



Academic Mentorship Program

Graduate Student Caucus (GSC) of the Comics Studies Society (CSS)

After an involuntary hiatus during the pandemic, the GSC is pleased to announce that we will be re-launching the successful Academic Mentorship Program for 2022/2023. The Academic Mentorship Program creates opportunities for **members of the GSC** to connect with established scholars in the field of comics studies (to check who qualifies as a member of the GSC, please see our [GSC Constitution](#)).

The GSC CSS Academic Mentorship Program seeks to empower up-and-coming comics studies scholars and graduate students by encouraging them to develop the diverse skills and strategies necessary to successfully complete their graduate degree and navigate the current job market within, alongside, and outside/beyond academia. Academic mentors are successful senior scholars in the field of comics studies, who will support their mentee by giving academic advice, sharing resources, investing in their general academic success and helping them network.

GSC members will be paired with **senior faculty members from CSS** based on shared interests as indicated in the form to sign up for the program (see links below). Pairings will be announced in early October 2022. We encourage mentors to reach out to their mentees via email, but how often and through which channel the mentee and mentor communicate is for each pair to decide individually. The GSC plans to organize a virtual meeting for all mentors and mentees in November 2022 to facilitate first contact where it hasn't occurred, yet, and to answer any questions about the program.

As in past years, we will seek to initiate a second round of mentorship in spring 2023. This allows GSC members who were not ready to apply during the busy days of September or who are seeking guidance for the upcoming conference season to benefit from a mentor's support. We would additionally like to stress that mentors and mentees paired up in fall are strongly encouraged to continue their conversations through spring and summer, if they like. The academic year can be surprisingly short, so we hope this gives everyone the chance to meet up multiple times and develop a strong professional relationship. Mentors and mentees are welcome to sign up for the spring roll out, regardless of whether they have an ongoing mentorship or not. This flexibility will hopefully contribute to fostering the next generation of comics scholars, while offering tangible support to our junior colleagues.

If you are interested in either being an Academic Mentor or Mentee, please fill out the application form linked to below. For more information or if you have any further questions, please consult our [FAQ](#) or contact Frida at frida.heitland@gmail.com.

Deadline for applications is September 30th, 2022. Pairings will be announced mid-October 2022.

Application form for **MENTORS**: [CLICK HERE](#)

Application form for **MENTEES**: [CLICK HERE](#)