

**THROUGH A LEGAL LENS:
LAW, HISTORY AND VISUAL CULTURE
COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS**

VIRTUAL SEMINAR SERIES

9/16/23 November 2022



A series of three-hour long seminars:

Wed, 9 November 2022, 16:30 – 17:30 GMT

Charlotte Mills on [Comics, sexual slavery & human rights in South Korea](#)

Wed, 16 November 2022, 15:00 – 16:00 GMT

Karla Escobar on [Becoming transmedia: legal practices in Colombia in comics](#)

Wed, 23 November 2022, 15:00 – 16:00 GMT

Kritika Sharma on [Studying feminist legal thought through Marvel comics](#)

Please RSVP for individual events by using the Eventbrite links above.

For general queries please e mail: la.visualimagesconference@northumbria.ac.uk

For all matters technical, please contact: Victoria.Barnes@brunel.ac.uk

We look forward to seeing you

With best wishes,

Victoria Barnes, Helen Rutherford, Clare Sandford-Couch and Sarah Wilson



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Speakers and Abstracts:

Charlotte Mills is a Research Associate in Law at the University of Sheffield. Prior to joining the University of Sheffield, she was a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Leicester, where I taught EU law (LLB) and Feminist Perspectives on International law (LLM). She has recently submitted her PhD thesis at the University of Leicester.

Abstract:

Traditional research methods arguably favour those privileged enough to understand them. They reach a narrow audience and engage those who may already be familiar with the subject and, as such, can restrict discussion rather than open it. Law and legal research presents one such example where traditional methods and forms of dissemination are the norm. However, overcoming the boundaries of traditional language and methods, and adopting artistic approaches within research can allow for more 'truthful means of investigation and representation' of complex and multifaceted issues (Greenwood, 2019) for there are 'multiple ways in which the world can be known' (Eisner, 1998). Reaching wider audiences, art invites us to engage, reflect, understand, and challenge. When the subject of the research involves narratives – of which there are many within law – artistic methods can embrace the nuance within individual narratives and allow for an inclusive and interactive exploration of complex issues.

The graphic novel presents one method in which to re-understand – or 'translate' – law. Utilising various methods, she has begun turning elements of my doctoral thesis on the sexual enslavement of South Korean women and their lack of legal redress into a graphic novel, which will sit alongside other pieces of art. She both engages and challenges a wide audience by inviting participation in the broader discussion of women's human rights and encouraging viewers to form their own understandings, analysis and conclusions based on the visual images and presented narratives. Within this seminar, she will present the ways with which she has explored the graphic novel to 'translate' and simplify feminist analysis and South Korean legal issues.

Dr. Karla Luzmer Escobar Hernández is a Reseacher and Research Field Coordinator at the Max Planck for Legal History and Legal Theory in Germany.

Abstract:

Historians have used new media to communicate their research in very fruitful ways in recent decades. Public historians have been deeply engaged in exploring a wide variety of media as they look for more effective ways to connect historical research to broad audiences in Museums and Schools. Other historians have approached different mediums and media as a way to reflect on their role in changing



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historiographical methods and debates. However, some disciplines (or subdisciplines for some), such as Legal History, have been reluctant to join this movement. What contributions could a transmedial history approach make to legal historiography and history as a discipline? What aspects of legal practices can be better understood when communicated through other media?

In this talk, Karla will address these questions through an autoethnographic exercise. She will analyze the process of turning her doctoral research on *indigena* legal practices in Colombia at the beginning of the 20th century into a comic book and a YouTube video series. She will focus on exploring the advantages, and the challenges, of including different media to study legal practices in the past. She will draw on key issues, such as chronopolitics, positionality, interdisciplinarity, and plural construction of knowledge and the relevance of these concepts for contemporary legal historiography.

Kritika Sharma is a Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law. She has an advanced Master's degree (Cum Laude) in Public International Law, specialising in International Criminal Law from Leiden University. Kritika is a PhD candidate at Leiden University writing her dissertation under the supervision of Prof. dr. Niels Blokker and Dr. Sergey Vasiliev on the impact of the governance role of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute on the judicial function of the International Criminal Court. Prior to joining the Max Planck Institute, Kritika worked at the International Court of Justice as a Judicial Fellow. She has also supported the Delegation of Liechtenstein at the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute both in 2016 and 2018.

Abstract:

Her paper aims to analyse and demonstrate a common thread that weaves through Marvel's original 1977 'What if' comics and the feminist judgments project, through their reliance on counterfactuals. The goal underlining this is to demonstrate how science fiction can be employed as a tool to map and analyse feminist approaches to (international) law, including the feminist judgments projects. The presentation will emphasise on three areas that this common reliance on counterfactuals invokes: contingency, causality and inter-temporality.



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