

## ABSTRACT

**THESIS:** Representations of Trauma in Autobiographical Graphic Narratives

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This study has analyzed the relationship between trauma and otherness in two autobiographical graphic narratives. The study suggests that autobiographical graphic narratives are better equipped to represent the effects, mainly that of otherness, on the self as a result of trauma. In the ten volume manga series *Barefoot Gen*, Keiji Nakazawa details his childhood survival of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima during World War II. As he rebuilds his life, fellow survivals that look like his deceased family members recall his trauma of the bombing. Like we see in Nakazawa's *Barefoot Gen*, Art Spiegelman also uses repetitious imagery and a fragmentary form of comic narration to represent the experience of trauma throughout *In the Shadow of No Towers*. However, while Nakazawa repeats specific imagery of the atomic bombing throughout *Barefoot Gen* based on his eyewitness testimony, Spiegelman manipulates imagery of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to reject the notion that only one specific set of images can represent a traumatic event. Thus, by the end of the second section of *In the Shadow of No Towers*, Spiegelman creates a multiplicity of images to reenact the trauma of 9/11.