

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**
- Dragoş 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 Victorin

- 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**
- Raket 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