



216th Lecture Series 7.30pm - 13th December 2017

Professor Stella Bruzzi, FBA

Evidence as narrative: the law as new media entertainment



ABSTRACT

*In our era of 'post-truth' politics, we are witnessing a dramatic resurgence of interest in the law, and more specifically, the unanticipated entertainment value of the detailed dissection of past trials or 'cold' cases in long running series such as *The Jinx* (2015), *Making a Murderer* (2015) and *The Keepers* (2017), and podcasts such as *Serial* (2014), *S-Town* (2017) and *Missing Richard Simmons* (2017). These have become global phenomena and proved compulsive viewing and listening the world over. At a time when evidence is being belligerently ignored by the US presidency, US media in particular has become transfixed by the factual potency as well as entertainment value of legal evidence, from older series such as *The Staircase* (2004) to both the fictionalised (*The People vs. OJ Simpson* [2016]) and the documentary (*O.J.: Made in America* [2016]) reiterations of O.J.'s 1995 trial for double homicide.*

BIOGRAPHY

*Stella Bruzzi is Dean of the Arts and Humanities Faculty at University College London. She became a Fellow of the British Academy in 2013 and from 2017—2020 will serve on its Council. Prior to joining UCL in 2017, she spent 10 years at the University of Warwick where she was Head of the Department of Film and Television Studies (2006—2008), before becoming Chair of the Faculty of Arts (2008—2011), stepping down to embark upon a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (2011—2014). She has published widely, primarily in the areas of documentary, costume and fashion, and cinema and gender, and her books include *New Documentary*, *Undressing Cinema*, *Bringing Up Daddy*, *Men's Cinema* and *Seven Up*. Her doctoral thesis was on trials in film, theatre and television and, as part of the Leverhulme project – *Approximation: Documentary, History and the Staging of Reality* – she has re-engaged with that interest in the law.*

LINKS

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/headlines/1216/161216-stella-bruzzi>

**All lectures take place in Lecture Theatre K3.25, John Anderson Building,
University of Strathclyde, Rottenrow East, Glasgow G4 0NG.**

The John Anderson Building is in the pedestrianised area between Rottenrow and Rottenrow East.
Free car parking is available behind the building. From High Street enter Rottenrow East at the Barony.
Refreshments will be served at 9.00pm.