

Jennifer Murvin

Judith Enyeart Reynolds College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities Research

Symposium

Time and Date of Talk: October 27, 12:15-1:15 PM, SICL 126

Title of Talk: An Invitation to the Graphic Essay: Cartooning as a Medium in Creative Nonfiction and Beyond

Speaker Biography:

Jennifer Murvin is the author of the forthcoming chapbook *She Says* (Small Harbor Editions) and forthcoming story collection *Real California Living* (Braddock Avenue Books). Her essays, stories, and graphic narrative have appeared in *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *CRAFT*, *DIAGRAM*, *The Sun*, *Indiana Review*, *The Florida Review*, *The Southampton Review*, *American Short Fiction*, *Phoebe*, *CutBank*, *Mid-American Review*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Catamaran Literary Reader*, and other literary journals. Jen is an Assistant Professor of English at Missouri State University and is the owner of the independent bookstore Pagination Bookshop in Springfield, MO. She also teaches in the Graphic Narrative Track for the Solstice Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing at Lasell University in Boston, MA.

Abstract of Talk (150-250 words):

The medium of graphic nonfiction has long been used to explore topics as diverse as the Holocaust, narrative medicine, the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, the atomic bomb, class, identity, and even the epidemic of loneliness. Assistant Professor Jennifer Murvin will share about the exciting possibilities of graphic essay writing, important literary contexts, and her own original creative work in this narrative mode. She will also discuss pedagogical approaches in teaching the graphic essay and show examples of published student work.

Interdisciplinarity:

By changing our thinking in regards to comics as a medium vs. a “genre,” cartooning becomes a distinctive narrative technique with which we can express ourselves and communicate ideas to others. Graphic essay writing engages with an enormous number of fields, including but not limited to English, Art and Design, Journalism, History, Religious Studies, the Medical Humanities, and beyond.