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# EDITORIAL: COMICS ACTIVISM

by Katja Kontturi, Martin Lund, Leena Romu, and Fredrik Strömberg





Dear reader,

The theme for this issue is Comics Activism, using comics in various ways to communicate political ideas, trying to change the world with the power of words and images combined. In the Forum text, “Comics Activism, a (Partial) Introduction”, Martin Lund gives an overview of this fascinating and potentially vast topic, with a short historical background and an attempt at defining different types of activist comics.

In the article “Socialist Thought and Comics Form – Narrative and Rhetorical Strategies in Kate Evan’s *Red Rosa*”, Magnus Nilsson dissects the graphic novel *Red Rosa*, a biography in comics form of the socialist Rosa Luxemburg, and a book that, Nilsson shows, was published in order to promote the very same ideas that Rosa once fought for.

In the Forum text “Comedic Heresy in the Humor of *The Boondocks*”, Mikko Poutanen discusses the American comic strip *The Boondocks*, using the term cultural heresy to define the way in which its creator Aaron McGruder has attempted to change the status quo of race relations in the US.

Finally, this issue ends with a thorough review by Katja Kontturi of *Disney Comics. The Whole Story*, a dictionary of all things Disney Comics. The book represents a fresh look at the international history of these comics, which are incredibly popular all over the globe, and has also been purported to be the bearer of political, capitalist ideas.

Comics activism is an intriguing field of study within the broader scope of comics studies, and with this issue we hope to have contributed to a discussion that will continue and intensify in the future.