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WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES THESES

Working the Margins: Women in the Comic Book Industry

[Wesley Chenault](#)

Date of Award

6-5-2007

Degree Type

Thesis

Degree Name

Master of Arts (MA)

Department

Women's Studies

First Advisor

Marian Meyers - Chair

Second Advisor

Layli Phillips

Third Advisor

Amira Jarmakani

Abstract

Women have been involved in the writing, illustrating, and production of comic books at almost every step of the genre's development. The years between the late 1960s and the late 1990s were tumultuous for the comic book industry. At the societal level, these years were saturated with changes that challenged normative ideas of sex roles and gender. The goal of this study is two-fold: it documents the specific contributions to the comic book industry made by the women interviewed, and it addresses research questions that focus on gender, change, and comic books. This project asks: What was the role and status of women in the comic book industry between the early 1970s and late 1990s? By utilizing moderately scheduled, in-depth interviews with women working in the comic book industry during this period, this study explores their experiences and treatment while working in an insular, male-dominated field.

Recommended Citation

Chenault, Wesley, "Working the Margins: Women in the Comic Book Industry." Thesis, Georgia State University, 2007.

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