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Blood in the Gutter

Uncertainty and Speculation in Contemporary American Comics

& Workshop poster session

Karin Kukkonen (Oslo)

Fictions of the Future

Christine Hanke und Jeanne Cortiel (Bayreuth)

Singularity 7: Uncertainty between Image, Text, and Narrative

Johannes Fehrle (Mannheim)

**Following “The Dark Knight of Self-Help”:
Satirizing the Neo-Liberal individualization of
Uncertainty in *The Adventures of
Unemployed Man***



Comics as a medium requires specific imaginative work to piece together its narratives, making it particularly adapted to speculation. This has to do with the way in which comics combine the visual and the verbal, but also with the history and development of comics as a medium in the United States: Since the late 1980s, dystopian and post-apocalyptic science fiction has been among the dominant genres in American Comics. Even the superhero has turned into a figure of anticipation, with Frank Miller’s Dark Knight series (1986, 1987, 2001–02) being one of the most prominent early examples. Focusing on comics as medium of speculation, this workshop brings together BA/MA students, doctoral students, and established scholars in the field of comics studies to explore how comics enable a particular type of speculation that combines the verbal and the visual, time and space in unique ways.

The workshop connects with a series of symposia, workshops, and conferences in Bayreuth around the question of global catastrophic risk in literature, popular culture, and society. It is part of a collaborative research project on “Contemporary American Risk Fiction.”

For more information please visit our website:

amerikanistik.uni-bayreuth.de

Organizers: Laura Oehme & Jeanne Cortiel
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