

Spring 2016

Comics and Censorship

Lena Merhej, Irina Chiaburu, Charles Brownstein and Rana Saghieh

Symposium

This symposium addresses the necessity to draw the guidelines for creating comics about sensitive topics or what is considered taboo topics by general authorities in Lebanon and abroad. The speakers on this symposium will discuss the extent with which one can push the limits of what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in comics.



Illustration: Barrack Rima

PROGRAM

Thursday

6:00-6:15 pm

Welcoming address
Dr. Lena Merhej

6:15-6:35 pm

Censorship of Comics As The
Exercise of Social Control
Charles Brownstein

6:40-7:00 pm

Finding Censorship's Blind Spots:
Late Soviet Experience
Dr. Irina Chiaburo

7:00-7:20 pm

Censorship on artistic freedom
Rana Saghieh

7:20- 7:30 pm

Closing statement

7 April 6:00pm

LAU, Beirut Campus, AKSOB 903



Lena Irmgard Merhej (PhD) studied Design and Technology at the Parsons School of Design (MFA). Her research, "Analysis of Graphic Narratives: War in Lebanese Comics" at Jacobs University in Bremen, granted her a doctorate degree in Visual Studies in 2015. Her animations received international awards as well as the comics magazine Samandal that she co-founded.



Charles Brownstein is a prolific and sought out lecturer on the history of comics and censorship who has addressed audiences across the United States, as well as in Japan, Canada, Norway, and the United Kingdom. He currently serves as the chair of the Banned Books Week Coalition.



Irina Chiaburu holds an MA and a PhD from Jacobs University. Her research on the "Subversion in Soviet animation during the Brezhnev era" addresses the conflict between the creative Soviet intelligentsia and Brezhnev's censorship apparatus.



Rana Saghieh has a Masters in Political Science from the "Institut d'Etudes Politiques" France. Since 2005, she worked on legal proceedings, corporations' law and strategic social consultancies that include the Artistic Freedom in Lebanon: Update on Censorship in Lebanon (2015).