

Seminar Series

Topics in the Aesthetics of Music and Sound

Thursday, March 26, 2015

3:15-5 p.m. in Meeting Room Comenius



All hail Pils-Bob! The Re-presentation of Metal in Nordic Comic Strips

Rikke Platz Cortsen, PhD, is currently working on a postdoc project funded by the Danish Independent Research Council (FKK) about space and place in contemporary Nordic comics at the Department of Arts and Cultural Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Her PhD thesis is titled "Comics as Assemblage – How Time and Space is Constructed in Comics". She has published several articles on various aspects of comics

scholarship and has presented a number of papers at international conferences. She is a founding member of Nordic Network for Comics Research (NNCORE).

Abstract: Comics and metal are often considered by the general public and media as countercultural or belonging to a sub-cultural domain, often associated with youth culture. As such they share reputations within the cultural spheres and have also been at the center of each their own moral panics, both historically and in recent years.

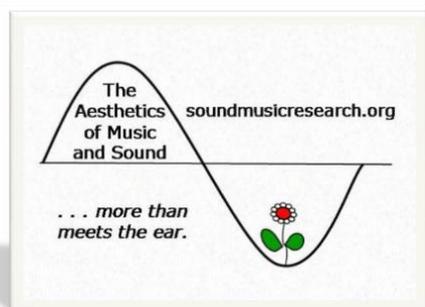
When looking at the way metal cultures are portrayed in comics, however, the diversity within metal and the differences between format and genres in the comics medium plays a role in how metal is constructed as a whole.

My analysis of Norwegian strips features characters who are part of a metal culture - whether that be as members of a band, through their listening to metal music or through fashion statements.

I will focus on how the medium-specific aspects of comic such as color, layout, line, style, storytelling and text/image relations play important roles in the way metal is conveyed to the reader. Through the analysis of Torbjørn Lien's spin-off series from *Kollektivet*, named *Blacktööh* like the black metal band it features, this presentation will depart from Stuart Hall's concept of cultural representation and develop it further with Bruno Latour's thoughts on re-presentation to examine how metal is represented and re-presented in these strips.

The strip is then compared to the Finnish comic *Perkeros* by J.P. Ahonen and K.P. Alare, a full-length comic book that mixes metal music with fantastic elements in order to show another way in which metal can be re-presented in Nordic comics.

Just as there is not one metal culture, comics as a medium is diversified and my study shows that aspects such as format, genre and expression plays a role in what function metal has in Nordic comics today.



- Cross-Disciplinary Interplay between the Humanities, Technology and Musical Practice
- Backdrop for the SDU-IKV Research Program



**All are
welcome
- also via
Skype**