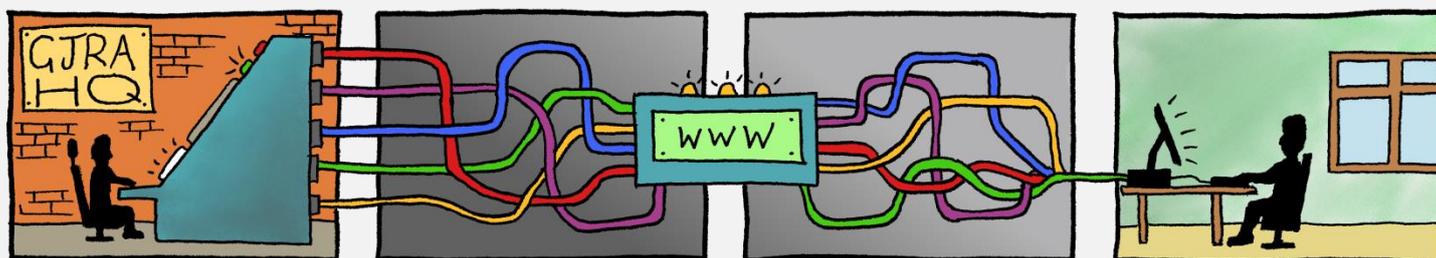


# GRAPHIC JUSTICE RESEARCH ALLIANCE MEMO



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

Issue #8 January 2016

### FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCES AND ARTICLES

**Nick Sousanis's Comics and Thinking Course:** You may have heard of *Unflattering*, the first PhD thesis to be submitted in comics format (and recently published by Harvard University Press). It's our recommended reading this month, so see over for more. But creator Nick Sousanis has made the key materials for his 'Comics as a Way of Thinking' module available online. See [here](#) for outlines, topics, readings, and student work.

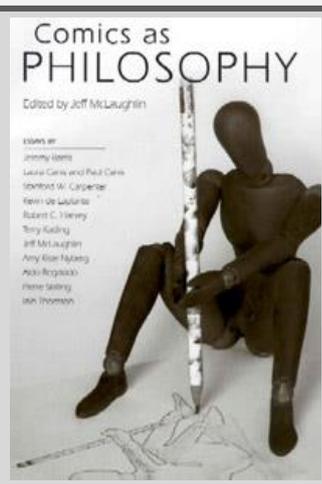
**Comics and Sex Work:** See *Barely Represented*, a comic by Em DeMarco on the problems of regulating sex work.



**Comics and World Hunger:** Huffington Post are serialising a work of graphic reportage by Joshua Dysart exploring issues of hunger and food shortage with the work of humanitarian organisation, The World Food Programme. See Part 1 here: [Living Level 3](#)

### FEATURED PUBLICATION

Jeff McLaughlin's (2005) collection *Comics as Philosophy* examines the way, via 'the combination of text and images, comic books offer a unique opportunity to explore deep questions about aesthetics, ethics, and epistemology in nontraditional ways. The essays in this collection focus on a wide variety of genres, from mainstream superhero comics, to graphic novels of social realism, to European adventure classics.' Covering philosophical themes such as existentialism, eco-criticism, political philosophy, comics history and appreciation, ethics of censorship, the book demonstrates 'how well the form can be used by its artists and its interpreters as a means of philosophical inquiry'. A must for GJ scholars!



## RECOMMENDED READING

*Unflattening* (HUP 2015) 'defies conventional forms of scholarly discourse to offer readers both a stunning work of graphic art and a serious inquiry into the ways humans construct knowledge' in interlinked visual and textual ways ([excerpt here](#)).



## KEY RESOURCE

'Mel Gibson is a UK based comics scholar and consultant. She has run [training and promotional events](#) about comics and graphic novels for libraries, schools and other organizations since 1993 when she contributed to *Graphic Account* on developing graphic novels collections for 16-25 year olds, published by the [Youth Libraries Group](#).'

Her site 'incorporates information about her training and promotional work, but also offers [Links](#) that will help you in developing graphic novel, comics and manga collections and events. It also contains a [starter document for assessing comics strip materials](#) for stock selection in libraries.'

Featuring a host of materials, links, and insights, Dr Mel's website is a treasure trove of resources (online, scholarly, and otherwise), for anyone interested in comics.

## NEWS!

**SLSA Poster Call:** The call for the SLSA 2016 Graphic Justice stream has closed; many thanks for all your submissions. The SLSA 2016 poster call has been extended, though, so if you have any posters up your sleeves, [check details here](#).

**Angoulême-gate:** The famous French sequential art festival was attacked recently for its lack of representation of female comics creators in its prestigious Grand Prix award. See their [response here](#), and a few words of [commentary here](#).

**Comics vs Guns:** The [Rise Above Social Issues Foundation](#), the initiative of Nancy Silberkleit (Co-CEO of Archie Comics) has published a comic aimed at tackling gun violence in US schools. [See her GJRA post here](#).

**X-Men Causing Religious Offence:** It has been reported that the new X-Men film, *X-Men: Apocalypse*, is set to offend Hindu leaders in its drawing of parallels between the villain of the piece (Apocalypse) and Krishna. See the [Independent's article 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:

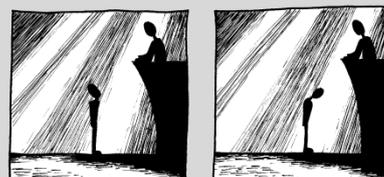
- *Reviews of comics:* Posts summarising and highlighting comics works with potential relevance or interest to the Alliance.
- *Reviews of academic publications:* Posts critically summarising academic or commentary texts of potential relevance or interest to the Alliance.
- *Analysis or commentary:* 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.

# GRAPHIC



# JUSTICE

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