



Art by Jack Kirby

The Comics Grid: Journal of Comics Scholarship

Call for Papers 2019-2020

Published 1st November 2020.

Deadlines for submissions: 31st March 2020 and 31st October 2020.

[*The Comics Grid: Journal of Comics Scholarship*](#) seeks scholarly submissions on the technical, theoretical, cultural, and historical aspects of comics studies that gives vitality to the form and challenges readers' assumptions about it.

Despite the healthy amount of comics scholarship over the past ten years, the discipline remains theoretically open and ontologically incomplete. There is much work to be done, with many methodologies, objects of study and interpretive voices still absent or under-represented. We want quality and diversity to appear in *The Comics Grid: Journal of Comics Scholarship*.

What do we mean by "quality and diversity"? We seek to contribute to constructing a critical discipline that is creative, innovative, experimental and risk-taking. Our ambition is to provide a platform for work that avoids traditionally over-researched topics and perspectives and that instead focuses on those which have been overlooked, that shares

new critical and insightful perspectives. We are motivated by the need to encourage a diversity of critical reflections and free comics scholarship from the competitive, publish-or-perish, paywalled, publication-for-publication's sake aspects that often constrain scholarly research.

We call for submissions that are professionally written and presented, incorporating high-quality images that authors discuss directly and in detail. We will consider submissions from affiliated senior or early career scholars, practitioners and independent researchers, as long as they fit the journal's call for papers, scope and editorial guidelines.

We do not consider submissions on the basis of abstracts only; we only receive and consider full versions of submissions via our [journal management system](#) and cannot provide informal pre-submission advice.

We invite energetic writing that is theoretically and interpretively bold. While academic rigour, the inclusion and close discussion of images and citational correctness are important to us as a precondition, a key feature our editors and reviewers will consider is the argument, the discovery, the evidence-based eureka moments conveyed in economical, precise, and, ideally, subtle prose. We believe academic writing about comics should be as striking and immediate as the medium itself.

The Comics Grid encourages open science methods and advocates the value of reproducibility. Authors using datasets or code in their submissions are encouraged to cite and share them in their submissions using appropriate open-access repositories such as [CORE](#), [figshare](#) or [Zenodo](#).

Peer Review

In order to be considered for peer review all submissions require image files that should be directly referred to and discussed in the body of the submission and must closely follow our submission guidelines.

Our peer review process is double, open and engaged. Submissions will be considered on the basis of their form and content in relation to our scope and guidelines; career stage, role, affiliation, biography or CV or any other author demographic information will not be included in nor a consideration during the review process.

Prior to submission, authors are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the history and evolution of the journal, with previously published articles and with the scope detailed in this call for submissions. Editors and reviewers will be looking for submissions resulting from a motivation to share professional expertise in an engaging manner and that, as research outputs, aim to be media-specific by reflecting the diversity, vibrancy and excitement of comics and comics cultures.

Submissions are assigned an editor, a section editor and two different peer reviewers. After double peer review, once an editorial decision of acceptance or revisions required has been communicated to authors, our reviewers and/or editors may interact directly with authors as required to manage any additional revisions and copyedits in order to ensure the best possible output.

The Comics Grid: Journal of Comics Scholarship currently publishes a maximum of 20 articles per year. Each year is a volume of the journal. We accept submissions throughout the year until the deadlines, through the Journal Management System. Email submissions will not be considered. As detailed above, we cannot provide feedback prior to submission.

We review submissions and assign them to peer reviewers in quarterly cycles: January 1, April 1, July 1, November 1. The review process should take 1-2 months, but each case is different.

Accepted submissions will be released at regular intervals throughout the year, the schedule determined by the number of submissions accepted. Accepted submissions may be released simultaneously or in close proximity to each other if they have a thematic connection.

Submission Types

Submissions addressing this Call may fit the following categories (please refer to our [Author Guidelines](#) for full information). Submissions to all sections must engage with and directly cite, and if appropriate, link to relevant scholarship.

Research (3000-7000 words)

- Analysis/ Interpretation of specific works or movements engaging with actual examples included as figures
- Theoretical works, including support images, figures, visualisations, data.

Note (1500-2000 words)

- Short piece on a current issue, event or publication announcement.

Review (2000-2500 words)

- Review of a work of comics scholarship.
- We don't consider reviews of fiction comic books or graphic novels unless they are academic/scientific research in comics form or outputs from research projects.

Interview (2000-6000 words)

- Interview with a person or group of persons of significant interest to the comics scholarship community: e.g. scholars, artists, publishers, librarians, archivists.

Please note that Graphic Submissions have their own submission process and an initial discussion with the section editor is required pre-submission. Authors interested in submitting research in comics form should refer to our Author Guidelines and contact section editor Dr Nicolas Labarre (see "Graphic Submissions in <https://www.comicsgrid.com/about/submissions/>).

Authorship

Submitted manuscripts should not have been published previously (except as unreviewed pre-prints in open access repositories) nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere.

All contributors should be listed, whether from those listed as authors or individuals named in acknowledgements; corresponding authors should ensure listed co-authors have provided their consent prior to submission.

We recommend using CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy) to describe each contributor's specific contribution to the submission: <https://www.casrai.org/credit.html>. Please refer to our journal Authorship Guidelines at <https://www.comicsgrid.com/about/authorship/> .

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For full submissions information, please go to <https://www.comicsgrid.com/about/submissions/>.