

Supported by the Doctoral School's Researcher-Led Initiative (RLI) Fund www and Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies

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# **Graphic Scholarship: Theory and Practice**

A one-day symposium at Sussex University **4th June 2016** 

How is scholarship being *done* via the medium of comics? Comics can enable scholarship to be disseminated in accessible, reworked form for a wider audience; and can aid 'making learning fun' for younger students or interested amateurs -- but how does graphic narrative work as a way of thinking, as a way of data gathering, as a way of organising and enacting the research itself: a tool for scholars? We will be exploring these questions with a range of speakers and a practical workshop.

Organising committee: Paul Fisher Davies, Nicola Streeten, Paddy Johnston, John Miers & all BCCS members.

Time	Event	Place
12.00-1.00	Registration and lunch	Jubilee reception / flexible space G30
1.00-2.30	Panel 1: Applied Comics Scholarship Chair: John Miers Ian Horton Lydia Wysocki Chris Bailey	Jubilee mini lecture theatre 144
2.30-2.45	Break	Jubilee flexible space G30
2.45-4.15	Practical Workshop Louisa Parker Pen Mendonca	Jubilee room 155
4.15-4.30	Break	Jubilee flexible space G30
4.30-6.00	Panel 2: Graphic Medicine Applications Chair: Nicola Streeten Ian Williams Martha Turland Muna al-Jawad	Jubilee mini lecture theatre 144
6.00	Wine reception	Jubilee reception / flexible space G30

## Schedule

Coffee and tea will be provided during the breaks. Wifi is available via eduroam.

# Panels

### **Applied Comics Scholarship**

#### Ian Horton

'What Did Graphic Scholarship Ever Do For Us?'

### **Chris Bailey**

Comic Explorations: Representing data and visualising complexity

#### Lydia Wysocki

Setting boundaries, communicating, and reflecting: 3 projects using comics as a method

### **Graphic Medicine Applications**

#### Ian Williams

An Iconography of Illness: Comics as New Knowledge

#### **Martha Turland**

'It doesn't look like the patient': drawing and mark making in clinical communication

#### Muna Al-Jawad

Comics are Research: examples of how I use comics to research our healthcare practice

## About the participants

**Muna Al-Jawad** is a geriatrician at The Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton. She makes comics about her practice featuring her superhero alter ego Old Person Whisperer. She has managed to convince some people that these comics are practitioner research.

**Chris Bailey** is currently working on his PhD at Sheffield Hallam University; this ethnography seeks to explore the 'lived experience' of a group of children playing Minecraft in an after-school club. Comics form an unplanned but integral part of this study, emerging as a result of pursuing a responsive, visual and participatory approach to research.

**Ian Horton** Ian Horton is Contextual and Theoretical Studies Coordinator across the School of Design at London College of Communication, University of the Arts London. His present research is focused in three related areas: experimental typography, Dutch graphic design and comic books.

With Professor Roger Sabin he organizes the Comic Studies Network at the University of the Arts London. He has recently presented papers on self-published comic books and creative freedom; experimental typography and curatorial practices; information design and graphic narratives at international conferences by organisations such as the Comics Forum, Comics Grid, Graphixia and the International Association of Word and Image Studies.

**Pen Mendonça** has been an independent graphic facilitator and cartoonist for twenty years. She facilitates public engagement processes, co-production and partnerships including multiple stakeholder groups. Pen's 'live' recordings, strategic pathways, comic strips and animations are widely published within the public sector.

Pen is a PhD candidate and associate lecturer at University of the Arts London. Her research includes a critical examination of live visual recording and cartooning as a means for exploring and representing contemporary social issues, specifically single mothering/motherhood. An extract from Pen's graphic novel is soon to be published by Demeter Press.

**Louisa Parker** is an artist and writer. Senior Lecturer at York St John University for a new BA Hons Illustration, specialising in narrative forms of graphic work, at York St John University. Louisa publishes comics under the pseudonym Una. She is currently writing up a fine art practice PhD at Loughborough university.

**Martha Turland**: Martha has research interests in contemporary medical illustration and in drawing practices in health care. She lectures in Cultural & Critical Studies and coordinates the module for design courses at the University of Brighton.

Her work examines graphic novel formats and their use in investigatory medical contexts, also the social implications of surgeons' informal illustrations for patients. An application for research ethics and governance approval from Papworth NHS Trust is currently under review.

**Ian Williams** is a comics artist and doctor. His graphic novel, *The Bad Doctor*, was shortlisted for the Medicine Unboxed Creative Prize 2015, highly commended in the BMA Book Awards 2015, and is currently included in *The Great British Graphic Novel* exhibition at the Cartoon Museum in London. He is currently working on his second graphic novel, *The Lady Doctor*, due to be published in 2018 by Myriad Editions.

He founded the *Graphic Medicine* website in 2007, which he currently edits with MK Czerwiec and is coauthor of *The Graphic Medicine Manifesto*, from Penn State University Press, which has been nominated for an Eisner Award. He has contributed to numerous medical, humanities, and comics publications and draws a weekly comic strip, *Sick Notes*, for *The Guardian* newspaper.

**Lydia Wysocki** is an educator, artist, editor, publisher, Editor in Chief of Newcastle Science Comic, and founder of Applied Comics Etc. All that wouldn't fit on her business card, so it says Comics Boss. She's also a part-time NEDTC/ESRC-funded PhD student in Education at Newcastle University.

#### Thanks

To Clare Penta and Rob Emanuel for assistance with the rooming Claudia Treacher for help organising and running the event -- you're a star Professor Roger Sabin for his generous and ongoing support Laura Vellacott in the School of English for her advice and support Dr Thierry Chessum for the poster and cover art

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### About BCCS

The British Consortium of Comics Scholars (BCCS) is a PhD student-led initiative. It was started by PhD student, Paul Davies (University of Sussex) in 2012 as a reading group for discussion of comics theory with doctoral researchers from three universities. This expanded to welcome new research students to join from five British universities: University of Sussex; University of Brighton; University of the Arts London, Central Saint Martins; Open University and Loughborough University.

In 2014 it was developed into a half day symposium held at University of the Arts London, Central Saint Martins, hosted by Professor Roger Sabin, (Professor of Popular Culture, University of the arts London, Central Saint Martins) and Dr Ian Horton, (Coordinator for Contextual & Theoretical Studies, University of the Arts London, College of Communication). Discussion at the symposium focused on the value of a group visit to the annual International Festival of Comics in Angouleme, France, 2015, the largest and most significant international festival of comics.

The BCCS was officiated in 2015 with the inaugural symposium hosted at University of Sussex, chaired by Nicola Streeten and enabled by a RLI grant and support from SCCS. It consolidated and developed activity to date, bringing together scholars and artists and ensuring continuing innovation within a growing area of scholarship. This follow-on event extends the conversation about graphic narrative form within comics scholarship, and if these symposia are welcome, then they may become a regular or semi-regular feature of BCCS's work.

If you would like to join the reading group, please contact us at <u>britishcomicsscholars@gmail.com</u>.

#### Let us know what you think

Please tweet us @ukcomicsscholars, visit our Facebook page <u>www.facebook.com/britishcomicsscholars</u> and comment, or email us above with your comments, questions, and feedback.

