Failure

Session 2 Thursday, October 9 3:00-5:00 Quadrangle Room (Level 3)

Failure defines television. Most programs, TV workers, and policy goals fail. Yet, we don't study failure, we study success. Because we look at stars, successful programming, powerful executives, or the ruling ideas in broadcasting, success has become concomitant to cultural importance. Failure seems culturally irrelevant. What can we learn from failure? How is failure naturalized in programming, employment, and policy initiatives? What of reality TV's losers, celebrity meltdown, and beloved shows that get canceled? Is failure part of "successful" programming?