



DECOLONIAL CONVERSATIONS ON COMICS STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, 6-7 JULY 2022

Call for papers:

Comics and the Global South

Conference, 6 - 7 July 2022

Deadline for abstracts: 5 January 2022

How and where do comics studies and decolonial theory intersect? How can comics be, indeed how are they already, places for the production of decolonised knowledge? In what moments of organic growth have comics cultivated dialogues of solidarity within the Global South, and what intentional vision is necessary to grow those dialogues further?

Comics and the Global South will be a two-day hybrid (online and face-to-face) conference focusing on these questions, broadly conceived. For the purposes of this conference, Global South refers specifically to countries in Africa, Central and Latin America, and some regions of Asia, but we also understand the term as a geopolitical and critical tool. Therefore, we imagine the global south not as location based but dependent on context, including dialectics within a country geographically situated in the North.

We encourage proposals to make connections of 'South-South' commonality between works from different countries. By asking what southering comics studies would look like, we aim to sketch an active methodology based on an ethics of South-South solidarity. We welcome proposals for twenty-minute presentations to be delivered (in English) either online or in person. We will carefully consider proposals about any topic that helps advance the conversation about decolonisation and comics in the Global South, including but certainly not limited to topics such as:

- Explorations of individual titles and/or creators from the Global South
- Comparisons of titles and creators from multiple national and cultural positions
- The changing nature of comics in the Global South
- Inquiries grounded in disciplines of Art, Sociology, Library and Information Sciences, Language Studies, Education, and Literature
- Inquires that blend disciplinary approaches
- Developing theories of comics studies from within traditions of the Global South
- Re-envisioning the theoretical models necessary for reading comics in the Global South
- Activism through comics
- Decolonising the production and distribution of comics
- Comics that experiment with form and genre
- Decolonising Eurocentric notions of crossing borders

Keynote speakers for the conference include Roma Chatterji (Delhi School of Economics, author of *Graphic Narratives and the Mythological Imagination in India* and others) and Sara La Torre (Founder of Soma Publicaciones and Zinebiosis, Perú).

The conference will explore alternative formats that include roundtables, art workshops, and an art exhibition showcasing work from Global South comics artists.

Please submit 200-word proposals to comicsGS@educ.cam.ac.uk. Please indicate your preference to present in person or online.

Scholars at all stages of professional development are invited, and scholars with limited travel budgets or mobility restricted by the pandemic are especially encouraged to participate by presenting their work online. Our goal is to keep the conference registration fee to no more than £50 per person, and fee waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis.