



Call for Papers

International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA)

ICLA Comics Studies and Graphic Narrative
Research Committee Panel

on

Comparative Comics Studies and World
Literature

for

XVII Biennial International Conference

organised by

Comparative Literature Association of India

in collaboration with

University of Delhi

(10th - 12th September, 2024)

Although Comic Studies has gained significant traction, both in the West and the Global South, and within literary studies and beyond, its development has often been disproportionately influenced by Western viewpoints. Influential works in comics pedagogy, such as Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*, have tended to present universalizing perspectives and subject positions. Even within the 'canon' of comic studies, European graphic novels and comics dominate scholarly conversations. This panel seeks to address this imbalance by adopting a comparative approach to engage with comic cultures on a global scale. By exploring themes related to identity, politics, history, and aesthetics, the panel aims to shed light on both the challenges faced by and the contributions of Global South comics to the broader global comic landscape. Through interdisciplinary methods and cross-cultural analyses, the panel endeavors to foster dialogue and appreciation for comic cultures originating from the Global South in relation to the larger question of graphic narratives as World Literature.

Submissions are welcome on topics including, but not limited to:

Identity Representation in Global Comics: Analyzing how comics from diverse regions depict and explore identities such as ethnicity, race, gender, and sexuality, and their significance within the broader context of world literature.

Political Discourse and Social Commentary: Investigating the ways in which comics from different parts of the world engage with political issues, social injustices, and historical events, and their implications for understanding global narratives in comics.

Historical Contexts and Cultural Memory: Exploring how comics serve as mediums for representing and interpreting historical events, cultural traditions, and collective memories across various cultural and geographical contexts.

Aesthetic Diversities: Comparing artistic styles, visual languages, and storytelling techniques employed in comics from different regions, and their role in shaping the global comic landscape as part of World Literature.

Transnational Circulation and Reception: Examining the circulation, distribution, and reception of comics from the Global South in international markets, and how these dynamics contribute to their recognition and integration into the world literary canon.

Hybridity and Cultural Exchange: Considering how comics serve as sites of cultural exchange and hybridity, reflecting the interconnectedness of cultures and narratives in a globalized world.

Indigenous Perspectives and Folklore: Investigating the influence of indigenous artistic traditions, folklore, and mythology on comics from the Global South, and their contribution to world literature.

Global South Comics in Dialogue: Facilitating dialogue and collaboration between scholars, artists, and enthusiasts from diverse cultural backgrounds to promote mutual understanding and appreciation for Global South comics within the framework of World Literature.

Abstracts of about 300 words along with a short bio-note of about 50 words may be submitted to chatterjeea@rvu.edu.in and keep clai2024@admin.du.ac.in in CC. The last date to send your abstract is 31st May 2024.

IMPORTANT NOTE: SUBMISSIONS TO THIS PANEL MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED “ICLA COMIC STUDIES AND GRAPHIC NARRATIVES RESEARCH COMMITTEE PANEL” IN THE EMAIL’S SUBJECT LINE.