Michele Hilmes taught media and cultural studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for twenty-two years. Most of her research and publication has centered around media history, with an emphasis on radio and sound studies and on transnational media flows.

Professor Emerita Michele Hilmes' books include *Radio Voices: American Broadcasting 1922-1952* (1997), *Network Nations: A Transnational History of British and American Broadcasting* (2011), *Only Connect: A Cultural History of Broadcasting in the United States* (4th edition, 2013), and most recently *Radio's New Wave: Global Sound in the Digital Era* (2013). She was a 2013-14 Fulbright Research Scholar at the University of Nottingham, England, working on the subject of British/American television co-production.

Current projects include co-editing *Contemporary Transatlantic Television Drama* with Dr. Roberta Pearson (University of Nottingham) and Dr. Matt Hills (University of Aberystwyth) as well as a history of the American radio feature, in the research stage. With Dr. Mia Lingren (Monash University) she is co-editor of *The Radio Journal: International Studies in Radio and Audio Media* and is Conference Director of the Radio Preservation Task Force, a joint project of the Library of Congress and the National Recording Preservation Board. In November 2015 she was the recipient of the University of Texas-Austin's Wayne Danielson Award for outstanding contributions to the field of communication study.