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# Costello to present at inaugural Comicana Conference

November 8, 2019

Dr. Lisa A. Costello, a longtime scholar of rhetoric, gender, and the Holocaust and was recently invited to present at the Inaugural *Comicana Conference* at Ole Miss University in Oxford, MS in October 2019. As part of a group of invited scholars chosen to punctuate this week long, cutting edge interdisciplinary conference on comics and graphic novels with keynote talks, Dr. Costello presented her work on the Holocaust and *Maus* in “Why Comics Matter: History and Memory in Art Spiegelman’s *Maus*,” in which she described the intersections of genre in this work and illuminated the ways in which Holocaust memory and history rely on a continual re-engagement of audiences with historical artifacts and multiple perspectives in new forms. Books like *Maus* use a combination of autobiography, comics, and oral testimony to engage Holocaust on a new level, and to allow broader audiences to connect with the history and memories of this collective trauma.

Dr. Lisa A. Costello is a Professor in the Department of Writing and Linguistics and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Director at Georgia Southern University. She is an interdisciplinary scholar who has published on rhetoric, gender and representation in Holocaust museums, memoirs, and new media, on First Year Writing and new media, and on feminist mentoring and university administrative structures. She has been a teaching fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She has been awarded several grants to further LGBTQ issues on campus, and has been honored with college and university level awards in both teaching and service. Her new book, *American Public Memory: Performing Gender, Shifting Orientations* was released October 2019.

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