

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GRADUATE COMICS ORGANIZATION

PRESENTS

INK AND IMAGINATION: EXPLORING CHILDREN'S COMICS

ACADEMIC
PANELS

WORKSHOPS

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES
BY ANDRE FRATTINO &
ALISON HALSALL

APRIL 5-7 2024

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsored by the UF English Department, the Dotort Foundation Fund for Comic Studies, Sequential Artists Workshop, and the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature

GCO@ENGLISH.UFL.EDU

USTLER HALL ATRIUM

at the University of Florida
162 Fletcher Drive
Gainesville, FL 32611

GRADUATE COMICS CONFERENCE 2024

All events take place in the Ustler Atrium unless otherwise noted

DAY 1

Friday, April 5



BALDWIN LIBRARY OF HISTORICAL CHILDREN'S LITERATURE VISIT

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Explore some historical children's literature housed in the UF Baldwin collection, and schedule time for independent research in the special collections

Facilitators: Margaret Galvan and Carol McAuliffe

Location: Smathers Library room 100, 1508 Union Rd, Gainesville, FL, 32601

WELCOME MIXER

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Come meet your conference organizers, panelists, and attendees at this welcome mixer. Food and non-alcoholic drinks provided.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ANDRE FRATTINO

5:00 - 6:15 PM

Join Andre Frattino in a discussion of his work as a graphic novelist, with focus on *A Land Remembered* and *We Are Pan*, the latter of which an upcoming graphic novel. The keynote will be followed by an opportunity to purchase signed copies of Frattino's work.

Moderator: Anatasia Ulanowicz

PANEL: GENDER AND SEXUALITY

10:00 - 11:15 AM

Panelists:

Fi Stewart-Taylor, "Actually, I'm Neurodivergent and a Murderer: What Happens Next (Will Shock You)"

Sophia Pan, "Biracial and Queer Asian North American Representation in Mariko Tamaki's *Skim* and *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me*"

James Smith, "Adapting the Childish Queer in *Nimona*"

Moderator: Karen Libby

PANEL: MANGA AND THE CHILD

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

Panelists:

Brandon Murakami, "Kids 'R Us: Reproductive Exigency in Contemporary Shōnen Manga"

Taylor Morris, "The Seen and Unseen Vocation in *One-Pound Gospel*"

Aditi Basu, "The *Ramayana* Comic as an Education Tool: Fostering Cross-Cultural Understanding between India and Japan"

Moderator: Sophia Pan

LUNCH BREAK

12:45 - 2:00 PM



PANEL: ART AS ACTIVISM

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Panelists:

Bri Anderson, "Framing Environmental Villainy and Youth Agency in Children's Comics"

Laken Brooks, "Patchwork Comics and Appalachian Storytelling"

Moderator: Kaylee Lamb

LOCAL ARTIST TABLING

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Come see what local Gainesville artists are working on during this tabling collaboration between GCO and the Sequential Artists Workshop! Connect with artists and others interested in visual art. Support local artists by purchasing their works.

Facilitator: Emma Jensen

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ALISON HALSALL

5:00 - 6:15 PM

Join scholar Alison Halsall in a talk of her research on LGBTQ+ and children's comics. Halsall will discuss her current monograph, *Growing Up Graphic: Comics of Children in Crisis*.

Moderator: Kenneth Kidd



PANEL: SHIFTING AUDIENCES

10:00 - 11:15 AM

Panelists:

Spencer Chalifour, "Out from Indie-ville: *Bone* and Marketing Children's Comics"

Yuan Nan, "Education or Entertainment? Thoughts on Knowledge Comics in China"

Thomas De Groff, "Splitting the Story: Tove Jansson's Daily *Moomin* Comic Strip as Children's Literature"

Moderator: Lillian Martinez

PANEL: BLURRED LINES

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Panelists:

John Schell and Matt Crott, "Blurred Lines: Caricature and Stereotypes in the Ligne Claire works of Hergé's *Tintin* and Edgar P. Jacobs's *Blake and Mortimer*."

Moderator: C.R. Dean

LUNCH BREAK

12:15 - 1:30 PM



PANEL: CULTURE AND TRANSFORMATION

1:30 - 2:45 PM

Panelists:

Shuvam Das, "Children of "Progress": *Amar Chitra Katha* comics in neoliberal India"

Kremena Dimitrova, "Think in your heart, think..."

Machar Colony, Statelessness, and the Search for Belonging"

Aditi Mitra and Songborto Biswas, "*Slurp and Burp!*:"

Influence of Children's Comics on the Act of Consumption"

Moderator: Anomitra Paul

Virtual panel with live screening at the Ustler Atrium

Zoom link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91090657132>

Meeting ID: 910 9065 7132

Passcode: 470907

PANEL: SUPERHEROES AND SIDEKICKS

3:00 - 3:45 PM

Panelists:

Sayantana Gayen, "From Sidekicks to Self-Reliant Heroes: How mainstream comics for teens and young adults are changing stereotypical portrayals of youth using superheroes as a support system"

Siddharth Sinha, "Does Whatever a Spider Can ~: Reading Spider-Man comics as a serialized coming of age social justice narrative for the teenage superhero"

Moderator: Shuya Su

Virtual panel with live screening at the Ustler Atrium

Zoom link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91090657132>

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THANK YOU!

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ANDRE FRATTINO

Andre Frattino is an award-winning graphic novelist and storyteller, with a lean towards creating historical fiction and nonfiction content regarding "lesser-told" narratives. His works include the Florida-themed paranormal YA series *Flagler's Few*, the graphic-novel adaptation of *A Land Remembered*, a Pulitzer-nominated book by Patrick Smith (of which Andre received the 2018 Florida Book Award), the Nazi Hunting spy-thriller *Simon Says* published through Image Comics and his recent book, *Tokyo Rose: Zero Hour*, which was listed by NPR as one of their "Favorite Books of 2022". Outside of his graphic novel work, Andre has written comics for several notable franchises, including *Jim Henson's The Storyteller* and *The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*, both through BOOM! Studios. Currently, he is working on *We Are Pan*, a graphic novel with IDW revolving around the Cuban Revolution and its immediate aftermath.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ALISON HALSALL

Alison Halsall specializes in Victorian and modernist literatures, with a particular emphasis on Visual Cultures, which includes the study of paintings and illustrations, contemporary film, comics and graphic novels. She co-edited the first-ever collection, *The LGBTQ+ Comics Studies Reader* (UP Mississippi 2022), which recently won the Eisner Award for Best Academic / Scholarly Work. Her current monograph project, *Growing Up Graphic: The Comics of Children in Crisis*, an examination of the lived experiences of young people as represented in comics culture, was just published by The Ohio State University Press (2023).

AND ALL PANELISTS AND ATTENDEES!

