NSU WINTER SYMPOSIUM
COMICS AND FEMINISM
19-21 FEBRUARY 2020
MB 503, SÖDERTÖRN UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, 19 February 2020

09.30 - 10.00 Registration

10.00 - 10.15 Welcome address: Kristy Beers Fägersten and Anna Vuorinne

10.15 - 11.55 Session 1: Feminist and anti-feminist expressions
Chair: Anna Nordenstam

● Oskari Rantala, University of Jyväskylä: “A story of being seriously pissed off.” Anti-feminist subversion of comics intertexts and manufacturing political controversy
● Katja Kontturi, University of Jyväskylä: *Kullervo* as a Finnish myth of (toxic) masculinity
● Susi E. Mikael Nousiainen, University of Jyväskylä: Discussing sexual play and normativity in *Sunstone*
● Ralf Kauranen & Olli Löytty, University of Turku: Feminist information and empowerment confronting online misogyny: Johanna Vehkoo and Emmi Nieminen’s *Vihan ja inhon internet*

12.00 - 13.00 Lunch

13.10 - 14.25 Session 2: Sexual agency and sexual abuse in comics
Chair: Laura Antola

● Raisa Aho, Tampere University: *Reframing the story: Isolation and community in two contemporary graphic narratives about sexual violence*
● Dragoș Manea & Mihaela Precup, University of Bucharest: “*Who are you crying for*?”: Sexual abuse and the ethics of empathy in Nina Bunjevac’s *Bezimena*
● Anna Vuorinne, University of Turku: *For sex-positivity: Sexual agency, polyamory, and pleasure in Ulli Lust’s Wie ich versuchte, ein guter Mensch zu sein*

14.25 - 14.45 Break

14.45 - 16.00 Keynote lecture: Leena Romu, Tampere University
*The narrative complexity of showing and telling sexual violence - Kati Kovács’s comics as a test case*

16.00 - 16.15 Break

16.15 - 17.05 Session 3: Victimhood and trauma
Chair: Anna Vuorinne

● Malgorzata Olsza, Adam Mickiewicz University: *The questions of feminism, Fun Home, and form in Wanda Hagedorn’s graphic memoir Totalnie Nie Nostalgia*
● Shromona Das, Jawaharlal Nehru University: *The perfect victim: Reading victimhood in rape narratives in Indian comics*

18.00 - 19.00 Tour of Serieteket: Ola Hellsten, Elin Jansson, Tomas Antila

End of day
Thursday, 20 February

08.50  Announcements

09.00 - 11.00  Session 4: Artist panel
Chair: Margareta Wallin Wictorin

- Mētra Saberova, London South Bank University: Animation and radical body art-reaching beyond the border
- Juliana Hyrri, Helsinki: Spaceship to the unknown
- Taina Hakala, Helsinki: Women in art history
- Johanna Rojola, University of Turku/University of Helsinki: “Money, race, gender, and economics in comics” 2014-2016 – Investigating and drawing the power structures in comics on our own
- Rakel Stammer, Malmö: The underground of fanzines

11.00 - 11.10  Break

11.10 - 12.40  Session 5: Gender perspectives on comics in Italian and German
Chair: Biz Nijdam

- Rebecca Scherr, University of Oslo: Background stories in Gina Siciliano’s The Life and Times of Artemisia Gentileschi
- Camilla Storskog, University of Milan: Modest Maiden, Poster Girl, Liberated Woman? The stripping of A Doll’s House in the Italian 1970s
- Marina Rauchenbacher and Katharina Serles, University of Vienna: Theorizing visualities of gender and feminism in German-language comics
- Anna Beckmann, Free University Berlin: Ambiguous gender identities in German comics

12.45 - 13.45  Lunch

13.50 - 15.30  Session 6: Educational, sociological and philosophical perspectives on comics
Chair: Mike Classon Frangos

- Gunnar Krantz, Malmö university: Safety in numbers – Challenging norms in the Swedish field of comics
- Lars Wallner & Robert Aman, Linköping University: Challenging gender norms through comics in the classroom
- Sara Teleman, Konstfack: Feminist comics, the next generation – Intersectionality in practice
- Marco Favaro, Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg: Super(anti)heroines: The threatening and revolutionary force of superwomen

15.30 - 16.00  Break

16.00 - 18.00  Artist roundtable, moderated by Anna Vuorinne and Laura Antola
Sofia Olsson, Artist and Publisher at Galago (Sweden)
Nina Hemmingsson, Artist and Publisher at Kaunitz-Olsson (Sweden)
Moa Romanova, Artist (Sweden)
H-P Lehkonen, Artist (Finland)
Ingrīda Pičukāne, Artist (Latvia)

18.00 - 18.30  Drink/mingle
18.30 - 20.30  Dinner

End of day
Friday, 21 February

08.50 Announcements

09.00 - 10.40 Session 7: Women War Witnesses. Panel on war comics by women: Challenging genre and gender norms while doing justice to the past
   Chair: Leena Romu
   ● Warda Ahmed, Artist/University of Turku
   ● Ainur Elmgren, Artist/University of Helsinki
   ● Reetta Laitinen, Archivist/Finnish Comics Society
   ● Tiitu Takalo, Artist

10.40 - 10.50 Break

10.50 - 12.05 Keynote lecture: Elisabeth El Refaie, Cardiff University
   Challenging binary categories of gender, sexuality and corporeality through metaphor in autobiographical comics

12.10 - 13.10 Lunch

13.15 - 14.30 Session 8: Women in Asian comics
   Chair: José Alaniz
   ● Shambhavi Singh, Aalto University: In search of the ‘common woman’
   ● Wajeehah Aayeshah, University of Melbourne: Exploring the F in P: Feminism in contemporary Pakistani comics
   ● Henri Nerg, University of Jyväskylä: Christian allegory and feminist re-contextualization of Puella Magi Madoka Magica

14.30 - 14.40 Break

14.40 - 16.00 Session 9: A multidisciplinary study of feminist comic art. Papers from a research project funded by the Foundation for Baltic and Eastern European Studies (Östersjöstiftelsen)
   Chair: Kristy Beers Fägersten
   ● Anna Nordenstam, Gothenburg University & Margareta Wallin Wictorin, Karlstad University
   ● José Alaniz, University of Washington
   ● Elizabeth ‘Biz’ Nijdam, University of British Columbia

16.00 - 16.15 Closing remarks: Laura Antola, Anna Nordenstam, Margareta Wallin Wictorin

End of symposium