

John Dean **"The US TV Cop Series & How It Was Influenced
By the Seriality of Movies, Radio & Comics".**

Among the great current renaissance of US TV series programs, the US Cop Show rates among the very best. Specially conspicuous here is "The Wire", along with a wide variety of cop & criminal viscous and violent variables of the last three decades of US cultural history.

My thesis and *problématique* is why and how this rebirth does not happen in a vacuum. How and why it takes inspiration from real life, outstanding personalities, and the rediscovery and affirmation of older wonders -- as true of the Italian *Rinascimento* of the 14th-16th centuries as it is of "The Sopranos" (1999-2007); "The Wire". (2002-2008); "Breaking Bad" (2008-13); "Better Call Saul" (2015- present) and others.

Hence this presentation's short, sharp objective: to delineate the kaleidoscopic, pulsating veins that lead to the matrix that birthed this great stuff. Where are its visual veins, its roots in pre-TV media, specially comics and radio? What's the pivotal place of *Dragnet* (1951-59, 1967-70) and the character of Sgt. Joe Friday (Jack Webb)? How has the "New Journalism" tradition of recent times given fresh blood to the contemporary US TV Cop Series through the writings of Ed Burns, David Simon and their ilk? Which, after all, is -- or is not -- a form of writing as old in the USA as the morally and politically committed journalism of Thomas Paine and Stephen Crane?

Finally what about the influence of the great, all-American *film noir* of the 1940s and 1950s era on the US TV Cop Series? Consider particularly the ways in which protagonists and antagonists knock their heads together and apart as the stories' men and women weave their worried way through the cracks of the city looking for...what?

Dear audience, a dark, delicious bundle of squirming goods await our discovery.

Bio :

John Dean is a Cultural Historian; Executive Member US American Studies Association International Committee 2013-16;
a *Chercheur Centre d'Histoire Culturelle des Sociétés Contemporaines*, UVSQ;
Maître de Conférences 9°, University of Versailles, France. His work areas include Heroism Studies, Sociology of Mass Media, Youth Culture, and Cross-cultural Euro-US relations. Author of numerous books and articles, his latest publications are: "He's the Artist in the Family': The Life, Times, and Character of Edsel Ford," Mark Rosenthal, *Diego Rivera & Frida Kahlo in Detroit*, New Haven, CT: Yale UP, 2015; and is co-editor of *American Studies Journal* special edition: "Lincoln in Europe", No. 60 (2016), @: <http://www.asjournal.org/60-2016/>. Prof. Dean currently serves as Program Director at *der Akademie für Lehrerfortbildung und Personalführung* in Dillingen, Germany.