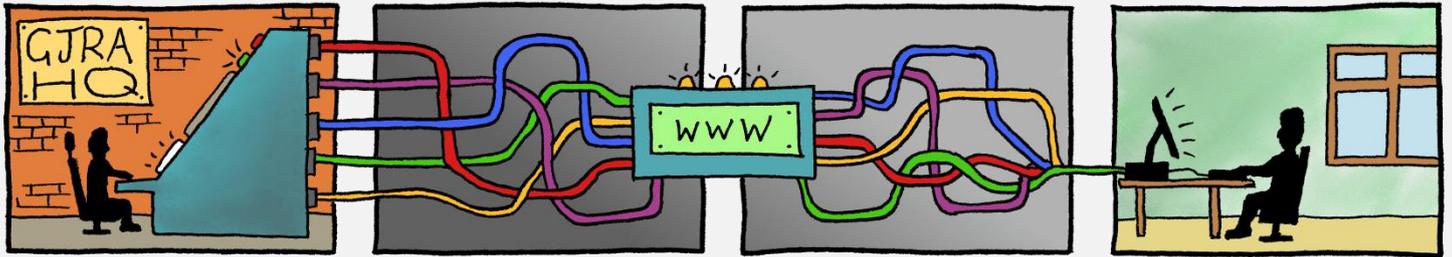


GRAPHIC JUSTICE RESEARCH ALLIANCE

MEMO



A MONTHLY ROUND-UP ON ALL THINGS GRAPHIC JUSTICE

Issue #2 July 2015

NEWS!

The Ethics of Enhanced Bodies: How can the somatic improvements and variations depicted in comics raise and explore ethical issues in bio-technology and bodily enhancements? The new [Costumed Visions Network](#)—brought to you by the [Mason Institute](#) at Edinburgh and [Institute for Science, Ethics and Innovation](#) at Manchester (and supported by the [Wellcome Trust](#))—has its first meeting coming up on 16 September to find out just that! [Book your place.](#)



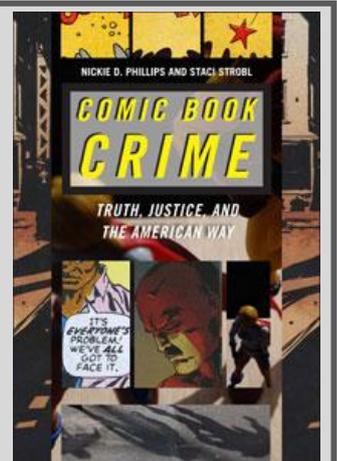
Gotham Town Sign Stolen: Gotham has had its sign stolen (again!) Comics and law intersect in Nottinghamshire, UK. [See the news report here.](#)

Graphic Justice @ SLSA 2016: A graphic justice stream is being proposed for next year's [Socio-Legal Studies Association conference](#) in the UK. The call for streams opens in the Autumn, so in the meantime have a think about whether you'd like to present a paper in this stream. A formal call will be circulated later in the year, but [contact Thom](#) if you have any queries or questions.

Comics Forum 2015 Call for Papers Still Open: [Comics Forum](#), the annual academic comics conference, is open for business until 30 July. The theme is 'Politics', and will take place on 12-13 November (including a session on using comics in education). [Get your abstracts in by 30 July 2015.](#) Tickets are also up for the [Thought Bubble 2015 Comic Con](#), which follows the Comics Forum (14-15 November, Leeds): <http://thoughtbubblefestival.com/>.

FEATURED PUBLICATION

Nickie Phillips and Staci Strobl have made something of a name for themselves as comics criminologists. Their recent offering to academia, [Comic Book Crime: Truth, Justice and the American Way](#), from NYU Press (2013), solidifies this reputation. The volume examines representations of crime and justice across the US comics market from 2002-2010 and delves into the depths of fan culture. Exploring concerns of justice, fairness, sexuality, retribution, cultural perception, deathworthiness, class and race, [Comic Book Crime](#) unpacks the role comics have in shaping American ideological identity in a post-9/11 world. (PS: Nickie and Staci are [official members](#) of the Graphic Justice Research Alliance!)



RECOMMENDED READING

This month's recommended comics reading is Image's superhero series **C.O.W.L.** Set in 60s Chicago, with all the supervillains defeated public scepticism against vigilante heroes is rising, and themes of legitimate governance abound. Read more on this series [here](#).



KEY RESOURCE

For a great resource for feminist perspectives on comics and related areas of culture, be sure to check out **Women Write about Comics**, with reviews, commentary, and discussion.



From their 'About' page: "Our beat is comics, creators, and geek culture from a feminist perspective. We are committed to intersectionality and internationality (our diverse staff hails from Canada, the UK, Switzerland, Brazil, and the United States). And while we're an unabashedly feminist, unapologetically ladies-first operation, we have a healthy contingent of cis men reading, as well as women and non-binary folks. We must be doing something right...right?"

FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCES AND ARTICLES

A Brief History of Women in the Comics Industry: Check out this interesting and enlightening [podcast](#) uncovering a female comics past. From the origins of the modern form at the turn of the 20th century to contemporary series like *Saga* and *Ms Marvel*, women have helped shape this typically 'male' cultural form.



Interview with @ComicsLawyer: [Caitlin Domotta](#) talks to [Comics Alliance](#) about working as a (female) lawyer to the comics industry. [Read the transcript here](#).

Comics, Black Girls, Empowerment: Against the typical assumptions of hypersexualised objectification in the mainstream, [Qiana Whitted](#) examines the ways [comics can help empower black girls](#).

...yes, something of a gender theme this month!

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.

