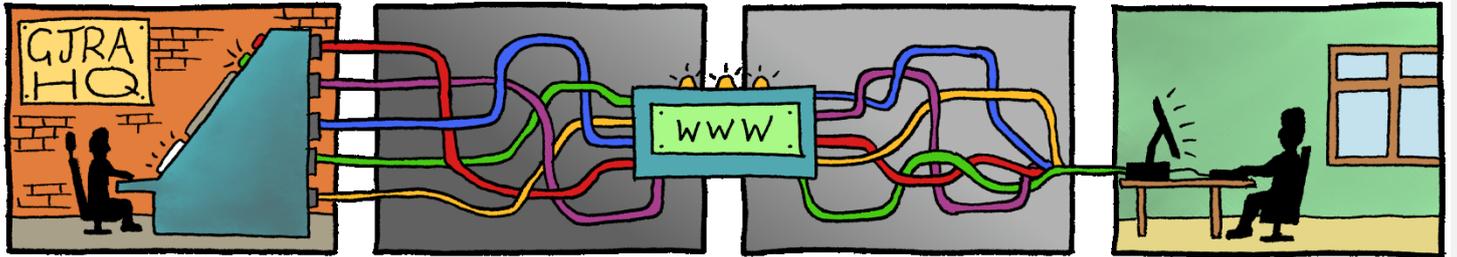


# GRAPHIC JUSTICE RESEARCH ALLIANCE

# MEMO



## A MONTHLY ROUND-UP ON ALL THINGS GRAPHIC JUSTICE

Issue #11 May 2016

### FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCES AND ARTICLES

**Some Comics Studies Book Reviews:** Barbara Postema's recent book *Narrative Structure in Comics* theorises and examines medium-specific readings of a wide range of comics. [Read a review here](#). And Andrew Hoberek's work *Considering Watchmen: Poetics, Property, Politics* is [reviewed here](#).

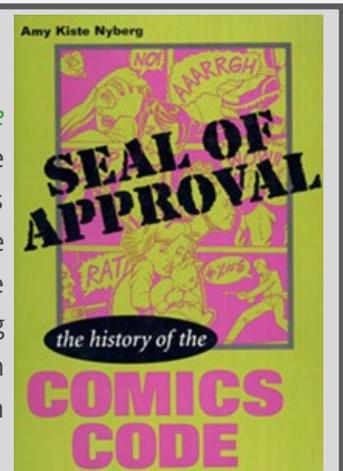
**The Path to Death:** Death row inmates' journeys to execution, rendered in comics form. Read [this interview](#) with the creators of the comics journalism project at *Storybench*.



**Queer Lines:** Interested in queer comics? Explore the history of queer comics in *No Straight Lines*, which is discussed in [this post](#) from Panels. And, as a bonus post, read [this examination](#) of Deadpool's queer erasure.

### FEATURED PUBLICATION

A seminal text in the study of comics history, Amy Nyberg's *Seal of Approval: The History of the Comics Code* "traces how, in the years following World War II, the criticism of comic books shifted to their content, and the reading of comic books became linked with the rise of juvenile delinquency." It is a must-read for anyone wishing to better understand issues of censorship, the development of the medium, and the cultural baggage of juvenility attached to comics. Nyberg demonstrates how the code itself had the effect of both solidifying the perception of comics as juvenile and delayed the medium from developing a sophistication that would have challenged that perception.



## RECOMMENDED READING

Not a typical comics publication, *Existential Comics* is a webcomic of philosophical proportions. Humorous and critical, it puts a wide range of existential philosophers together in the panels of comics with entertaining and insightful results. Check it out [here](#).



## KEY RESOURCE

Neal Curtis, author of the book *Superheroes and Sovereignty*, previously featured in this newsletter, has a blog: [Multiframe](#). It is a site replete with critical commentary and analysis of a wide range of comics, often with a legal or political spin. A great archive of reflective thought on comics.

## NEWS!

**Comics & Cola Closes:** The [leading comics blog](#)—an excellent resource for reviews, criticism and thoughts—has closed for business. The archive is still accessible, but Zainab Ahktar, the blog's creator, cites rampant islamophobia in comics as her reason for calling it a day. [Read some responses here](#).

**New Comics Journals:** There are a couple of new comics journals to note. Firstly, *Inks*, the journal for the new [Comics Studies Society](#). And also the [Journal of Comics and Culture](#).

**Shojo Manga Exhibition:** If you can make it, there is still a week or so left of [this exhibition](#) of Japanese girls' manga at the House of Illustration in London, which closes on 12 June.

**Steve Rogers:** In case you missed it, *Captain America* is now supposedly a Hydra agent, undermining his whole history as being oriented against them and their Nazism. [Read a response here](#), and [an interview with the writer here](#).



## OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

If you have something you would like to post on the [GJRA blog](#), we are always open to receive submissions. Here are some indicative examples of types of posts, although other ideas will always be considered:

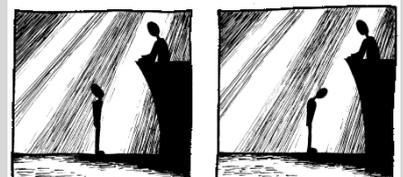
- *Reviews of comics:* Posts summarising and highlighting comics works with potential relevance or interest to the Alliance.
- *Reviews of academic publications:* Posts critically summarising academic or commentary texts of potential relevance or interest to the Alliance.
- *Analysis or commentary:* More in-depth posts (but not necessarily) critically examining or analysing particular issues or works within the scope of the Alliance.
- *General news:* Posts sharing general news items of potential interest to the Alliance, such as industry or publication news, calls for papers, or news of conferences and other events.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## GJRA MEMBERSHIP

The GJRA is always looking for new members, and it's completely free to join. Fill out [this form](#) and you'll be added to the [Alliance Members](#) page.

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