

CATALAN EVENT - 13 FEBRUARY 2020

You are cordially invited to attend the lecture by Dr Rhiannon McGlade (University of Cambridge) entitled 'In Visible Ink: Women and Visual Print Media in Spain's Transition to Democracy' which will be held at 5 pm ER142 Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Elvet Riverside 1 Durham University

Booking essential. Please register by emailing Renata.Taylor@durham.ac.uk.

The realm of cartooning, still more satirical cartooning, has typically made little room for women. And yet, in light of the new wave of female success in the Spanish comic and graphic novel market, are women finally taking their place at an erstwhile male-dominated table? This newfound visibility owes much to the groundwork of select female artists who, during Spain's so-called Transition to democracy, succeeded in infiltrating the genre, using cartoon humour to engage the very serious issues of gender politics and sexual dissidence.

Meanwhile, the intellectual challenge to the entire narrative of this period as one of consensus and unity, has placed increasing focus on the politics and work of urban

culture and grass-roots movements, as well as the importance of collective action. Within this context then, and in a world increasingly dominated by the visual, our understanding of the role and influence of visual print media – a capacious term comprising comics, cartoon strips, zines, tebeos and graphic novels – has become increasingly pressing. Indeed, as I will argue, the inherent aesthetic tug-of-war between image and text acts as an ideal frame for the figurative rendering of social, cultural and political tensions, whilst transcending formal aesthetic boundaries. In this lecture, I seek to build upon recent proposals that this ephemera both acts as a 'weighty



© Nuria Pompeia

witness' to socio-political history and is 'capable of having produced modes of political organization' in order to examine these unrepresented, all-but-invisible female voices within the subversive male-dominated comics 'collective' from the late 1960s until the early 1990s in Spain.



Dr Rhiannon McGlade is Affiliated Lecturer at the University of Cambridge, having previously held roles including: Research Associate of the AHRC-funded project, Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies (MEITS) at Cambridge and Lecturer of Catalan Studies at Queen Mary, University of London, where she was also the Director of the Centre for Catalan Studies. Her research considers the implications and nature of humour in visual print media, literature, theatre, film and the press within a Hispanic context. She has published and presented broadly on these themes, including her book, *Catalan Cartoons: A cultural and political history*, which was published in 2016 by

University of Wales Press. Other major projects include: the co-edited special issue 'Between the Frames: Visual Print Media in Spain Since 1975' with Dr Bryan Cameron; the Spanish lead in a global history of editorial cartooning as part of an international team of scholars and the current book-length investigation 'Humour, Gender and Sexual Dissidence in the Visual Print Media of Spain's Transition'.