

PRESENTER:
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NOT YOUR AVERAGE SUPERHERO: THE AFFORDANCES OF COMICS JOURNALISM IN NEWS REPORTING

BACKGROUND

Comics journalism is the combination of the artistic imagery of comics and the detailed reporting of journalism. Since the 1940s, various authors have displayed their talents in this field, creating articles that rival broadcasts and newspapers. Illustrations immerse readers into the pages to provide a completely different experience than the lengthy words of other news media.

METHODS

1. Analyzed various comics journalism pieces from Joe Sacco, Dan Archer, and Sam Wallman
2. Drew on interviews of Sacco and Archer
3. Reviewed articles that comment on comics journalists' style
4. Aligned comics journalism with Susan Sontag's critique of "objective" war photography reporting

"some of my panels get closer to the truth by being cartoony"
- Joe Sacco



Panels and pages from Sacco's *Safe Area Goražde*, Archer's *Voices from Nepal*, and Wallman's *Our Members be Unlimited* that highlight the authors' creativity and professionalism



FINDINGS

- Comics journalism allows the memory to be sketched in complete detail
- Panels provide the full moment of time, and a clear view of what victims have endured
- The imagery displays facial expressions in such a way that readers can feel what survivors felt through the paper
- Maintains the same amount of detail, but also compresses it into something slightly simpler
- Reflects self-consciously on subjectivity, foregrounds the role and biases of the journalists
- Tackles issues that would not usually make the headlines, represents the unrepresented



REFERENCES