

Call For Submissions: ***Comics and Catharsis: Exploring Narratives of Trauma and Memory in the Graphic Novel***

Contributions are invited for a collection of essays that explore the medium of comics in the 21st Century as the site for narratives of individual and collective trauma and memory. This volume seeks to give visibility to comics—specifically, though not limited to, the graphic novel—from different cultural and linguistic contexts, and explore how they employ the graphic and textual interplay of the medium to tell personal and/or shared stories of personal and/or shared suffering. By drawing (pun intended) on his father’s experience during the Holocaust, Art Spiegelman’s Pulitzer Prize-winning *Maus* (1980-1991) is perhaps the best-known example of this narrative form giving voice to an individual’s traumatic experience that is also inextricably tied to a community’s collective trauma. It is an example of comics as a space to “work through” painful memories, to use Dominick LaCapra’s wording.¹ In the past 20 years, writers and illustrators from different parts of the world in different languages have been using the same medium to explore their own personal/familial/collective ordeals, such as the boom of historical memory in Spanish comics with regard to the Spanish Civil War and Franco dictatorship, or the science fiction works of Latin America that confront economic exploitation and imperialism, or the graphic stories of the indigenous peoples who suffered in Canada’s residential schools, to give a few examples.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Humour and trauma
- Theory: the relationship between image and text, trauma and memory
- Comics and war
- Comics and dictatorship
- Comics and marginalized peoples
- Comics and “places of memory”/Comics AS “places of memory,” to use Pierre Nora’s term²

Proposals for should be sent to Dr. Jordan Tronsgard

jtronsga@ubishops.ca by **December 1, 2018**. Please include your name, institutional affiliation, a short biography, an abstract of no more than 500 words, and a list of up to 5 keywords. Notification will be sent to submitters by February 1, 2019. Those selected will submit their completed essays of 5000-8000 words by June 2019.

¹ LaCapra, Dominick. *History in Transit: Experience, Identity, Critical Theory*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2004.

² Nora, Pierre, Ed. *Realms of Memory. Rethinking the French Past*. Trans. Arthur Goldhammer. New York: Columbia UP, 1996.