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### Editorial 11:3

It does not often happen, but sometimes we get a general issue where the articles fall into similar themes. This issue of the journal features a few articles around themes of manga, gender and myth but analysed through different theoretical contexts to show the richness of a blended approach to theory. The first three articles show how the texts analysed enable a revision of gender relationships and power.

A. J. Taylor's article, "'Hello World!' Gwenpool: Marvel's Camusian absurd hero" takes an existential approach using Albert Camus's work to analyse Marvel's heroine, Gwenpool. Taylor proposes that Gwenpool acknowledges the conflict between living a meaningful life in a universe that has no inherent meaning. Gwenpool chooses to respond through revolt.

There follow two manga related articles using gendered approaches, influenced by myth, to their analyses. Buket Akgün's "Mythology moe-ified: classical witches, warriors, and monsters in Japanese manga" analyses the reception of female monster figures in Japanese seinen and shōnen manga at the turn of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The article draws parallels between Japanese and Greek demonization of monstrous femininity is allayed by their reception in Japanese manga enables readers to revise their attitudes to female power.

Francesca Battaglia examines the manga series *Saiyūki* in "Gender boundaries in *Saiyūki* by Kazuya Minekura: the queer family as a model of leadership." *Saiyūki* is based on a 16<sup>th</sup> century Chinese novel *Journey to the West* by Wu Cheng'en. The manga novel tells of the journey to the West by the Buddhist monk Genjō Sanzō and three companions and Battaglia analyses the story from a number of perspectives including myth, gender and psychoanalysis, arguing that the journey to the West mirrors the attempts of the individual to the reconcile male/female.

The next three articles in the issue are based on real world situations whether dealt with through fantasy in superheroes, comedy or documentary comics genres. Based on political and racial politics in comics, "Black Panther and black agency: constructing cultural nationalism in comic books featuring Black Panther," by William Schulte and Nathaniel Frederick explores how the stories of Marvel's Black Panther attempt to negotiate the political and stereotypical representations of African Americans. However, as the authors point out, the creators of Black Panther resort to stereotypes in their attempt to illustrate the positive influences of 'the black aesthetic and cultural nationalism'.

Cold War politics in *Mad* magazine are analysed in Cord A. Scott's 'Cold War politics, Cuba and 'Spy vs. Spy' shows how real political struggles against Castro were similar to some of the stories in this seminal comic strip. Contemporary politics and eco disaster features in Dominic Davies article about Josh Neufeld's documentary comic *A.D.: New Orleans after the Deluge* in "Graphic Katrina: disaster capitalism, tourism gentrification and the affect economy in Josh Neufeld's *A.D.: New Orleans after the Deluge* (2009)". In an argument that reflects Naomi Klein's *Shock Doctrine: the Rise of Disaster Capitalism* (2007), Davies argues that Neufeld's foregrounding of the effects of Katrina on marginalised illustrates the ways privatisation of previously public infrastructure often disadvantages pre-Katrina residents trying to return to normalcy. It can be an interesting warning for all of us in the shadow of this Coronavirus.

Finally, Tomasz Żaglewski's 'A Joke less Killing': animated remediation of a comic book as an extra-mediation examines how the animated adaptation of an iconic graphic novel, *The Killing Joke*, is used to challenge the original content of the comic.

There are two book reviews to complete this issue, Jocelyn Sakal Froese reviews Aneurin Wright's *Things to do in a Retirement Home Trailer Park ... when you're 29 and Unemployed* and Emma Dawson Varughese reviews Ragesh V. Nair's *Visuality and identity in post-millennial Indian graphic narratives*.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Stay safe.

### **Bibliography**

Klein, N. (2007) *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. New York: Henry Holt and Metropolitan Books.