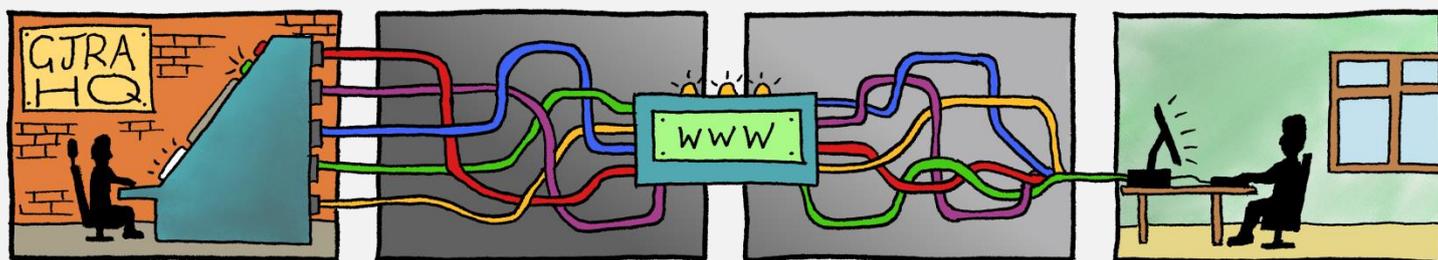


# GRAPHIC JUSTICE RESEARCH ALLIANCE MEMO



## A MONTHLY ROUND-UP ON ALL THINGS GRAPHIC JUSTICE

Issue #1 June 2015

### NEWS!

**My So-Called Secret Identity vol 2 Kickstarter:** The renowned comic series, actively seeking to change the way women are portrayed in mainstream comics, is looking for financial support to enable its second volume to be produced, and to continue the revolution: see [here](#) for more details on the project, and [here for the Kickstarter](#), including a wide variety of 'rewards' packages for different levels of support (closes 1 July 2015).

**Political Cartoonist Arrested in Iran:** Atena Faghadani was arrested in May for her political cartooning and speaking out against the Iranian government. This case has been quite widely reported, but [see here, for example](#); developments can also be followed via [#FreeAtena](#).

**Nickie Phillips and Staci Strobl appear on the 'FanBros Show':** A crime and punishment special of the nerd culture pod-cast features cultural criminologists Phillips and Strobl discussing justice themes in comics: see <http://fanbros.com/the-crime-punishment-episode-fanbros-show/>

**Comics Forum 2015 Call for Papers Open:** [Comics Forum](#), the annual academic comics conference and part of the Leeds Comic Art Festival, is open for business. The theme this year is 'Politics', and the Forum will take place on 12-13 November (including a session on using comics in education). [Get your abstracts in by 30 July 2015](#). Tickets are also up for the [Thought Bubble 2015 Comic Con](#), which follows on the back of the Comics Forum (14-15 November, Leeds): <http://thoughtbubblefestival.com/>.

### FEATURED PUBLICATION

The featured academic publication for this first GJRA Memo is, perhaps unsurprisingly, the recently published *Graphic Justice: Intersections of Comics and Law* (Routledge 2015). Filled with contributions from GJRA members, the volume spans a wide variety of legal topics and themes, through engagement with different aspects of the comics medium, and is the first published book to work on this cultural-legal crossover.

The introduction can be found [on the Graphic Justice blog](#). And here is a blog article about Jérémie Gilbert and David Keane's chapter on [Graphic Reporting](#).



## RECOMMENDED READING

*Deogratias* is Stassen's account of the Rwandan genocide, tackling issues of law, rights, and history. Weaving together the build-up and aftermath of the atrocity, it gives a unique insight into experiences of the 'ordinary' Hutus who lived through these events.



## KEY RESOURCE

Be sure to check out [Positive Negatives](#), who explore contemporary social and human rights issues through the creation of comics, combining ethnography and visual art.

## FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCES AND ARTICLES

### Studying Race and Gender in Comic Books with Colour Codes

A blog post examining the 'hex codes' used to digitally colour comics characters' skin, and the potential for using such a methodology to explore racial difference in comics depictions.



### Snapshot on Comics SFX

A short examination of the visuality of words and letters and how this can be manipulated in the depiction of sound effects, focusing on some of Frank Quitely's art.

### 'Comics, Copyright and Academic Publishing'

Ronan Deazley's commentary article in *The Comics Grid Journal of Comics Scholarship* (2014, vol 4) considers the extent to which UK-based academics can rely upon the copyright regime to reproduce extracts and excerpts from published comics and graphic novels without having to ask the copyright owner of those works for permission.



From their 'About' page: "We write comics that explore complicated and controversial subjects including conflict, migration and asylum. Our work endeavours to combine literature, journalism and education. Visual story-telling engages audiences of all ages, backgrounds and levels of literacy. Approaching subjects like conflict and forced migration through the prism of personal narratives emotionally engages general readers and students alike."

## OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

If you have something you would like to post on the [GJRA blog](#), we are always open to receive submissions. Types of post include, but are by no means limited to:

- short 'graphic justice' analyses of law-related comics, exploring or outlining the law and/or justice aspects (be they empirical, theoretical, or cultural, to do with readership, content, or something else) via some form of engagement with comics or graphic fiction;
- reviews of comics that might be of interest to those working in graphic justice and related areas;
- book or article reviews of work of relevance to graphic justice, considered broadly;
- information or announcements about graphic justice related events, calls, and publications (this kind of material is also sought for inclusion in future GJRA Memos);

To submit or discuss a post, you just need to send an [email](#).

## GJRA MEMBERSHIP

The GJRA is always looking for new members, and it's completely free to join. Just [send an email](#) and you'll be added to the [Alliance Members](#) page.

