

International Comparative Literature Association
Report of the Activities of the Comic Studies and Graphic Narrative
Research Committee
13 May 2021

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Activities:

Since its official recognition as a Research Committee, the Comic Studies and Graphic Narrative committee members have continued scholarship in this field in various ways. Following the Vienna Congress, members published their presentations in an anthology edited by Paul Ferstl and published through DeGruyter. See this link for an electronic copy:

<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110642056/html>.

Comic Studies and Graphic Narrative members attended the Macau Congress and plan to attend several other conferences, some of which were postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, to wit:

Angelo Piepoli, Tracy Lassiter, and Nicola Paladin are co-organizing a conference entitled “Visual Depictions of the American West.” The link to the conference’s site is:

<https://www.venicewestconference.com/>

This conference was originally slated for September 2020, but due to the pandemic it has been postponed until 13-16 September 2021. The conference will be held in both virtual and in-person format. The University of Venice is cohosting the event with this ICLA Research Committee. We have included members as proposal/panel reviewers and in other roles. We hope to have a publication following this conference as well, notably one where the Committee members would select the best graduation contribution for an award.

Umberto Rossi and Tracy Lassiter co-edited a special, peer-reviewed issue of the online journal *Status Quaestionis* on theme of “Drawing (Hi)stories,” which is scheduled to be published in June 2021. Submissions cover a range of historic comics and graphic narratives from various countries. Rossi and Lassiter will be hosting a similar panel on historical comics/graphic narratives and presenting at the ESCL conference in Rome, which has been postponed from its original date to 5-9 September 2022.

Angelo Piepoli created a website for the Visual Depictions of the American West conference, and in anticipation of maintaining an internet presence for comics scholars, will also create a site in the domain comics-studies.org. He hopes to link the various networks and cohorts that have emerged as a result of the ICLA Congresses over the years. Furthermore, members of the Research Committee intend it to showcase scholars, comics and visual texts from underrepresented populations. Furthermore, we plan to link it to online archives, museums, podcasts, and other multimedia.

Finally, as Kai Mikkonen signaled his desire to step down from this Research Committee, Stephan Buchenberger has suggested Angelo Piepoli to take his place. However, this will be confirmed after we get a positive vote for Piepoli from the other members.

Current membership:

Adnan Mahmutovic, Alison Halsall, Angelo Piepoli, Anna-Sophie Jurgens, Barbara Gruning, David Coughlan, Denise Ask Nunes, Emanuela Zirzotti, Francesco-Alessio Ursini, Guilherme Perreira, Hans-Joachim Backe, Hiroko Katsuyama, Kai Mikkonen, Lea Pao, Leonardo Vidal, Lisa DeTora, Maaheen Ahmed, Nicola Paladin, Noriko Hiraishi, Rikke Platz Cortsen, Roberta Bronzatto, Stefan Buchenberger, Tracy Lassiter, Umberto Rossi, Carl Fisher