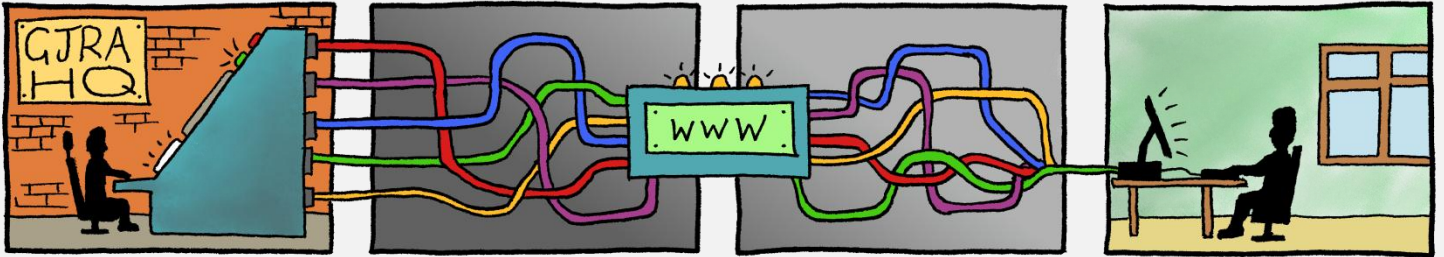


# GRAPHIC JUSTICE RESEARCH ALLIANCE MEMO



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

Issue #7 December 2015

### FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCES AND ARTICLES

**Iron Fist and Orientalism:** Marvel's Iron Fist is a character that has his origins in Western fascination with the mysteries of Oriental 'otherness'. The recent development of a live action series has prompted suggestions that someone of Asian origin should be cast in the role, updating the original concept of a white westerner who 'discovers' and saves the mysterious East. See [this post](#) for consideration of the question, and also [this post](#) for more on the Asian American superhero in Marvel.

#### **Race, Comics, and Male Sexual Abuse:**

Challenging the unspeakability of male rape, [this short web comic](#) tackles issues of stereotypical male sexuality, race, definitions of rape, problems of reporting and facing such traumas—personally and publically—and the stigma that follows sexual abuse.



**Gender and Sexuality Comics:** Here are a couple of short comics on associated gender issues worth a look that have been shared:

This one on [misogyny in queer communities](#) and this on [LGBT youth and homelessness](#).

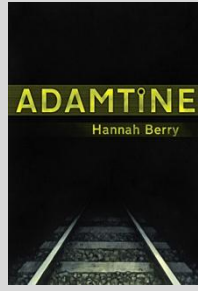
### FEATURED PUBLICATION

Featuring papers from GJRA members Jason Bainbridge, Thomas Giddens, Mitchell Travis, Kieran Tranter, and Luis Gómez Romero, as well as from Anne Wagner, Terry D Royce, Ashley Pearson, Alexander V Kozin, issue 28(4) of Springer's *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law* is focused on law in comics and cartoons. As a thematic issue on what is essentially graphic justice, it represents a key resource for anyone working in this and related areas. It covers areas from jurisprudence in *Batman* and *Ratatouille*, to personhood in *The Walking Dead*, sovereignty and superheroes in times of war, and cultural meanings of newspaper lawyer cartoons. [Check out the contents page here.](#)



## RECOMMENDED READING

British public transport. A spooky haunting. National media justice reportage. Personal tragedy. Guilt and responsibility. An abandoned train in the dark of night. Wry humour and delicate visuals. A spectre that judges. What more can you want? Hannah Berry's *Adamtine*.



## KEY RESOURCE

*Nerds of Color* is a rich critical discourse on all things comics, games, and geek culture. The site is a response to the lack of critique of racial issues in the mainstream, including representations of racial difference in sci-fi, fantasy, and comics.



As Bao Phi says: "When it comes down to it, having these discussions is necessary, even if those of us who choose to confront it and speak against it are one against a thousand voices shouting us down. As nerds, as people of color, we are used to insurmountable odds. We're used to doing what we think is right and standing up for what we believe in, even when it's not popular and endangers our lives. Isn't that what being a nerd is all about?" ([More here](#))

## NEWS!

**Graphic Justice SLSA Theme:** The call for the Socio-Legal Studies Association 2016 conference is now open, and includes a call for a dedicated theme on graphic justice, convened by Thomas Giddens. [See here for details of the call](#) (and please share widely).

**Poetics of the Algorithm:** Organised by the ACME Comics Research Group, this is call for a conference to be held at the University of Liège in Belgium in June 2016. Engaging with the aesthetics of digital media—including digital comics and games—it aims to be a multi-disciplinary examination of digital culture and post-media poetics. [See call here](#). Be quick—call closes 20 December!

**Graphic Justice Down Under:** December was a busy month for the GJRA, with two conference panels at this year's Law, Literature and the Humanities Conference at University of Technology, Sydney. [See programme here](#). We also had a 'Seeing Law' workshop at Griffith Law School, which promises to develop into a journal special issue—watch this space!

## OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

If you have something you would like to post on the [GJRA blog](#), we are always open to receive submissions. Types of post include, but are by no means limited to:

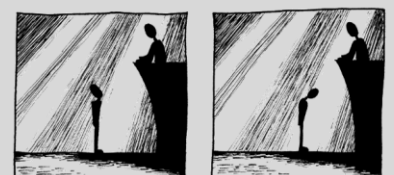
- short 'graphic justice' (very broadly defined) analyses of law-related comics, exploring or outlining the law and/or justice aspects (be they empirical, theoretical, or cultural, to do with readership, content ,or something else) via some form of engagement with comics or graphic fiction;
- reviews of comics that might be of interest to those working in graphic justice and related areas;
- book or article reviews of work of relevance to graphic justice, considered broadly;
- information or announcements about graphic justice related events, calls, and publications (this kind of material is also sought for inclusion in future GJRA Memos);

To submit or discuss a post, you just need to send an [email](#).

## GJRA MEMBERSHIP

The GJRA is always looking for new members, and it's completely free to join. Just [send an email](#) and you'll be added to the [Alliance Members](#) page.

# GRAPHIC



# JUSTICE

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