These Syracuse Symposium events will address issues of power in the silencing of disability and the “voices” of those who experience barriers in healthcare and healthcare education and practice. These events will also address how disabled people’s “voices” are sometimes silenced in Graphic Medicine, the comics industry, and beyond, thus demonstrating why adaptations are necessary to (re)fashion a primarily visual medium so that it is consistently accessible to a spectrum of creators and audiences.

‘Cripping’ Graphic Medicine: Psychiatric Disability, ‘Crip’ Culture, and the Health Humanities
October 29, 2019, Public Talk 4–5:30 pm; Reception 5:30-6:00 pm
Peter Graham Scholarly Commons
114 Bird Library, Syracuse University Campus
Light refreshments will be served.

Today, graphic memoirs are both popular and acclaimed: for example, Alison Bechdel’s *Fun Home* (2006) is taught in college courses and has been adapted into an award-winning Broadway musical. Yet, when Justin Green published his 40-page autobiographical comic, *Binky Brown Meets the Holy Virgin Mary*, in 1972, he was breaking new ground and inventing a new form. By reading Binky Brown as a disability memoir, Donaldson argues that psychiatric disability and the empathetic treatment of mental health issues are foundational to this genre. Contemporary graphic memoirs of psychiatric disability are both a legacy of Green’s innovative confessional comics and an extension of his work. For students of disability studies, these graphic texts challenge stereotypes of mental illness and offer important and unique insights into the experiences of people living with madness and psychiatric disability.

Drawing Out the Public Sphere: A Workshop on ‘Cripping’ Graphic Medicine
October 30, 2019, 10 am–Noon
304 Tolley Humanities Building, Syracuse University Campus

Using specific examples from a short comic in Daryl Cunningham’s *Psychiatric Tales*, this workshop examines themes of violence alongside representations of mental illness in the larger culture, in order to discuss how comics can amplify or combat stigma. Please RSVP attendance by 10/23/19 to razubal@law.syr.edu or 315-443-2156.

Elizabeth J. Donaldson is Professor of English and Interim Associate Dean for Curriculum and Student Success at the New York Institute of Technology, where she teaches courses in bioethics and American literature and directs the Medical Humanities program. She has published essays on LSD-inspired disability-immersion experiences of schizophrenia, mental illness in film, antipsychiatry in Lauren Slater’s memoirs, and physiognomy and madness in *Jane Eyre*. She is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* and is co-editor (with Catherine J. Prendergast) of the special issue, “Emotion and Disability” (2011). She co-edited the essay collection *The Madwoman and the Blindman: Jane Eyre, Discourse, Disability* (2012) and currently co-edits the Palgrave Macmillan book series *Literary Disability Studies* with David Bolt and Julia Miele Rodas. Her most recent work is an edited collection of essays, *Literatures of Madness: Disability Studies and Mental Health* (2018), and she is currently working on a monograph which focuses on psychiatry and American literature.

‘Cripping’ Graphic Medicine is part of the 2019-2020 Syracuse Symposium on “SILENCE.” Sponsored by the Burton Blatt Institute’s Office of Interdisciplinary Programs and Outreach, the Consortium for Culture and Medicine, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) will be provided. For information on parking or to request additional accommodations, please contact Rachael Zubal-Ruggieri at 315-443-2156 or razubal@law.syr.edu by 10/23/19.

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