



The International Conference on Heroes and Villains in American Culture, History, and Politics

At Adonis Room - FLSHS

Day 1: Thursday, November 7th

08:30 – 09:00

Registration

09:00 – 09:30

Opening Speeches

Prof. Wajih Ayed, Vice Dean of FLSH Sousse

Prof. Nizar Ben Saad, Head of *École et Littératures* Research Lab

Dr. Khaled Rjiba, Chair of FLSH Sousse English Department

Prof. Wassim Daghbir, President of TAACS

09:30 – 10:15

Keynote Speech 1: Prof. John Munro (The University of Birmingham, UK): The Villainy of Automobility

Chair: Prof. Sadok Damak

10:15 – 10:30

Coffee Break & Networking

10:30 – 12:00

Panel 1: Cinematic Constructs and Archetypal Revisions: Heroes and Villains in the Spotlight

Chair: Prof. Lanouar Ben Hafsa

- Cinematic Framing and the Burlesque: The Age of the Lovable anti-hero. *Deadpool* as a Case Study - Dr. Yosra Amraoui
- Cinematizing Policymaking: Docudramatic Approximation and the (De)Humanization of Dick Cheney in the Movie *Vice* - Dr. Oussema Othmeni

- Gender Displays and the (Re-)Invention of American Rebels in the Road Film: *On the Road* (2012) as a Case Study - Dr. Nadra Abada

- When Women Take Over: De-Westernizing the Figure of the Hero - Dr. Abderrahmene Bourenane

12:00 – 13:30

Panel 2: From Local to Global: Heroes and Villains in the Politics of Power and Peril

Chair: Prof. Gildas Le Voguer

- Heroes, Villains, and the Shaping of Global Order: Narratives of Power in the Post-Cold War Era - Asma Rabeh
- Narratives of Resistance and Repression: The Heroes and Villains of the January 6th Capitol Riot - Omaima Ghezal
- The Wolf at the Door: Identity Politics in U.S. Energy Security (2004-2020) – Dr. Nizar Slimani
- U.S. Intervention in the Gaza Strip during the October 2023 Crisis: A Thematic Progression Patterns Analysis - Lamia Omran

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch Break

14:30 – 15:15

Keynote Speech 2: Prof. Gildas Le Voguer (Rennes 2 University, France): Investigating Donald Trump, a Tale of Heroes and Villains

Moderator: Prof. Zied Ben Amor

15:15 – 15:30

Coffee Break & Networking

15:30 – 17:15

Panel 3: Protagonists or Antagonists? Presidential Candidates between Vice and Virtue

Chair: Prof. Abdellatif Benhlima

- What Attributes Made some U.S. Presidents Great Leaders? – Prof. Abdelhak Elaggoune
- Conceptual Metaphors to Frame the Hero and the Villain in Donald Trump’s Political Discourse: The 2024 Presidential Elections Campaign as a Case S - Habiba Jouini
- Exploring the “Hero” vs. “Villain” Dichotomy in the Portrayals of Presidential Candidates in Editorial Cartoons ahead of the 2024 U.S. Elections - Rahma Dridi
- Bipartisan American Politics under the Shackles of No Choice and the Lure of Popularity Contests: The Theatrical Dance of Heroism, Anti-Heroism, and Villainy in the 2024 Elections - Hajer Ben Ameer
- Between the “Devil” and the Deep Blue Sea: Arab-Americans and the 2024 Elections – Dr. Ramzi Brahmi

Day 2: Friday, November 8th

09:00 – 09:45

Keynote Speech 3: Prof. Lowell Gustafson (Villanova University, Philadelphia, USA): Heroic Protestors, Villainous Policy Makers.

Moderator: Prof. Wassim Daghbir

09:45 – 10:00

Coffee Break & Networking

10:00– 11:30

Panel 4: Heroes and Villains in Historical and Cultural Narratives

Chair: Prof. John Munro

- The Black Panther Party and the Angola Three: Forgotten Histories and Heroes - Asma Kharroubi
- Heroism and Villainy Subverted: Conspiratorial and Propagandist Approaches to Teaching American Culture and the Relativity of Good and Evil – Dr. Maissa Arfaoui
- One-dimensionality and the Contradictions of American Democracy: Re-engaging with Herbert Marcuse’s Critique of Modern Capitalism in *One-Dimensional Man* (1964) and Other Works - Slim Ghourabi
- Framing “Heroes” and “Villains”: A Comparative Study of Moral Foundations in Conservative vs. Liberal Narratives on Transgender Athletes’ Inclusion in Women’s Sports - Sarah Hafnaoui

11:30– 13:15

Panel 5: Polarization in Political Thought: Heroes and Villains across the Aisle

Chair: Prof. Lowell Gustafson

- The American Supreme Court and the Evolution of Civil Liberties: Villainous vs. Heroic Justices– Dr. Imed Bouzlama
- Heroes and Villains in American Conservative Thought: Framing the Political Narrative – Dr. Amira Achouri
- Barack Obama: Supervillain for Republicans, Hero for Democrats - Nawel Drissi
- “Out of Many, One”: Accidental President, Accidental Hero, Eventual Villain, and Contemporary Artist - Ines Kayel
- Woodrow Wilson: Hero, Villain, or Complex Legacy? – Fedi Kantaoui

13:15 – 14:15

Lunch Break

14:15– 15:00

Keynote Speech 4: Prof. Sadok Damak (University of Sfax, Tunisia): The White Man in the Eyes of Nonwhites in U.S. Culture: A Role Model or a Demon?

Moderator : Dr. Monia Chouari Jerfel

15:00 – 15:15

Coffee Break & Networking

15:15–17:00

Panel 6: Crafting Heroism and Villainy in the Digital Media Age

Chair: Dr. Amira Achouri

- Masked Heroes, Unveiled Villains: The Israel Lobby’s Media Influence and Contradictory Narrative – Dr. Fathia Jellad
- Heroes and Villains in the Digital Age: Social Media’s Influence on U.S. Policy in the Russia-Ukraine Conflict - Abir Ben Ameer
- Mythic Heroes of the Battlefield: The U.S. Military-Entertainment Complex and the Rise of the American Sniper - Fatma Fattoumi
- Marvel Cinematic Universe: Myth Makers or Truth Tellers? The Evolution of the Superhero Trope in American Film - Mouna Ben Khelil
- BRICS and U.S. Hegemonic Power: Feigning Morality in a New Geopolitical World Order - Taha Amri

17:00 - 17:15

Closing Remarks with Prof. Mohamed Bouhlel, Dean of FLSH Sousse



THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEROES AND VILLAINS IN AMERICAN CULTURE, HISTORY, AND POLITICS

NOVEMBER 7-8, 2024

Scientific Committee:

Prof. Sadok Damak • University of Sfax
Prof. Lanouar Ben Hafsa • University of Tunis
Prof. Taoufik Djebali • University of Caen Normandie
Prof. Mokhtar Ben Barka • University of Valenciennes
Prof. Gildas Le Voguer • University of Rennes 2
Prof. Lowell Gustafson • University of Villanova
Prof. John Munro • University of Birmingham
Prof. Wassim Daghrir • University of Sousse
Dr. Yosra Amraoui • University of Carthage
Dr. Hamedh Gharbi • University of Sousse
Dr. Imed Bouslama • University of Tunis El Manar

Organizing Committee:

Prof. Wassim Daghrir
Prof. Nizar Ben Saad
Prof. Salwa Ben Hadj Salah
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Dr. Nadra Abada
Dr. Nizar Slimani
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Rahma Dridi
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