

TimelineJS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1 - 2 PM

Brush up on your digital humanities tool skills with our DH Tool Refresher Series, which offer informal overviews of popular DH tools.

PROJECTIONS OF FEAR: CINEMATIC SPELL-CASTING AND WITCHES' SABBATHS IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
ELIZABETH POLLARD (ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, SDSU)
CA/NW/HI WHA (JC-BERKELEY, FEBRUARY 2019)

From Servilla's vengeful curse in the television mini-series *Rome* (2007) to the shocking witches' sabbath at the conclusion of the recent film *The Witch* (2015), Hollywood delights in depicting witches practicing their craft. But how well do such modern depictions align with the pop-culture (such as stories and images), as well as other evidence, from the historical period they claim to represent? Why should world historians with a global and comparative lens take interest in modern projections of fear and terrifying agency? While film scholars have undertaken limited examinations of what cinematic depictions of witches signify for contemporary culture, no historian with a long view on witches in popular culture and history (from Greco-Roman literature and art to early modern European woodcuts to present-day film) has studied how those themes developed over centuries and what role globalization may play in the spread of ideas about witches and fears of what they do. This multimedia presentation situates modern depictions of spell-casting and witches' sabbaths on a timeline of historical depictions of similar activity to understand how these representations function

College of spell-casting witches (above) from top left: *Infidelium* from *Shogun* (1977), *Witchboard*'s Magg (1986), *Throne* from *The Sandlot*, *Reding*'s *Witches* (1998), *Dark Willow* from *Red* (1999), *Star* (2002).
This project developed out of my collaboration with film critic Beth Accominato for "Witches in History and on Film" podcast (November 15, October 30, 2019).

CLASSICAL EXPRESSIONS
EARLY MODERN WOODCUTS AND ETCHINGS
PINE APPHALLETES
DOROTHY SPELL-CASTING
OTHER FILM DEPICTIONS
SEARCH
FILTER

This event is part of the Fall 2021 programming co-organized by the DH Center
Register at teachdh.sdsu.edu/programming