

# COLLOQUIUM BY PHILIP SMITH

WHY MICE? HISTORY AND REPRESENTATION IN ART SPIEGELMAN'S MAUS

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, THURSDAY, 29 MARCH 2018

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

*Why Mice? History and Representation in Art Spiegelman's Maus*

**Speaker:** Philip Smith, Assistant Professor at The University of the Bahamas

\* The event is also a faculty recruitment seminar for Language and Culture Center.

ABSTRACT:



Why Mice

In his talk, Dr. Philip Smith, author of *Reading Art Spiegelman* (Routledge 2015), will discuss the Pulitzer-winning graphic narrative *Maus*, a story of Holocaust survival across generations told using an animal allegory. Dr. Smith will discuss the global relevance of Holocaust testimony, the success of *Maus*, and the reasons why it remains both a key text in Comics Studies and a recurring text on syllabi at all levels of education. He will also describe his own approaches to

the text in the classroom. The central question which Dr. Smith will seek to answer is why Spiegelman chose to use cartoon animals to tell a true story of such historical importance.

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**BIO:**

Philip Smith obtained his Ph.D from Loughborough University. His work has been published in *The American Comic Book*, *The Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, *The International Journal of Comics Art*, *Studies in Comics*, *Extrapolation*, *The Journal of Popular Culture*, *Literature Compass*, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, *The Journal of European Studies*, *Asian Theatre Journal*, *Slayage*, and *The International Journal of Bahamian Studies*. He is co-editor of *Firefly Revisited* (Rowman and Littlefield) and the author of *Reading Art Spiegelman* (Routledge). He is currently editing three books: *Gender and the Superhero Narrative*, *Drawing the Past: Comics and the Historical Imagination* and *The Novels of Elie Wiesel*. He is Assistant Professor of English at The University of the Bahamas where he teaches Writing and Rhetoric, Children's Literature, Popular Fiction, and Film.

This event is open to all. For any queries email [yg73@duke.edu](mailto:yg73@duke.edu) or call 3665 7149.

Hope to see you all.

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