

TRANSITIONS 10

NEW DIRECTIONS IN COMICS STUDIES

A one-day symposium promoting new research on
comics/commix/bande dessinée/manga and other forms of sequential art

Key note speakers:

Dr Gareth Brookes
(Kingston University)
and Karrie Fransman

This is a free event, please register by email at
transitions.symposium@gmail.com



Time:
Thursday
March 18th 2027

Transitions 10: New Directions in Comics Studies

Call for Papers

Date: [Thursday 18 March 2027](#)

Venue: To be announced

Submission deadline: [30 November 2026](#)

Notification of acceptance: early January 2027

Comics studies today spans from formal analysis and media specificity to historical, political, and industrial inquiry, extending further into reader engagement, transmedia circulation, and emerging digital and experimental practices. Transitions is a long-running, [free-to-attend](#) comics studies conference developed through collaboration between comics researchers across several London universities. As we mark the [10th edition of Transitions](#), we are excited to once again open up a space for new voices, fresh conversations, and interdisciplinary approaches to comics.

The conference is primarily aimed at postgraduate students and early career researchers, while also welcoming creators, independent researchers, established scholars and anyone with an interest in comics studies and practice. We hope to provide a supportive space for productive debate, the sharing of new ideas and the development of future collaborations.

In keeping with the open spirit of Transitions, this edition has no prescribed theme. We invite contributions that engage with comics in any form, from any perspective, and across any disciplinary or creative approach.

[Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:](#)

- comics form, media specificity, page, panel, sequence and materiality
- print, digital, webtoon, platform-based, hybrid and experimental comics
- comics histories, archives, memory, historiography and marginalised genealogies
- embodiment, identity, race, gender, sexuality, disability, affect and everyday life
- world-making, speculative imaginaries and alternative forms of storytelling
- publishing cultures, labour, authorship, copyright, translation and global circulation
- comics pedagogy, education, activism, community practice and institutional settings
- readers, fandoms, reception, participation and ethical modes of engagement

- practice-based, artistic, designed, archival, ethnographic or interdisciplinary research
- comics in relation to wider

cultural, technological, social, ecological or political frameworks



We particularly encourage submissions that challenge disciplinary boundaries, foreground underrepresented perspectives or materials, experiment with form or method, or critically reflect on what comics are and what they might become.

We invite proposals for [20-minute papers](#).



Each submission should include:

- a paper title
- an abstract of 200 words
- a short biographical note of up to 50 words
- the presenter's name, affiliation, and contact email

Please send your proposal to: transitions.symposium@gmail.com

Please indicate “**Transitions 10 Abstract**” in the subject line of your email and include your name in the file title.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE is 30th NOVEMBER 2026.

We hope to notify applicants of the outcome by early January 2027.

With best wishes,
The Transitions Team

