

12TH ANNUAL UF COMICS CONFERENCE

COMICS READ BUT SELDOM SEEN

DIVERSITY & REPRESENTATION IN COMICS & RELATED MEDIA

APRIL 10-12, 2015



#UFCOMICS

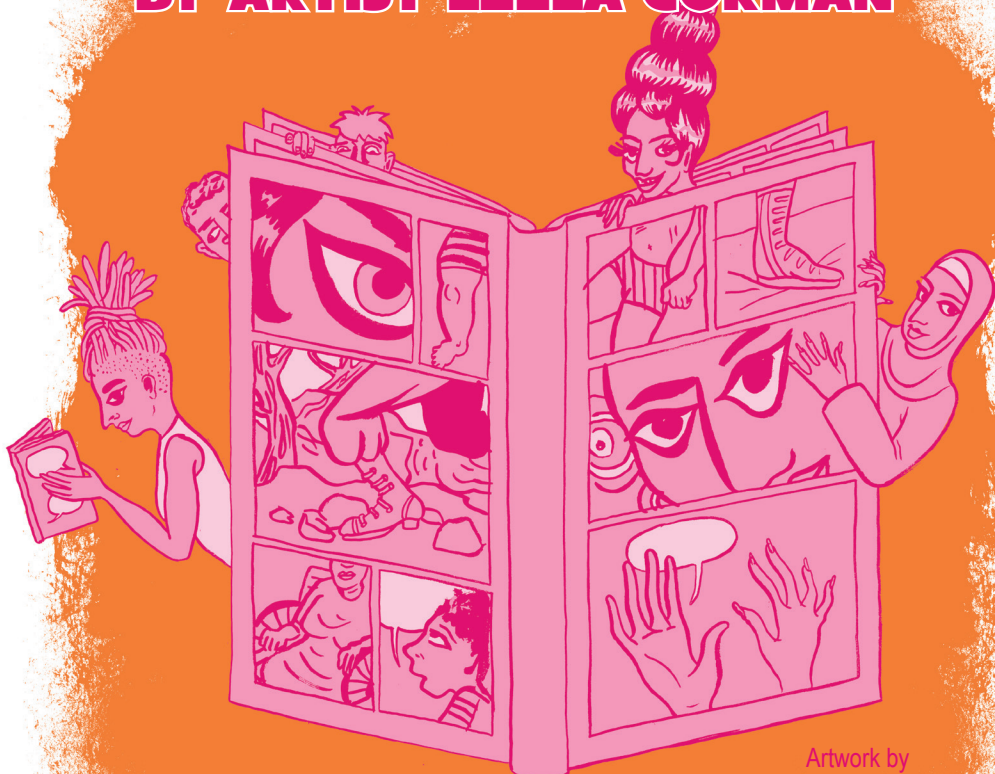
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR. JOSÉ ALANIZ &

DR. SHEENA C. HOWARD

CREATIVE COMICS WORKSHOP

BY ARTIST LEELA CORMAN



Artwork by
Leela Corman

COMICS READ BUT SELDOM SEEN

DIVERSITY & REPRESENTATION IN COMICS & RELATED MEDIA

Welcome.

Mainstream comics have been increasingly open to experimenting with diversity in sexuality, race, gender, and disability. Marvel has a new Muslim woman superhero; “traditionally” straight superheroes have been coming out in new universes/continuities; and disability often crosses over into hyperability. However, many of these experiments in diversity have been limited or problematic, and have at times generated controversy. Alternative and independent comics, from the underground comix scene on, have long been a space for writers and artists to depict diverse characters who do not fit into the narrow mold of the straight, white, cissexual, neurotypical, and able-bodied male hero.

The analysis of diversity and representation in comic books is an integral and growing part of Comics Studies. Works of scholarship like Adilifu Nama’s *Super Black: American Pop Culture and Black Superheroes* (2011), Sheena C. Howard and Ronald L. Jackson II’s *Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation* (2013), José Alaniz’s *Death, Disability and the Superhero: the Silver Age and Beyond*, and Joseph J. Darowski’s *X-Men and the Mutant Metaphor: Race and Gender in the Comic Books* (2014) are significant for their insightful exploration of issues of race, gender, sexuality and disability in comics, and for broadening the discourse in the field. This conference seeks to interrogate the representation of marginalized groups in comics and related media.

Thank you for joining us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Najwa H. Al-Tabaa
Conference Organizer
President, Graduate Comics Organization

The Graduate Comics Organization would like to sincerely thank our former faculty adviser and *ImageText*’s Founder and General Editor, Dr. Don Ault, who retired from the University of Florida this year. We are very grateful to Dr. Ault for his many years of service, his integral role as Founding Editor and for his work as General Editor for the past 11 years. His stewardship has shaped *ImageText* into the quality journal it is today and helped GCO put on innovative and quality comics conferences year after year.

Dr. Ault’s teaching, scholarship, and university service have been instrumental in developing comics studies as a discipline at UF and across the country. He has been an inspiration and valued mentor to many, and his contributions to the Department of English will certainly outlive his tenure.

Dr. Ault and a team of faculty and graduate students (with generous University of Florida support) published the inaugural issue of *ImageText* in 2004, following the 2002 “Will Eisner Symposium,” which was the first UF Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels. *ImageText* has been a UF institution ever since, and we are proud to be continuing Dr. Ault’s legacy.

We hope that you will all join us in celebrating Don’s years of scholarship and service.



COMICS READ BUT SELDOM SEEN

DIVERSITY & REPRESENTATION IN COMICS & RELATED MEDIA

FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH

11:00 AM - 11:20 AM	REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS
11:20 AM - 11:30 AM	OPENING REMARKS
11:30 AM - 1:10 PM	<p>RACE, WOMEN, POWER, MARVEL MODERATOR: MELISSA LOUCKS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA</p> <p>"WE ARE WHO WE CHOOSE TO BE...": SADISTIC CHOICES, FORKING PATHS, AND THE REJECTION OF NARRATIVE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN SUPERHERO COMICS AND FILMS (ERIC BERLATSKY, FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY)</p> <p>HYSTERIA: WOMEN'S POWER, SEXUALITY AND INSANITY IN COMICS (LAURA DIAZ DE ARCE, FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY)</p> <p>FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN COMICS REDEFINED: WOMEN OF COLOR AS SHOWN IN THE NEW MS. MARVEL AND SERENITY COMIC SERIES (MARGARET ANN ROBBINS, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA)</p> <p>HOW NEW IS THE NEW MS. MARVEL? KAMALA KHAN AND THE FEMALE ADOLESCENT AS THE RELUCTANT HERO (JESSICA BALDANZI, GOSHEN COLLEGE)</p>

1:20 PM - 2:40 PM	<p>HER OWN HEROINE: FEMINISM AND DIVERSITY IN THE COMIC BOOK INDUSTRY MODERATOR: PATRICIA B. WORRALL, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA</p> <p>CONFORMING, CONSTRICTING, AND CONTROLLING: A SUPERWOMAN CONFRONTING HER UNIVERSE (VERONICA HARRIS, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA)</p> <p>WHO AM I?: ANALYZING THE CONSTRAINED IDENTITY OF ROGUE (YENI BOLAÑOS, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA)</p> <p>KAMALA KHAN: A HEROINE FOR THE MODERN AGE (RACHEL ANDREWS, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA)</p>
2:50 PM - 4:10 PM	<p>DIVERSIFYING COMICS MODERATOR: TERRY HARPOLD, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA</p> <p>THE END OF COMIC GEEKS: COMICS FAN IDENTITY IN AN AGE OF DIVERSITY (AARON KASHTAN, MIAMI UNIVERSITY, OHIO)</p> <p>OVERCOMING ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES IN DIVERSITY-CENTRIC COMIC BOOK RESEARCH (EDD SCHNEIDER AND ROXANA PALMER, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA)</p> <p>VISUAL BIBLIOTHERAPY AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL: MIRRORING THE NEEDS OF THE MARGINALIZED (PETER CANNON, ROXANNA PALMER, AND EDD SCHNEIDER, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA)</p>

COMICS READ BUT SELDOM SEEN

DIVERSITY & REPRESENTATION IN COMICS & RELATED MEDIA

FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH CONTINUED...

4:20 PM - 5:40 PM	<p>IDENTITY IN TRANSNATIONAL & MULTI-ETHNIC COMICS MODERATOR: ANUJA MADAN, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA</p> <p>FROM GANG GIRL TO PUNK TO CURANDERA: CHICANA CONSCIOUSNESS AS EMBODIED BY IZZY ORTIZ IN JAMIE HERNANDEZ'S LOCAS (MELISSA COSS AQUINO, CUNY BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE)</p> <p>ALL THE THINGS WE WANT TO BE: CARTOONING, LATINIDAD, AND THE BORDERLANDS (JAROD ROSELL, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA)</p> <p>"COMPUTER SE BHI TEJ CHALTA HAI": PRAN'S CHACHA CHAUDHARY AND COMIC BOOK FAN CULTURE IN INDIA (CATHERINE THOMAS, JINDAL GLOBAL LAW SCHOOL, HARYANA)</p>
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	DINNER (ON YOUR OWN)
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	<p>KEYNOTE LECTURE BY DR. SHEENA C. HOWARD IN HUSTLER ATRIUM</p>
9:00 PM - 10:00 PM	RECEPTION IN HUSTLER ATRIUM

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST (PROVIDED)
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<p>CREATIVE WORKSHOP: "TELL YOUR STORY" WITH COMICS ARTIST LEELA CORMAN</p>
11:15 AM - 12:35 PM	<p>REQUIRED READING: DIVERSITY AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL MODERATOR: LAURIE GRIES, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA</p> <p>"I JUST DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE RIGHT FOR HER": GENE LIEN YANG, ADRIAN TOMINE, AND ASIAN-AMERICAN MEN'S INTERNALIZED RACISM (JUSTUS HUMPHREY, PENN STATE HARRISBURG)</p> <p>"VENTILATION OF THE HEART" IN MARJANE SATRAPI'S EMBROIDERIES: DISCUSSION AS NARRATIVE PLACE (MAITE LIRCAREGLI, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER)</p> <p>PLAYING SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIOR: CRITIQUING THE AVATAR IN CORY DOCTOROW AND JEN WANG'S IN REAL LIFE (ANASTASIA SALTER, UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA)</p>
12:35 PM - 1:30 PM	LUNCH (PROVIDED)

COMICS READ BUT SELDOM SEEN

DIVERSITY & REPRESENTATION IN COMICS & RELATED MEDIA

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH CONTINUED...

1:30 PM - 2:50 PM	<p>UNDERGRADUATE PANEL: DISABILITY IN THE COMICS OF THE EDGERTON COLLECTION MODERATOR: JASON TONDRO, COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA</p> <p>PSYCHEDLIC/CINEMATIC: CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF NICK FURY (NICHOLE HERRIN, COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA)</p> <p>ORACLE OR BATGIRL: BARBARA GORDON'S JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY (LEIANNA DEBOE, COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA)</p> <p>'FOR LEAH': THE SECRET HISTORY OF HAWKEYE #19 (OREON JACKSON, COLLEGE OF COASTAL GEORGIA)</p>
3:00 PM - 4:20 PM	<p>DISABLED BODIES: REPRESENTING DISABILITY IN VISUAL MEDIA MODERATOR: KAYLEY THOMAS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA</p> <p>SEEN BUT NOT HEARD: HAWKEYE, COMICS, AND DISABILITY (NATALIE SHEPPARD, UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS)</p> <p>WHEN THEY'RE AT HOME: THE DOTTED LINE BETWEEN SUPER-ABILITIES AND DISABILITIES (ASMAA GHONIM, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA)</p> <p>"EVERYONE BUT ME SEEMS TO BE GROWING:" BEN, LAURA, AND REPRESENTATIONS OF DISABILITY IN CRAIG THOMPSON'S BLANKETS (WILLIAM NESBITT, BEACON COLLEGE)</p>

4:30 PM - 5:50 PM	<p>INVISIBLE MEN AND WOMEN: RACE AND REPRESENTATION IN GENRE COMICS MODERATOR: JAQUELIN ELLIOTT, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA</p> <p>AT HOME ON THE RANGE? FORGOTTEN COWBOYS IN THE AMERICAN COMIC BOOK WEST (CHRISTOPHER HAYTON, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY)</p> <p>RACE, GENDER AND THE CONCEPT OF WOMEN IN DYSTOPIAN GENRE (TYRA OLDHAM, LANDSDS - LAND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS)</p> <p>EC VS. THE USA: RACE, NATION, AND UNIVERSAL HISTORY IN 'JUDGMENT DAY' AND 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE' (PHILLIP WEGNER, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA)</p>
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	DINNER (ON YOUR OWN)
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	<p>KEYNOTE LECTURE MONSTROSITY, DISABILITY, VISUALITY IN COMICS BY DR. JOSÉ ALANIZ IN HSTLER ATRIUM</p>
9:00 PM - 10:00 PM	RECEPTION IN HSTLER ATRIUM

COMICS READ BUT SELDOM SEEN

DIVERSITY & REPRESENTATION IN COMICS & RELATED MEDIA

SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH

8:30 PM - 9:00 AM	BREAKFAST (PROVIDED)
9:00 PM - 10:20 AM	<p>REPRESENTATION IN ANIME & MANGA MODERATOR: KATHERINE SHAEFFER, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA</p> <p>"THE EXISTENCE OF EMOTION IS NOTHING BUT A BURDEN:" EMOTIONAL REPRESSIONS AS (RE)PRESENTATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS IN ANIME AND MANGA" (KATHY NGUYEN, TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY)</p> <p>QUEER COOKING: FUMI YOSHINAGA AND QUEER EXISTENCE IN MODERN JAPAN (ANDREW JOHN SMITH, INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)</p> <p>YAMETE KUDASAI! ROMANTICIZED RAPE, HUMILIATED HOMOSEXUALITY: A DECONSTRUCTION OF PATRIARCHAL VALUES IN YAOI AND GAY MANGA (JANARDANA HAYTON, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY)</p>

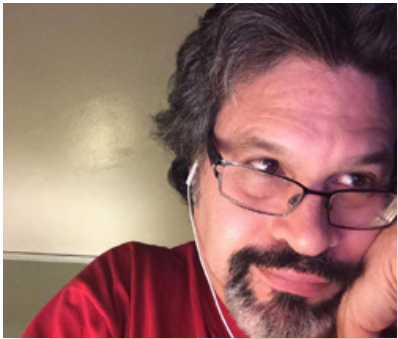
10:30 AM - 12:10 PM	<p>LOVE IN THE MARGINS MODERATOR: MEGAN FOWLER, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA</p> <p>THE 'BANALISATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY': POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT, QUEER DESIRE AND SENTIMENTAL ROMANCE IN JULIE MAROH'S BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOR (SARAH RICHARDSON, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE)</p> <p>THE QUEER LANGUAGE OF COMICS: VISUAL NARRATIVE AND MARGINALIZED EXPERIENCE IN HOW LOATHSOME (ASHLEY MANCHESTER, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA)</p> <p>QUEER HEROES: THE OBJECTIFICATION AND MARGINALIZATION OF HOMOSEXUAL CHARACTERS IN SUPERHERO COMICS (JOSEPH WILLIS, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM)</p> <p>"A THIN LINE BETWEEN THE INSIDE AND THE OUTSIDE": HIV AND GRAPHIC LIFE WRITING (JORDANA GREENBLATT, YORK UNIVERSITY)</p>
12:20 PM - 1:40 PM	<p>QUEERNESS AND (IN)VISIBILITY MODERATOR: ASHLEY MANCHESTER, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA</p> <p>"TROUBLE OR PLEASURE": THE PROBLEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF JOHN CONSTANTINE'S BISEXUALITY (SPENCER CHALIFOUR, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA)</p> <p>THE CASE OF RENEE MONTOYA: THE POTENTIAL FOR INTERSECTIONAL FEMINIST NARRATIVE THROUGH TRANSMEDIA STORYTELLING (MEGAN FOWLER, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA)</p> <p>"WELCOME TO 'WHITE' VALE": (NON)VISUAL RHETORIC AND THE ERASURE OF RACIAL MINORITIES IN WELCOME TO NIGHT VALE FAN ART (JAQUELIN ELLIOTT, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA)</p>
1:40 PM - 1:50 PM	CLOSING REMARKS

COMICS READ BUT SELDOM SEEN

DIVERSITY & REPRESENTATION IN COMICS & RELATED MEDIA

ABOUT OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

José Alaniz



José Alaniz, associate professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Department of Comparative Literature (adjunct) at the University of Washington, Seattle, has published two books, *Komiks: Comic Art in Russia* (University Press of Mississippi, 2010) and *Death, Disability and the Superhero: The Silver Age and Beyond* (UPM, 2014). His articles have appeared in the *International Journal of Comic Art*, the *Comics*

Journal, *Urbandus*, *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema*, the *Slavic and East European Journal*, *Comics Forum* and *Kinokultura*, as well as such anthologies as *The Ages of Superman: Essays on the Man of Steel in Changing Times* (McFarland, 2012), *The Cinema of Alexander Sokurov* (I.B. Tauris, 2011) and *Russian Children's Literature and Culture* (Routledge, 2007). Since 2011 he has served as Chair of the Executive Committee of the International Comic Arts Forum (ICAF), the leading comics studies conference in the US. In 2014 he assumed the directorship of the University of Washington's Disability Studies Program. His research interests include Death and Dying, Disability Studies, Film Studies, Eco-criticism and Comics Studies. His current projects include Disability in Alternative Comics and a study on the representation of history in Czech graphic narrative.

Sheena C. Howard



Dr. Sheena C. Howard is Chair of the Black Caucus (NCA) and Assistant Professor of Communication at Rider University. Howard is an award-winning author, including a 2014 Eisner Award winner for her first book, *Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation* (2013). She is also the author of *Black Queer Identity Matrix* (2014) and *Critical Articulations of Race, Gender and Sexual Orientation* (2014). Howard has appeared on NPR (National Public Radio), 900 am WURD, Philadelphia Weekly and CCP-TV as well as other networks and documentaries as an expert on popular culture, race, politics and sexual identity negotiation. She is also a *Huffington Post* contributor.

Leela Corman



Leela Corman is an illustrator, cartoonist, and Middle Eastern dancer. She studied painting, printmaking, and illustration at Massachusetts College of Art. She began her career in comics as an undergraduate, self-publishing three issues of her minicomic, *Flimflam*. This caught the eye of many readers and small press fans, and she went on to win a Xeric Grant in Fall 1999 for the publication of her first graphic novel, "Queen's Day". She went on to publish her second, "Subway Series", with Alternative Books, and has also published numerous shorter pieces in anthologies in the US, Portugal, Spain, and France. Her latest book, *Unterzakhn*, a graphic novel set in the tenements, brothels, and vaudeville houses of the Lower East Side at the turn of the last century, was published by Schocken/Pantheon in the spring of 2012, and has been nominated for the L.A. Times Book Award, the Eisner Award, and Le Prix Artemisia. in France. Portions of *Unterzakhn* were serialized in 2008 in the *Forward*, a prominent Yiddish newspaper, and other excerpts ran in *HEEB Magazine* and *Lilith magazine*. *Unterzakhn* has been translated into French, Spanish, Swedish, and Dutch. Her short comics have run in *Tablet Magazine*, *Symbolia*, and *The OC Weekly*. In 2014, her comic "Yahrzeit" won a silver medal from the Society Of Illustrators. She has illustrated books on topics that range from urban gardening to sex for the very busy to the history of the skirt, and has worked for a diverse array of editorial clients ranging from PBS and the New York Times to *BUST Magazine* and more.

COMICS READ BUT SELDOM SEEN

DIVERSITY & REPRESENTATION IN COMICS & RELATED MEDIA

We sincerely thank our sponsors:

The Rose and David Dortort Foundation

ImageText: Interdisciplinary Comics Studies

UF Department of English

The University of Florida Research
Foundation

Classic Fare Catering

UF SG and CLASSC

Xerographic Copy Center



Thank you to the conference co-organizers:

Spencer Chalifour

Mel Loucks

Anuja Madan

Katie Shaeffer

Kayley Thomas

Ashley Manchester

We would also like to thank:

Melissa Davis

Jackie Elliott

Megan Fowler

Laurie Gries

Terry Harpold

Kenneth Kidd

Janet Moore

Anastasia Ulanowicz

Kate Valdovinos

12TH ANNUAL UF COMICS CONFERENCE

COMICS READ BUT SELDOM SEEN

DIVERSITY & REPRESENTATION IN COMICS & RELATED MEDIA

APRIL 10-12, 2015



WWW.ENGLISH.UFL.EDU/COMICS/2015CONFERENCE.SHTML