The Comics and Popular Arts Conference (CPAC) is an annual academic conference for the studies of comics and the popular arts, including science/speculative fiction and fantasy literature, film, and other media, comic books, manga, graphic novels, anime, gaming, etc. CPAC presentations are peer reviewed, based in scholarly research.

WWW.COMICSPOPULARARTSCONFERENCE.ORG
FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018

4:00pm
Digital Storytelling in Comics and Fandom Culture-Black Girl Nerds (BGN) & Misty Knight’s Uninformed Afro (MKUA)
Podcasting and New Media Track - Hilton Galleria 6
A discussion about the use of podcasts such as Misty Knight’s Uniformed Afro (MKUA) and other digital platforms in providing spaces for different perspectives on black female narratives in comics.
Panelist: Grace D. Gipson, University of California, Berkeley
Moderator: Jillian Browning, University of Florida

5:30pm
Racial Representation in Marvel Comics
Comics Track - Mart2 204J
Academic discussion of racial justice and representation of heroes of color, including Black Panther & the Crew, Moon Girl, Iron Heart, and the Hulk.
- “Relevant Racial Representation: Marvel’s Black Panther & The Crew as symbolic racial justice,” J. Richard Stevens, University of Colorado Boulder
Moderator: Damien Williams, Virginia Tech

5:30pm
Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Dungeons: Designing Dungeon Crawl for Teaching
Tabletop Gaming Track - Westin Augusta 3
An interactive workshop demonstrating how RPGs can facilitate teaching and learning.
Panelist: Dr. Ryan Gabriel Windeknecht, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2018

11:30am
The Struggle Over Mars: Speculating on the Colonial Future of the Milky Way in Syfy’s The Expanse
American SciFi-Media Track - Marriott M301
A presentation and conversation on the sociopolitical dynamics and implications of Syfy’s series The Expanse.
Panelists: Damien Williams, Virginia Tech
Johnathan Flowers, Worcester State University
Moderator: Daniel Amrhein, Independent Scholar

1:00pm
Pop-Culture Pedagogy: Learning Through Engagement
Comics Track - Mart2 204J
An academic discussion of comics and visual media as teaching tools.
- “Learning By Design (Rather Than Play),” Jason A. Clark, Independent Scholar
- “#arthistory #blessed: Memes and comics in the classroom,” Rachel Branham, Marble Head High School
- “Flammarion: How a mysterious engraving inspired an educational comic book project about the history of data visualization,” Joshua Korenblat, SUNY New Platz
Moderator: Kari Neely, Middle Tennessee State University

Make sure to check the DragonCon App for any location or schedule changes for our panels.
1:00pm
“I Don’t Know But I’m Trying To Find Out, Okay?“: Welcome to Night Vale and the Demarcation of Science
Podcasting and New Media Track - Hilton Galleria 7
This panel will analyze the treatment of science in Welcome to Night Vale, using the epistemological and social tools provided by Science and Technology Studies (STS) to show how Welcome to Night Vale draws humor from, satirizes, and ultimately humanizes clichés about science and scientists.
Panelist: Kristen Koopman, Virginia Tech
Moderator: Matthew J. Brown, UT Dallas

1:00pm
Comics on Screen: Adaptations and Televisions
American Sci-Fi-Media Track - Marriott M301
Presenters explore the unique difficulties, challenges, and storytelling opportunities that arise when comic books are adapted for the small screen.
• “Flashpoint Causation,” Tiernan Cole, Independent Scholar
• “Marvel’s The Defenders and 4-Color Comics on Screen,” Daniel W Smith, Brooklyn College-Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema
Moderator: Jillian Browning, University of Florida

1:00pm
’We work with what we have‘: The Postmodern Horror of The Cabin in the Woods
Horror Track - Westin Peachtree 1-2
This presentation looks at how “The Cabin in the Woods” plays with the formulaic structure of horror movies and through its intertextual references critiques the current state of the horror genre.
Panelist: Stephanie Graves, Georgia State University
Respondent: Kari Storla, Woodbury University
Moderator: Daniel Amrhein, Independent Scholar

1:00pm
Do Mecha Dream of Electric Sheep?
Anime/Manga Track - Hilton Galleria 1
This panel explores the cultural implications of the complicated relationship between Mecha and their pilots across multiple Anime series.
Panelists: Johnathan Flowers, Worcester State University
Damien Williams, Virginia Tech

2:30pm
Gender in Comics
Comics Track - Mart2 204J
Academic discussion of toxic masculinity, feminine heroism, motherhood, gender norms, and patriarchy in American and British comics.
• “Fiends of Various Sorts: Villainous Masculinities in American and British Comics,” A. Luxx Mishou, Old Dominion University
• “The Toxic Hypermasculinity of Wolverine,” Daniel Amrhein, Independent Scholar
• “Penny Rolle: Medusa Laughing at the Patriarchy,” Courtney Bliss, Bowling Green State University
Moderator: Jillian Browning, University of Florida
2:30pm
Imagining Ourselves: Unreality, Identity and Escapism in Games
Tabletop Gaming Track - Westin Augusta 3
A philosophical and historical discussion of player identity in RPGs and board games.
- “Class Isn’t Just for Characters: The Logic of Labor in Role-Playing Games,” Anca Glont, University of Dayton
- “Knowledge: Philosophy 23 ranks: The Philosophy of Adventuring,” John Baldari, Stratford University
- “The Third Reich without Nazism: Representing Germany in Games,” James Frusetta, Hampden-Sydney College
Moderator: Kari Neely, Middle Tennessee State University

5:30pm
“Identity, Selfhood, and Culture in the Star Trek Universe”
Star Trek Track - Hilton Galleria 2-3
Scholars discuss cultural theories in Star Trek with an emphasis on the roles mothers and mother-figures play in shaping and reworking identity.
- “The Human Adventure: Lessons in Cultural Anthropology From ‘Star Trek’,” Robert Louis Lloyd, Georgia State University
- “B’Elanna Torres and the Hated Half: Negotiating Mixed-Race Identity on Star Trek: Voyager,” Sherry Ginn, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
Moderator: Kari Neely, Middle Tennessee State University

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

1:00pm
Politics & Patriotism in Comics
Comics Track - Mart2 204J
An exploration of the intersections of class, American politics, and Imperialism in superhero comics.
- “Marvel’s Secret Empire: Hope, Resistance, Uncertainty in American culture reflected in Marvel’s ‘Nonpolitical’ Event Arc” Shawn Jarod Moores, Independent Scholar
- “Drain the Swamp Thing: A Comparative Analysis of the Political Careers of Lex Luthor and Donald Trump,” Durf Humphriess, Independent Scholar
- “Code-switching: On Loki’s Survival of Imperialist Regime,” Kecia Y Stovall and TaLynn Kels, Independent Scholars
Moderator: Damien Williams, Virginia Tech

4:00pm
Free Culture: The Cultural Heritage and Impact of the Open Internet
Electronic Frontier Foundation
This panel examines how culture shaped Open Internet activists’ visions of the future, and how the values of the Open Internet influenced culture.
Panelists: Andy Famiglietti, West Chester University
Pete Rorabaugh, Kennesaw State University
Moderator: Matthew J. Brown, UT Dallas

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2018

11:30am
Young, Gifted, and Black: Considering Race in the Marvel Universe
Comics Track - Mart2 204J
This panel explores representations of race in the Marvel Universe from the days of Jack Kirby to today.
- “A Hero Like Any Other?: The Ideology of Blackness in Jack Kirby's Black Panther,” Julian C. Chambliss, Michigan State University
- “Red, Green, & Blue Men: Deconstructing Indigenous Identity in Marvel's The Gifted,” Gabriel Cruz, Bowling Green State University
Moderator: Matthew J. Brown, UT Dallas

1:00pm
Angel's Search for Atonement: Female Characters as Redeemers in the Buffyverse
Urban Fantasy Track - Westin Chastain 1-2
A scholarly presentation on the role of women in Angel's redemption in the Buffyverse.
Panelist: Margaret A. Robbins, The University of Georgia
Respondent: Victoria Willis Navarra, Independent Scholar
Moderator: Damien Williams, Virginia Tech

1:00pm
Translating Ideas Through Comics: Concept, Structure, & Language
Comics Track - Mart2 204J
How do comics’ language and visuals inform the way we think and learn inside and outside the classroom?
- “Using the Science of Superhero Origins to Track Real Life Pseudoscience,” Russ Dobler, AiPT! Comics
- “Rabbit in a Snowstorm’: The Role of Art in the Marvel Cinematic Universe,” Erin Gordon, Independent Scholar
Moderator: Kari Neely, Middle Tennessee State University

2:30pm
Cataloging Days and Future Past: Lesson from a Small College with a Large Comics Collection
Comics Track - Mart2 204J
This panel explores the use of comics as scholarly resources and the challenges of comics preservation.
Panelists: Chris Richardson, Young Harris College
Andy Rowe, Young Harris College
Moderator: Matthew J. Brown, UT Dallas

2:30pm
Of Gods and Women; An Examination of the Role of Religion Upon Tamora Pierce’s Tortallan Heroines
Fantasy Lit Track - Hyatt Embassy EF
A discussion of the interplay between female characters and immortals in Tamora
Panelist: Alise Wisniewski, University of Denver
Respondent: Kari Storla
Moderator: Victoria Willis Navarra, Independent Scholar

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Find out more at our website:

http://comicspopularartsconference.org/

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• Kari Storla, University of Southern California
• Damien Williams, Virginia Tech
• Vickie Willis Navarra, Independent Scholar

CPAC Program designed by Shawn Moore
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Keep an eye on our website and social media for our Call for Papers for CPAC 2019!

CPAC takes place at DragonCon each year thanks to the generosity of the DragonCon track heads and other organizers. CPAC is not affiliated with the DragonCon organization. CPAC is a all-volunteer group aimed at bringing peer-reviewed academic content to DragonCon. It is supported by the Center for Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology at the University of Texas at Dallas. We hope you enjoy our programming! Please ask us how to get involved.