



THE PHOENIX PAPERS
A JOURNAL OF FANDOM AND NEOMEDIA
STUDIES

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2
OCTOBER 2020

DRAW OUT COVID-19



**Artists Unite to Bring Hope to People
Battling the Coronavirus**

DRAW OUT COVID-19 BY JACQUELYNN WHITE

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As with so many things this year, the present edition of the journal almost didn't happen. The Coronavirus pandemic has affected everything and everyone, from canceling conferences to sudden scrambles to adapt to teaching and learning. Not all of these efforts have gone well as cases spike among students, educators, and staff from pre-kindergarten to doctoral levels.

We put out our normal CFP well before news of the spreading disease hit American news so we received several items that would have been thoroughly customary for our journal. But then things changed. So, we put out a special call for items related specifically to how people are using fandom and neomedia to understand, combat, and endure the virus, both written and visual art as can be seen in our frontispiece. We will continue to call for and accept such work in the next year. And all that was before things even really started to hit home for me and my fellow editors.

In addition to contracting the virus and becoming quite ill myself, I lost one student to the disease and several more have lost close family members. I'm sure many of you out there have similar stories. Beyond doing my best to listen and point them toward resources offered by our school, I am not emotionally equipped to help students in such a situation and I would wager that a great many of the rest of us aren't, either. But I've found that the listening is one of the important parts.

And yet we persevere. We do what we can as best we can, knowing full well that our best in one situation may be wildly

different from our best in another context. We continue our research. We talk to colleagues and loved ones. We teach and learn with whatever platforms, technologies, and media are available to us. We maintain rigorous standards while understanding that our entire species is going through a rough time and compassion must have a role in all we do.

Those two things, the listening and the compassion, those are what matter. With them, we can maintain our dignity and help others maintain theirs through anything, whether continuing the struggle or passing into the undiscovered country. I have no other advice to offer. I'm not a medical professional of any sort. I'm a historian. That's why I can say with confidence that, from the farthest reaches of our pre- and proto-human ancestors to the people living down the street right now, listening to our fellows and exercising compassion are the only ways we've ever really made meaningful, sustainable strides forward.

So, there you have it: A bit of information about this edition's contents and the tiny grain of wisdom that's sustained me these past few months. My fellows and I hope you can take something useful from this edition of *The Phoenix Papers* and that you will join us for future publications and events.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Front Matter

Frontispiece: Drawing Out COVID-19 Jacquelynn White	ii
Letter from the Editor J. Holder Bennett, FANS Chair	iii
Table of Contents	iv

Articles

Investigation of Metalbending in the Avatar Universe and Proposals for Its Geological, Chemical, and Material Based Mechanisms of Action.....	1
Cameron Kaminsky	
Cosplayers' and Non-Cosplayers' Involvement in Fandom-Based Drama	28
Dr. Stephen Reysen	
Dr. Courtney N. Plante	
Dr. Sharon E. Roberts	
Dr. Kathleen C. Gerbasi	
The Success of K-Pop in Quarantine.....	37
Emily Savidge	
Anime and Global Citizenship Identification.....	48
Dr. Stephen Reysen	
Dr. Iva Katzarska-Miller	
Dr. Courtney N. Plante	
Dr. Sharon E. Roberts	
Dr. Kathleen C. Gerbasi	
Thomas R. Brooks	
Andrew M. Tague	
No Stadium, No Sports Bar: The Challenges of Substituting Digital Fandom for In-Person Gathering for Cheeseheads	62
Lisa Beckelhimer	
Sex Differences in Parasocial Connection to Favorite Anime Characters: A Multifactor Approach	72
Dr. Stephen Reysen	
Dr. Courtney N. Plante	
Dr. Sharon E. Roberts	
Dr. Kathleen C. Gerbasi	

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.

The FANS Association and its members take no position on the opinions, beliefs, and thoughts expressed by the contributors in the following pages.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/). Copyright of individual articles and all rights related thereto remain vested in the respective authors.

Editorial Committee

J. Holder Bennett, Chair
Andrew Tague, Co-Chair
Dr. Darren-Jon Ashmore
Dr. Marc Hairston
Dr. Michael Vandehey
Jonathan Davis
Helen McCarthy
Jonathan Tarbox

Kyle Hammonds, Graduate Student Liaison
Karson Bryant, Undergraduate Student Liaison

3000 Custer Rd., Ste. 270-337
Plano, TX 75075

Cover design by Jon Huddleston



Furry Fandom as Folk Culture	93
Jay Dotson	
Behind Closed Doors: Hentai Fans’ Perceived Discrimination, Ingroup Identification, and Attitudes toward Subgroups in the Anime Fandom.....	104
Connor Leshner	
Dr. Courtney N. Plante	
Dr. Stephen Reysen	
Dr. Sharon E. Roberts	
Dr. Kathleen C. Gerbasi	
Haters, Gatekeepers, and Stans: The Effects of Social Media on Fandom and the Established Order	119
Hannah Abramson	
Deviant Fandoms: The Social Character of Terrorism Fandom Production and Consumption..	131
Dr. Ronald Lorenzo	
Dr. Bilal Sert	

Editorials

Optimism in Isolation: On Remembering to Keep Moving forward at Our Lowest Points	142
Hayes Converse	
Tiger Kingdom: Coronavirus, Conspiracy, and US Popular Culture	146
Kyle A. Hammonds	