KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:
Failures of Popular Culture Studies

Popular culture studies has spent so much time either defensively justifying its existence or celebrating itself that fundamental contradictions in the field remain unaddressed more than half a century into its existence. Dr. Wallach’s presentation outlines his own 25-year intellectual journey navigating a course between the Scylla of critical arrogance and the Charybdis of uncritical fannish enthusiasm. He concludes by asserting that he has found the only way forward to be to acknowledge fully the political context in which popular culture scholars work in which most forms of popular culture are openly and mercilessly derided, and their own subject positions as both scholars and active participants in popular culture broadly defined.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Ray Browne Conference for Popular Culture Studies is an annual graduate student organized conference that invites participants to consider the study of popular culture as an approach, proposal, and practice.

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