

The Sopranos: A Wake

The Sopranos: A Wake

Fordham University, New York

May 22nd-25th, 2008

**David Lavery (Brunel University, London), Paul Levinson (Fordham University), and
Douglas Howard (Suffolk Community College), Co-Conveners**



Sopranos Wake 2

The Sopranos: A Wake—Program at a Glance

—All events at Fordham University, Lincoln Center, Lowenstein, at 60th and Columbus

Thursday, May 22nd, 2008, 7 pm [Lincoln Center 816]

Housekeeping (Doug Howard); Welcome (Paul Levinson, Fordham U)

Opening Panel (Gary Edgerton, David Lavery)

Friday, May 23, 2008

800-900—Registration, Coffee [Pope Auditorium]				
Track A: 900-1000	Session 1 Featured Speaker: Cancelled		Session 2—Featured Speakers: Kim Akass and Janet McCabe [LL 311]	
1000-1030: Coffee				
Track B: 1030-1215	Session 3—Film Form and Filmmaking [LL 305]	Session 4—Therapy [LL 307]	Session 5— Ethnic Identities and the Italian Question [LL 310]	Session 6—Women and Gender I [LL 311]
1215-145: Lunch Break				
145-330: A Conversation with Dominic Chianese (Uncle Junior) [Pope Auditorium]				
330-430: Coffee, Book Signing				
Track C: 430-600	Session 10— Images of Justice and <i>The Sopranos</i> [Pope Auditorium]			
Track D: 615-800 (moved from original slot)	Session 7—Dreams [LL 305]	Session 8—Journalism, Poetry, and Silence in <i>The Sopranos</i> [LL 307]	Session 9— Family, Society, and the American Way Cancelled	

Saturday, May 24th, 2008

800-900—Registration, Coffee				
Track E: 900-1000	Session 11—Featured Speaker: Robin Nelson [LL 310]		Session 12—Featured Speaker: Martha Nochimson [LL 311]	
1000-1030: Coffee				
Track F: 1030-1215	Session 13—Creating Narratives [LL 305]	Session 14— Intertextuality I [LL 307]	Session 15—Food and the Body [LL 310]	Session 16—Women and Gender II [LL 311]
1215-145: Lunch Break				
Track G: 145-330	Session 17—Intertextuality II [LL 305]	Session 18—Whiteness and Cultural Privilege [LL 307]	Session 19—Masculinity and Gender [LL 310]	Session 20—Role-Playing and Negotiating [LL 311]
330-400: Coffee				
Track H: 400-500	Session 21—		Session 22—Featured Speaker: George De Stefano [LL 307]	Session 23—Featured Speaker: Jimmie Reeves [LL 311]
500-530: Coffee				
530-700	Session 24— Fade to Black: The Finale and <i>The Sopranos</i> Legacy [Pope Auditorium] Featured Speakers: Maurice Yacowar, Doug Howard, Paul Levinson: Chair: David Bianculli			

Sunday May 25th, 2008: 10 AM: Sopranos Bus Tour (meet at 59th and Columbus)



The Sopranos: A Wake: Sessions

Fordham University, New York (May 23-25, 2008)

All events at Fordham University, Lincoln Center, Lowenstein, at 60th and Columbus

Thursday, May 22nd, 2008, 7pm

Opening Session [Lincoln Center 816]

Housekeeping: Doug Howard (Suffolk Community College)

Welcome: Paul Levinson (Fordham U)

Featured Speakers: Gary Edgerton (Old Dominion U), "The Sopranos as Tipping Point in the Second Coming of HBO"; David Lavery (Brunel University), "Made Men to *Mad Men*: What Matthew Weiner Learned from David Chase"

Friday, May 24, 2008

800-900: Registration, Coffee

900-1000 Track A

Session 1 [LL 310]—Featured Speaker: Cancelled

Session 2 [LL 311]—Featured Speaker: Kim Akass and Janet McCabe (Manchester Metropolitan U), "Blabbermouth Cunts': *The Sopranos* and the Feminist Dilemma"

1000-1030: Coffee

1030-1215: Track B

Session 3 [LL 305]—Film Form and Filmmaking

Chair: Cameron Golden

Cameron Golden (Independent Scholar), *The Producers: The Dangers of Filmmaking in The Sopranos*

William Siska (U of Utah), *The Sopranos as Art Cinema*

Session 4 [LL 307]—Therapy

Chair: David Pattie

Matthew Leporati (Fordham U), "Sometimes what happens in here is like taking a shit': Confession and Identity in 'The Test Dream'"

Bruce Plourde (Rowan U), "Tony and Dora: Mastering the Art of Counter-Transference"

David Pattie (U Chester), "Whatever happened to stop & smell the roses?': *The Sopranos* as Anti-Therapeutic Narrative"

Session 5 [LL 310]—Ethnic Identities and the Italian Question

Chair: Frank Tomasulo

Jonathan J. Cavallero (Penn State U), "Honoring Our Ancestors: Using *The Sopranos* to Mobilize Italian/American Ethnic Identity"

Laura Cook Kenna (George Washington U), "I can't turn the other cheek on this . . . My father was a Knight of Columbus': 'Christopher' and the Contested Construction of Italian American Identity"

Frank Tomasulo (Florida State U), "The Gangster as Guinea Hero: The Complex Representation of Italian Americans in David Chase's *The Sopranos*"

Session 6 [LL 311]—Women and Gender I

Chair: Joseph Walker

Andrée Betancourt (Louisiana State U), "The Rise and Shine of Claire Fisher and Meadow Soprano: Good Mourning Daughters"

Marisa Carroll (Independent Scholar), "When it comes to daughters, all bets are off": Meadow Soprano and the Question of Familial Determinism in *The Sopranos*"

Joseph Walker (Independent Scholar), "What's Different Between You and Me': Carmela, the Audience, and the End"

1215-145: Lunch Break

145-330: A Conversation with Dominic Chianese (Uncle Junior) [**Pope Auditorium**]

330-430: **Coffee; Book Signing**—Akass, Allen, Bianculli, Creeber, De Stefano, Edgerton, Jacobs, Lavery, Levinson, McCabe, Rucker, Nelson, Nochimson, Peacock, Yacowar

430-600 **Track C**

Session 10 [Pope Auditorium]—Images of Justice and

The Sopranos: Chair: Barbara Villez (U of Paris 8)

Antoinio Ingroia (Prosecutor Palermo, Italy)

Fabio Licata (Prosecutor Palermo, Italy)

James Keneally (Criminal Lawyer, New York)

Phil Scala (retired FBI organized crime squad supervisor):

"The Real-Life Sopranos: The Crime Family in New Jersey on which The Sopranos Was Based"

615-800: Track D

Session 7 [LL 305]—Dreams

Chair: Cynthia Burkhead

Terry Carney (Butler U), "From Mafioso to Kevin Finnerty: The American Way"

Sven Weber (Independent Scholar), "The Sopranos: Asleep—The Dream Sequences and Their Reflection on Television Structure and Complexity"

Cynthia Burkhead (U North Alabama), "Fishes and Football Coaches, Oh My! The Narrative Necessity of Dreams in *The Sopranos*"

Session 8 [LL 307]—Journalism Poetry, and Silence in *The Sopranos*

Chair: Steven Peacock

Bastiaan Vanacker (Loyola U, Chicago), "Journalism in *The Sopranos*: Don't Shoot the Messenger"

Steven Peacock (U of Hertfordshire), "Silence in *The Sopranos*"

Session 9 [LL 310]—Family, Society, and the American Way—**Cancelled**

Saturday, May 24th, 2008

800-900: Registration, Coffee

900-1000 Track E

Session 11 [LL 310]—Featured Speaker: Robin Nelson, Manchester Metropolitan U) "Author(iz)ing Chase: Questions of Worth in Valorizing *The Sopranos*"

Session 12 [LL 311]—Featured Speaker: Martha Nochimson (*Cineaste*), "The Sopranos, Relatively Speaking"

1000-1030: Coffee

1030-1215: Track F

Session 13 [LL 305]—Creating Narratives in *The Sopranos*

Chair: Sean O'Sullivan

Robert Piluso (California State U Fullerton), "Funny about God, and fate, and shit like that": The Imminent Unexpected in David Chase's *The Sopranos*"

Ilaria Bisteghi (U of Bologna), "The New Serial Television: *The Sopranos* and The Relay Race-Like Text Structure"

Sean O'Sullivan (Ohio State U), "Episode Five, or When Does a Narrative Become What It Is?"

Session 14 [LL 307]—Intertextuality I

Chair: Al Auster

Lindsay Coleman (U Melbourne), "'Echoes in Eternity': *Gladiator* and *The Sopranos*"

Kenneth T. Rivers (Lamar U), "Carmela in Paris: Culture Shock and Architecture in the "Cold Stones" Episode of *The Sopranos*"

Al Auster (Fordham U), *The Sopranos* and History

Session 16 [LL 311]—Women and Gender II

Chair: Nancy Roche

Elizabeth Mauldin (Oglethorpe U), "Carmela Soprano as Emma Bovary: European Culture, Taste, and Class in *The Sopranos*"

Lyndsey Lefebvre (California State U Fullerton), "Carmela Soprano: Fighting Our Battle?"

Nancy Roche (Middle Tennessee State University), "The Last Temptation of Melfi"

1215-145: Lunch Break

145-330: Track G

Session 17 [LL 305]—Intertextuality II

Chair: Paul Wright

Paul Wright (Cabrini College), "Half a Wise Guy: Paulie Walnuts, Meet Tom Stoppard"

Carl Wilson (Brunel U), "'Even Brendan Filone's got an identity and he's dead': Christopher Moltisanti and the Reflexive Subjectivity of the Constructed Self"



Glen Creeber (U Wales Aberystwyth), "Comfortably Numb? *The Sopranos*, New Brutalism and the Last Temptation of Chris"

Session 18 [LL 307]—Whiteness and Cultural Privilege

Chair: Christopher Kocela

Renee Curry (California State U, Monterey Bay), "'Bianca isn't black; she's pretty tan': Desire, Repulsion, and Whiteness in *The Sopranos*"

Andrea Dottolo (Worcester State College), "Wops and WASPS: Using *The Sopranos* to Teach about Race and Racism"

Christopher Kocela (Georgia State U), "'All Caucasians Look Alike': Dreams of Whiteness at the End of *The Sopranos*"

Session 19 [LL 310]—Masculinity and Gender

Chair: Paul Lumsden

Paul Lumsden (Grant MacEwan College), "Tony and the Bear"
Melinda Di Condio and David Thierring (Independent Scholars), "Christopher's Arc: The Existential Search of the Generation Y Gangster"

Session 20 [LL 311]—Role-Playing and Negotiating

Chair: Sarah Swan

Frieda Pattenden (University of Munich), "Role-play Reading *The Sopranos*: 'You are all white professional males between 25 and 45'"

Sharon Sutherland (U of British Columbia Faculty of Law) and Sarah Swan (Independent Scholar), "'It's not a negotiation': Getting to Yes with Tony Soprano"

330-400: Coffee

400-500: Track H

Session 21 [LL 305]—Featured Speaker: Jason Jacobs (U Queensland), "Christopher, Osama and AJ: Contemporary Narcissism and Terrorism in *The Sopranos*"

Session 22 [LL 307]—Featured Speaker: George De Stefano (Independent Scholar), "A 'Finook' in the Crew: Vito Spatafore, *The Sopranos*, and the Queering of the Mob Genre"

Session 23 [LL 311]—Featured Speaker: Jimmie Reeves (Texas Tech U), "Tony Soprano as Feral Father: Patriarchy in the Age of Hybridity"

530-700: Session 24 [Pope Auditorium]—Fade to Black: The Finale and *The Sopranos* Legacy

Featured Speakers: Maurice Yacowar (U Calgary), "Unpredictable but Inevitable: That Last Shot"; Douglas Howard (Suffolk County Community College), "No Justice for All: The FBI, Cut to Black, and David Chase's Final Hit"; Paul Levinson (Fordham U), "*The Sopranos* and the Closure Junkies"; Chair: David Bianculli (tvworthwatching.com)

Sunday, May 25th, 2008

1000 am: *Sopranos* Bus Tour (meeting point—59th and Columbus)



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Presenters by Session

Akass, Kim—2
Auster, Al—14
Betancourt, Andrée E. C.—6
Bianculli, David—24
Bisteghi, Ilaria—13
Burkhead, Cynthia—7
Carney, Terry—7
Carroll, Marisa—6
Cavallero, Jonathan J.—5
Chianese, Dominic—Special
Session
Coleman, Lindsay—14
Creeber, Glen—7
Curry, Renee—18
De Stafano, George—22
DiCondio, Melinda—19
Dottolo, Andrea—18
Edgerton, Gary—Thursday
Evening Session
Golden, Cameron—3

Grynbaum, Michael—15
Howard, Douglas—24
Ingroia, Antoinio—10
Jacobs, Jason—21
Kenna, Laura Cook—5
Keneally, James—10
Kocela, Christopher—18
Lavery, David—Thursday
Evening Session
LeBesco, Kathleen—15
Lefebvre, Lyndsey—16
Leporati, Matthew—4
Levinson, Paul—24
Licata, Fabio—10
Lumsden, Paul—19
Mauldin, Elizabeth—16
McCabe, Janet—2
Naccarato, Peter—15
Nelson, Robin—11
Nochimson, Martha P.—12
O'Sullivan, Sean—13
Pattenden, Frieda—20

Pattie, David—4
Peacock, Steven—8
Piluso, Robert—13
Plourde, Bruce—4
Reeves, Jimmie—23
Rivers, Dianna Lipp—9
Rivers, Kenneth T.—14
Roche, Nancy—16
Scala, Phil—10
Siska, William—3
Swan, Sarah—20
Tomasulo, Frank—5
Vanacker, Bastiaan—8
Villez, Barbara—10
Walker, Joe—6
Weber, Sven—7
Wilson, Carl—17
Wright, Paul—17
Yacowar, Maurice—24