

***Comparative approaches to assessing the role, reach and impact of television archives***

**An international symposium organised by Birkbeck, University of London and University of Sao Paulo**

**6th February 2026, Birkbeck - Birkbeck Central, room BCB 307**

**Malet Street, WC1E 7HY**

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[Individual papers should be up to 15min max]

**9.30-9.40 Opening remarks**

**Tea/coffee (including biscuits and homemade cake!)**

**9.40-10.45 Round Table 1: Institutional TV archives: access and collaboration**

What are the key challenges around preserving and maintaining national TV archives?

How do national TV archives make their collections accessible and engaging for the general public?

What can networks of TV archives offer and what is still missing from such networks?

**BFI National Archive: Ellie Groom**

**International Federation of Television Archives (FIAT): Dana Mustata**

**Institut national de l'audiovisuel (INA): Arthur Hénaff**

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**10.55-12.00 Round Table 2: Written and Oral History archives for television**

How common are written collections of national TV archives? What has the BBC Written Archives contributed to our understanding of television history? How can oral history collections of TV archives be created and how can they be used?

**John Wyver (University of Westminster)**

**Jamie Medhurst (Aberystwyth University)**

**Sue Malden (The British Entertainment History Project)**

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**12.05 -13.20: Lunch will be provided (selection of sandwiches, tea/coffee, juice)**

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**13.30-14.35 Round Table 3: Discovering archives, scavenging archives**

What are the challenges of creating and maintaining local/regional TV archives? And how/when can TV collections 'become an archive'?

**Luca Barra (University of Bologna)**

**Rosana Soares (University of São Paulo)**

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**14.45-15.50 Round Table 4 : Reimagining archives**

What are the possibilities of creatively re-using and re-purposing TV archives and to what effect? How can curating TV archives create new dialogues with the material? What are the possibilities created by individual and crowd-sourced online archival efforts? How does this DIY archiving challenge established narratives around national television industries?

**Jacopo Rasmi (Jean Monnet University)**

**Shane O'Sullivan (Kingston University)**

**Professor Helen Wheatley (University of Warwick)**

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**16.00-17.00 Round Table 5: Transnational approaches to researching TV archives**

What opportunities does a transnational, comparative approach to TV archives open up, including for publicly-accessible vs. privately-owned, experimental vs. mainstream)? What is the role of social media in collecting archival materials?

**Giancarlo Gozzi (University of São Paulo)**

**Esther Hamburger (University of São Paulo)**

**Cecilia Mello (University of São Paulo)**

**Eleni Liarou (Birkbeck)**

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**BIMI - Birkbeck cinema**

**18.00-21.00 *Complete Fragments*: screening of TV archive extracts**

Screening of extracts taken from different television archives with introduction by **Janet McCabe**. For full details and how to book:

<https://www.bbk.ac.uk/events/event/58139/complete-fragments-screening-fragments-from-the-tv-archive>