



THE PHOENIX PAPERS  
A JOURNAL OF FANDOM AND NEOMEDIA  
STUDIES

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1  
AUGUST 2017

## FROM THE EDITOR

This edition is a long one, folks, and a long time in coming. We have many great items to offer this time around and all are solid contributions to the fields of fandom and neomedia studies.

But in this note I would like to talk about something that is not in the journal, with the permission of those involved. The mother-in-law of one of our past contributors was among those trapped by Hurricane Harvey in Houston.

Though the nation's fourth-largest city did not get the brunt of the wind, the flooding was widespread with as much as 15" in some areas, plus the overflow from the creeks and rivers that flow down through the city. She could not evacuate prior to the arrival of the rain bands due to her cancer treatment and even once given the clearance to move, she could not wade through all the water due to a feeding tube still in place.

Through social media, including some of FANS' own efforts, she was duly rescued and is now safe. If ever we are presented with similar circumstances in future, we will do so again and encourage others to join us in our efforts.

If ever I have had doubts about the legitimacy and indeed the necessity of what we do, they were just silenced forever. There are verifiably people alive today because of the sort of work our members

and contributors do. I can think of no greater laurel crown.

As with so much else among the wide array of human endeavor, this was never any part of our intended purpose, yet here we are. And here we shall remain.

Ours is not the mythological ivory tower of Academe, nor are we solely active in online environments. I would argue that each and every one of us has a human obligation to help others as best they can with whatever tools and methods are available. Early this morning, that happened, and there can be no question about the value of social media in making it happen.

Through such channels, information about rescue for people and pets was shared, shelters and homes were opened up to strangers, transportation methods were arranged, life-saving prescriptions were secured, and many other works of human decency were managed. We applaud them all.

And so, we dedicate this edition of the journal to all those who, through action on neomedia, helped save lives. Let us continue such work in future and, when the call goes out, may we all say, "Here I am."

J. Holder Bennett  
Editor-in-Chief, *The Phoenix Papers*  
Chair, FANS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Editor	
J. Holder Bennett, FANS Chair .....	ii
Table of Contents .....	iii
Fandom Conventions: A Sociological Theoretical Perspective	
Dr. Ronald Lorenzo, Prairie View A & M University.....	1
Fan Fiction as a Digital Descendant of Transformative Literature	
Elizabeth Jendrzey, Texas Women’s University .....	10
Fans Love It a Latte: The Rise and Participatory Nature of Coffee Shop AUs	
Katharine McCain, Ohio State University .....	18
Optimal Distinctiveness Needs as Predictors of Identification in the Anime Fandom	
Dr. Stephen Reysen, Texas A & M University-Commerce	
Dr. Courtney N. Plante, Iowa State University	
Dr. Sharon E. Roberts, Renison University College, University of Waterloo	
Dr. Kathleen C. Gerbasi, Niagara County Community College .....	25
The Flash and His Fantastic Fear of Ferocious Fans	
Kyle A. Hammonds, University of North Texas	
Garrett Hammonds, University of North Texas.....	33
Theories and Implications of the Proteus Effect on Cosplay	
Connor Leshner, Arizona State University .....	46
Psychological Needs Predict Fanship and Fandom in Anime Fans	
Adam Ray, Texas A & M University-Commerce	
Dr. Courtney N. Plante, Iowa State University	
Dr. Stephen Reysen, Texas A & M University-Commerce	
Dr. Sharon E. Roberts, Renison University College, University of Waterloo	
Dr. Kathleen C. Gerbasi, Niagara County Community College .....	56
The Social Character of Contemporary Board Game Culture	
Dr. Ronald Lorenzo, Prairie View A & M University....	69
The Rise of Anime and Manga Fan Conventions in the Saudi Arabian Peninsula	
Jonathan Tarbox, Prince Sultan University .....	78
The Takarazuka Revue’s Kabuki Connection: Gender Performativity as Escape and Indoctrination	
Stefanie Thomas, Ohio State University.....	84
Seeing with Shinigami Eyes: <i>Death Note</i> as a Case Study in Narrative, Naming, and Control	
Kyle A. Hammonds, University of North Texas	
Garrett Hammonds, University of North Texas.....	95

*The Phoenix Papers* is a publication of the Fandom and Neomedia Studies (FANS) Association. Our vision is to encourage, assist, and publish research on fandom and neomedia studies.

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Accuracy of Perceived Prejudice toward One's Fan Group Dr. Stephen Reysen, Texas A & M University-Commerce Dr. Courtney N. Plante, Iowa State University Dr. Sharon E. Roberts, Renison University College, University of Waterloo Dr. Kathleen C. Gerbasi, Niagara County Community College.....	122
A Brief History of Cosplay Helen McCarthy, Founder, <i>Manga UK</i> .....	130
A Brief History of Cosplay (Slides) Helen McCarthy, Founder, <i>Manga UK</i> .....	140
Linguistic Gendering of Non-Traditional Female Characters in Japanese Translations of American Superhero Movies Stefanie Thomas, Ohio State University .....	196
Identity through Performance and Play: Ernest Cline's <i>Ready Player One</i> Anelise Farris, Idaho State University.....	214
Changing Hegemonic Definitions through Vlogging: Dattoisanguy's Performance of Gendered Hardcore on <i>YouTube</i> Melissa Chen, University of San Francisco Dr. Genevieve Yuek-Ling Leung, University of San Francisco.....	222
Anime Fans to the Rescue: Evidence of Daniel Wann's Team Identification-Social Psychological Health Model Dr. Stephen Reysen, Texas A & M University-Commerce Dr. Courtney N. Plante, Iowa State University Dr. Sharon E. Roberts, Renison University College, University of Waterloo Dr. Kathleen C. Gerbasi, Niagara County Community College.....	237
Who Pays the Piper?: Japanese Post-War Legislation and the Negotiation of Cultural Identity Dr. Darren-Jon Ashmore, Yamanashi Gakuin University .....	248
"Melt into the Green": Nature and the Treatment of Evil in <i>Antichrist</i> Justin Holliday, Tri-County Technical College.....	267

Work Life Balance of Women Professionals in Media Industry in India	
Dr. Jayanthi Ramadorai, Acharya Bangalore B School.....	278
Examination of Anime Content and Associations between Anime Consumption, Genre Preferences, and Ambivalent Sexism	
Dr. Stephen Reysen, Texas A & M University-Commerce	
Dr. Iva Katzarska-Miller, Transylvania University	
Dr. Courtney N. Plante, Iowa State University	
Dr. Sharon E. Roberts, Renison University College, University of Waterloo	
Dr. Kathleen C. Gerbasi, Niagara County Community College.....	285
Hiroshima to 3.11: Manga and Anime in the Aftermath of Tragedy	
Angela Drummond-Matthews, University of North Texas at Dallas	
Deborah Scally, University of North Texas at Dallas.....	304
The Discourse of the Sci-Fi Fan Civil War of 1980 as Seen in Anime Magazines	
Dr. Renato Rivera Rusca, Meiji University .....	314
Anime Genre Preferences and Paranormal Beliefs	
Dr. Stephen Reysen, Texas A & M University-Commerce	
Dr. Courtney N. Plante, Iowa State University	
Dr. Sharon E. Roberts, Renison University College, University of Waterloo	
Dr. Kathleen C. Gerbasi, Niagara County Community College.....	327
Ukiyo-e, World War II, and Walt Disney: The Influences on Tezuka Osamu’s Development of the Modern World of Anime and Manga	
Katherine Thornton-Gibson, Oklahoma State University .....	344
Digital Cosplay and Postmodern Constructs of Community	
Dr. Ed. Hoff, Nagoya University .....	357
Routes to Fandom Discovery and Expression of Fan Identity in Furry, Anime, and Fantasy Sports Fans	
Dr. Stephen Reyson, Texas A & M University-Commerce	
Dr. Courtney N. Plante, Iowa State University	
Dr. Sharon E. Roberts, Renison University College, University of Waterloo	
Dr. Kathleen C. Gerbasi, Niagara County Community College	
Catherine Schroy, Texas A & M University-Commerce	
Amanda Gamboa, Texas A & M University-Commerce	
Jessica Gamboa, Texas A & M University-Commerce	
Tanner McCarter, Texas A & M University-Commerce .....	373
“That’s Not Funny”: Pages on How the Demon Clown of Gotham City Learned (Not) to Love and What That Has to Do with Anything, Like Maybe the American Zeitgeist	
Kyle A. Hammonds, University of North Texas .....	385
Quest Motivation Uniquely Predicts Outgroup Evaluation in Fan Communities	
Daniel Chadborn, Texas A & M University-Commerce	
Dr. Courtney N. Plante, Iowa State University	
Dr. Stephen Reysen, Texas A & M University-Commerce.....	405