



Adjusting the Moral Compass: Highlighting the Dark Sides of Fiction and Reality

Hero vs Villain, Good vs Evil, Light vs Dark; these are the dichotomies that have shaped identity in just about every element of our lives. In our desire to fall within the former, we categorize this moral other as worse and lesser. From a storytelling standpoint, there would be no plot without an antagonist to be the counterpoint for our hero. To quote Tony Montana, “You need people like me so you can point your fingers and say, ‘That’s the bad guy.’” But what happens when the need to be good puts you down a dark path? Or better yet, what happens when we look at evil beings and see that there is a lot more than meets the eye.

With the popularity of *Wicked*, *Deadpool*, *Suicide Squad*, an upcoming Boba Fett movie, and many other texts out there we see that those who wouldn’t consider themselves to be good still have a gravitas towards them. Be it through villains with fan clubs, anti-heroes with a mission, monsters that can save the day, femme fatales with a chance for mercy, highly functioning sociopaths on a quest for the truth, or just with people who wouldn’t call themselves saints, the other side is full of wonder. The third annual Puerto Rican Academic Popular Culture Conference asks scholars from all majors and backgrounds to analyze, explore, and shine a light on why is it so good to be bad.

Examples of different research areas include but are not limited to:

- Language/Linguistics and Pop Culture
- Literature
- Film and Television
- Humanities and other Social Sciences
- Comics and Manga
- Cultural Studies
- Video Games
- Race, Gender, and Class
- Pedagogy and Pop Culture in the Classroom
- Music

Submission Directions: We are accepting 200-250 word abstracts for individual presentations or 700-750 word abstracts for panel presentations. Undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty from all departments in any University of Puerto Rico campus, as well as independent scholars, are welcome to submit. We ask that participants only limit themselves to one abstract per person. Since the UPR is a bilingual institution, abstracts and presentations can be submitted in English or in Spanish. Please submit your abstracts alongside corresponding biographical and contact information to pcsarum@gmail.com by November 4, 2016.