

# Code, Cape, and Cause: Qahera the Superhero as Transnational Digital Activism

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## Abstract

This essay examines *Qahera the Superhero*, an Egyptian webcomic by Deena Mohamed, as a vital site of transnational feminist resistance and digital comics activism. It situates the comic within a transnational feminist framework, analyzing how it engages global discourses on women's rights while remaining rooted in the sociopolitical realities of post-Arab Spring Egypt. Through its portrayal of a veiled superheroine confronting global Islamophobia, local patriarchy, and gender-based violence, Qahera subverts both Western liberal feminist tropes and reductive representations of Muslim women. Close readings of selected comics reveal how the series negotiates the intersection of faith, gender, and resistance, while leveraging the affordances of digital media to cultivate cross-cultural solidarities among Muslim—and occasionally non-Muslim—audiences. In doing so, Qahera mobilizes the universal language of women's rights to challenge misogynistic and Islamophobic narratives. By rendering specific experiences with transnational resonance, the comic emerges as a significant artifact of digital feminist activism. Ultimately, this essay argues that Qahera not only disrupts dominant visual perceptions surrounding Muslim representation but also articulates a feminist critique with global relevance, offering a nuanced alternative to prevailing paradigms in both superhero and feminist discourse.

**Keywords:** Qahera the Superhero; transnational icons; digital activism; digital comics; feminist comics