

Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery
Twenty-third Annual Conference

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE IMAGE OF THE HERO (Heroine, Anti-hero, Villain)

in Literature, Media, and Society

Colorado Springs, Colorado
March 20-22, 2014

An interdisciplinary conference exploring the image of the HERO - in culture, literature, philosophy, history, politics, economics, film, television, art, music, social theory, business. All versions of the hero are included – heroine, anti-hero, superhero, real-life hero, etc., as well as all contexts of the hero – villains, fate, social order, etc. All eras and cultures are appropriate, including traditional heroes and tricksters. All aspects of heroism and all contrasts with heroism (oppression, cowardice, passivity, etc.) are relevant. Possible topics include:

- * The hero in literature, art, popular culture: novels, statues, movies, TV, songs, comics.
- * The hero and class, religion, culture, ethnicity; the issues of race, power, social control.
- * The classic hero (honorable, idealistic, noble); the anti-hero (cynical, violent, criminal).
- * The changing hero – evolving roles, images, contexts; the hero in history.
- * Religion and heroes: saints, martyrs, prophets, savior icons.
- * Heroes, heroines: images of women and men, the role of sex, issues of gender.
- * The emergence of the superhero: from comics to mainstream
- * Traditional heroes (honor, sacred order); individualistic heroes (freedom, defiance).
- * Creativity and genius (science, literature, art), business and politics (leaders, charisma).
- * The hero and society: saving, defending, defying, escaping, or creating the social order.
- * Types: policemen, doctors, private detectives, scientists, cowboys, spies, real life.
- * Types of threats: political, religious, supernatural, ecological, alien, sexual, etc.
- * Villains as necessary contrast (foils); also cowardice, passivity, fear, danger, disorder.
- * War and terrorism as requiring special kinds of heroes.
- * Other imaginative variations - eclectic and innovative approaches are encouraged.

An annual conference on the influence of images with a different thematic focus each year, including The Image of Violence, The Image of Technology, The Image of the Outsider (visit chass.colostate-pueblo.edu/sissi/). A conference *Proceedings* will be published.

Please submit a one-page abstract or a panel proposal with abstracts by December 9, 2013. Graduate students are welcome and organized panels are encouraged: *fax*: 719-549-2705; *email*: hero@colostate-pueblo.edu; *mail*: Will Wright, Sociology, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Pueblo, CO 81001-4901. Organizers: Will Wright, Professor of Sociology, Colorado State University-Pueblo and Steven Kaplan, President and Professor of English, University of New Haven. For further information contact Will Wright: 719-549-2538, will.wright@colostate-pueblo.edu.

Sponsored by Colorado State University-Pueblo
PLEASE POST AND CIRCULATE