



## Colloquium Series

The School of Library and Information Science invites you to:

### **"The Public Library and the Civic Imaginary: The Case of Cleveland"**

#### **A Colloquium with Dr. Jennifer Horne**

Media Studies Department, Catholic University of America

**Where:** CUA, 132 Marist Hall (Information Commons)

**When:** Tuesday, September 29, 5:00 p.m.

**Abstract:** This talk recovers fragments of the all-too-often overlooked history of how American public libraries adapted to the introduction of multi-media technologies, especially motion pictures – offering instances of institutional reaction and individual action strikingly parallel to our own digital age transformation.

Taking the Cleveland Public Library in the 1920s and 30s as a focus, this presentation treats that library's leadership in the area of public library-film partnerships as indicative of national trends in area of visual instruction. Ideas about commercial recreation, both the widespread and vanguard, deeply affected how public libraries approached the "problem" of motion pictures and movie houses. The analysis examines how the state public library system at the time introduced a notion of civic spectatorship peculiar to its vision of its own library patrons.

#### About the Speaker:

Dr. Horne is Assistant Professor in the Department of Media Studies. Her articles have appeared in *Afterimage*, *The Historical Journal of Film, Radio, and Television*, and *The Moving Image*. She provided voiceover commentary for two of the sponsored silent films included on the *Treasures III* DVD collection. Dr. Horne is a member of the Library of Congress' National Film Preservation Board, co-chair of the Women Film Pioneers special interest group of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, and a co-Executive Secretary of Women and Film History International, which sponsors the bi-annual and international conference, "Women and the Silent Screen." Dr. Horne received a 2009 NEH Summer Stipend for her current book project, "Civic Cinema: Spectatorship, Citizenship, and American Silent Film," funded in part by the NEH "We the People" initiative.

For further information contact David Shumaker, Clinical Associate Professor,  
[shumaker@cua.edu](mailto:shumaker@cua.edu)

**Note regarding accommodations:** Please contact David Shumaker by Sept. 18 to request accommodations for individuals with disabilities. This includes the need for materials in an alternative format (i.e. large print or Braille), Sign Language Interpreters, accessible seating, and parking information.