February 17, 2013

Dear Sir/Ma’am,

Please consider the enclosed paper, “Building a National Narrative through Graphic Space and Sound in Joe Sacco’s *Palestine*,” for publication in *ARIEL*. Engaging Edward Said’s notion of the “permission to narrate” a nation and Joseph Slaughter’s concept of the “right to narrate” oneself, the paper argues that the graphic narrative makes productive the space between asking permission and demanding a right to national narration through its mapping of spaces and sounds of the first *Intifada* in Israel-Palestine. Further, Sacco uses the graphic narrative to enjoin the reader to construct an alternative spatial and sonic history of the Palestinians, while drawing attention to the ethics of the text’s representational practices.

This intervention is a necessary one as most literary studies scholarship on graphic narrative has focused on its representation of time to the subordination of space, and such scholarship has not considered textual sound in any significant way. Moreover, the Palestinian Authority’s bid for enhanced, international recognition through its recent admittance to UNESCO highlights the continuing importance of cultural legibility within dominant discourses of nationhood. Thus, this paper both forwards the scholarly conversation surrounding graphic narrative by nuancing literary analysis with concepts from comics studies and speaks to current geopolitical events.

Following the journal’s policy, this article is not currently under review with any other publication. Also, while I have not done so in this version, I can include images from *Palestine* if the editors and reviewers deem it beneficial to the paper. Thank you for taking the time to review my work.

Best regards,

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