



The Superhero Symbol

Media, Culture, and Politics

Edited by Liam Burke, Ian Gordon, and Angela Ndaliansis

DESCRIPTION

“As a man, I'm flesh and blood, I can be ignored, I can be destroyed; but as a symbol... as a symbol I can be incorruptible, I can be everlasting”. In the 2005 reboot of the Batman film franchise, *Batman Begins*, Bruce Wayne articulates how the figure of the superhero can serve as a transcendent icon.

It is hard to imagine a time when superheroes have been more pervasive in our culture. Today, superheroes are intellectual property jealously guarded by media conglomerates, icons co-opted by grassroots groups as a four-color rebuttal to social inequities, masks people wear to more confidently walk convention floors and city streets, and bulletproof banners that embody regional and national identities. From activism to cosplay, this collection unmask the symbolic function of superheroes.

Bringing together superhero scholars from a range of disciplines, alongside key industry figures such as Harley Quinn co-creator Paul Dini, *The Superhero Symbol* provides fresh perspectives on how characters like Captain America, Iron Man, and Wonder Woman have engaged with media, culture, and politics, to become the “everlasting” symbols to which a young Bruce Wayne once aspired.

Paperback

9780813597164, \$39.95

Hardback

9780813597171, \$150.00

eBook

9780813597188, \$39.95

PDF

9780813597201, \$39.95

Date: December 2019

Pages: 336



AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

LIAM BURKE is the Cinema and Screen Studies Coordinator at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia, where he also teaches classes on comic books and cinema. He has written and edited a number of books including *The Comic Book Film Adaptation* (2015), *Fan Phenomena Batman* (2012), and *Superhero Movies* (2008).

IAN GORDON teaches cultural history and American Studies at the National University of Singapore, where he is the Head of the Department of History. His books include *Superman: The Persistence of an American Icon* (2017), *Kid Comic Strips: A Genre Across Four Countries* (2016), *Comic Strips and Consumer Culture* (1998), and the edited work *Film and Comic Books* (2007).

ANGELA NDALIANIS is Director of the Centre for Transformative Media

Technologies at Swinburne University of Technology. The books she has written or edited include *The Horror Sensorium: Media and the Senses* (2012), *Science Fiction Experiences* (2010), *The Contemporary Comic Book Superhero* (2009), *Super/Heroes: from Hercules to Superman* (2007), and *Neo-Baroque Aesthetics and Contemporary Entertainment* (2004).

Get 30% OFF • Use code RUP30

Free Shipping in the USA • USA & Latin American: rutgersuniversitypress.org • 1-800-621-2736

Canada: <https://www.ubcpres.ca/rutgers-university-press> • Rest of the World: <https://mngbookshop.co.uk/publisher/rutgers-university-press/>

Booksellers / bulk sales: sales@rutgersuniversitypress.org • Examination and desk copies: rutgersuniversitypress.org/educator