In this lecture, Semi Chellas will reflect on the singular nature of television writing. How does a group work on behalf of an auteur? How do facts shape a story, and what use is research in creating fiction? What’s the place of the personal in writing characters created by someone else?

“I’ve always said TV writing is for people who hate being alone more than they hate writing.”
- Matthew Weiner, creator of Mad Men

Semi Chellas is best known as a writer and co-executive producer of Mad Men, where she was nominated for six primetime Emmys, shared the Writers Guild award with Matthew Weiner for “The Other Woman,” and ran the writers’ room in the final two seasons. She was the co-creator, executive producer and head writer of the critically acclaimed and award-winning Canadian network drama, The Eleventh Hour. She has published short fiction, non-fiction and interviews in Brick, Epoch, The Malahat Review, and The Commonwealth Journalists’ Quarterly, and most recently interviewed Weiner for The Paris Review. She has also written indie features and directed several short films, including three that premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. She holds a B.A. in literature from Yale University and did graduate work at Cornell on a Mellon Fellowship before attending The Canadian Film Centre in Toronto.