



Meet the Team: Dr. Rebecca Rowe (Editor)

Who are you and where do you teach?

I'm Assistant Professor of Children's Literature at Texas A&M University-Commerce. I research how adaptations--both professional and fanish, especially those created by and around Disney--change character identities due to cultural, media, and audience differences.

What's your favourite city?

To visit: Orlando (my family's vacation destination growing up). That I've ever lived in: London. To settle down in: wherever my family is.

Do you have a favourite academic conference to attend?

The ones I'm attending regularly these days: Children's Literature Association Annual Conference, Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference, and the Disney, Culture and Society Research Network Annual Conference. All of them are very welcoming spaces, and I would recommend them to anyone!

What was your first Disney experience?

I'm pretty sure I've been experiencing Disney since I was born, but the first experience I actually remember was being at EPCOT, sitting on the wall outside The American Adventure, in a red-checkered dress, and burning my legs on the wall because it was so hot. I was 2 or 3, and, even though that was a bad moment, I remember I was having fun until then.

Favourite Disney Character?

I love so many of the characters, but I always come back to Merida from Brave. I aspire to her courage in speaking up for herself, and her family's relationships remind me of my own when I was a teenager.

Favourite Disney Movie/ feature?

So many great movies to choose from! I go through phases when I favor different films (often The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Lilo & Stitch), but I usually go back to The Princess and the Frog. The movie reminds me of home (in both good and bad ways), and when I'm far away, it's a comfort to return home, at least for an hour and a half.



Favourite Disney song?

I'm constantly singing Disney songs, but my favorite is "God Bless the Outcasts" from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. I think that movie, and especially that song, had a hand in shaping my desire to help "outcasts", and it serves as a reminder today that I should help others rather than myself.

Cel or CGI animation?

That depends: I think both can be quite sophisticated and magical, so deciding whether I want to watch cel or CGI generally depends on my mood.

Favourite academic book?

This changes, but currently, it's *No Kids Allowed: Children's Literature for Adults* by Michelle Ann Abate. It's been extremely helpful in my research, it's well-researched, and it's an enjoyable read. Highly recommend!

Biggest influence on your scholarship?

Marah Gubar in general, but especially her concept of the kinship model of childhood. A lot of my research examines conceptions of age, and her models of childhood are the basis of most of my work.

Why should we check out the *International Journal of Disney Studies*?

IJoDS is about Disney, which is interesting to learn about, but really, the journal uses Disney to understand larger issues around media, culture, marketing, business, tourism, and so much more. If you want to learn more about how media conglomerates affect our daily lives, then this is the journal for you!

Why a journal, why not a book series?

Our goal in founding this journal is to give Disney Studies a place to connect and grow. A journal allows more people to publish more frequently than a book series would, bringing more voices into the conversation to accelerate Disney Studies' growth.



What was the topic of your PhD.?

My PhD dissertation was about how adult characters and the conception of adulthood change when a story is adapted from children's literature to family film.

What advice would you give to a first time article writer?

Have confidence in yourself and your ideas. It's important to know what others have said before you, but the whole point of writing an article is for you to add to that conversation. So make your contribution front and center!

Why is Disney important to you?

Disney is the way that I connect to all the most important people in my life: my family, most of the friends I've made through my life, my students, etc. Disney has become a common language for generations of people, and I enjoy engaging in that language but also think it's vital we understand how that language works and what it says about our world.

What is original about the journal?

IJoDS is the first journal to focus on the Walt Disney Company, bringing together research from a variety of disciplines and fields to better understand a company that so permeates our lives.

How are you addressing DE&I?

We started with appointing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion editors who can help us navigate the best practices of publishing such an international and interdisciplinary journal focused around a company that doesn't have the best track record when it comes to questions of equity or diversity. From there, we're planning special issues focused on diversity, seeking articles with a diversity focus, and reaching out to scholars from the Global South to publish work that examines the impact of such a global brand.

Is the journal associated with an association?

IJoDS is associated with the Disney, Culture and Society Research Network, first established by Robyn in 2022.



What are you working on?

I'm currently working on turning my dissertation into a book, and Robyn and I have started a major project exploring how the Disney Princesses change from animation to live-action.

Favourite museum?

My favorite museum is the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, TX. Really, I love any museum that gives visitors the chance to be hands-on in their learning.

What are your top 5 films of all time?

I don't even know how to pick a top five, but five movies I have loved: The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Lilo & Stitch, The Princess and the Frog, How to Train Your Dragon (and all the spin-offs and sequels), and Clue (or Ocean's 8 or Knives Out; some kind of mystery).



Meet the Team: Dr. Robyn Muir (Editor)

Who are you and where do you teach?

I am a Lecturer in Media and Communication in the Department of Sociology at the University of Surrey in the UK!

What's your favourite city?

My hometown of Leicester is very special to me, I love how diverse and welcoming it is. To visit, it will be anywhere a Disney Park is! I am also excited to visit Chicago next year, as it is the home of the Chicago Bears, my NFL team!

Do you have a favourite academic conference to attend?

It's hard to choose! We just recently had our first Disney, Culture and Society Research Network conference to celebrate one year of DisNet and 100 years of Disney which was very special. I always have the best time at the Popular Culture Association (I can't wait for Chicago!) and the North East Popular Culture Association (which is virtual this year!).

What was your first Disney experience?

The one I can't remember is being shown Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs with my Grandad when I was a baby, it was his favourite film. The first one I can remember is dancing in the parade at Disneyland Paris! My favourite moment is getting engaged in front of Cinderella's Castle in Walt Disney World.

Favourite Disney Character?

I have two. Pocahontas means the world to me, and I see so much of myself in Elsa. Special shout out to Meeko for just being adorable.

Favourite Disney Movie/ feature?

This is such an impossible question for me, but Frozen II will always have a special place in my heart.

Favourite Disney song?

Show Yourself from Frozen II is the one I always listen to when I need to remind myself that I can do hard things! We Don't Talk About Bruno has a special place, and Just Around the Riverbend I could sing all the time!



Cel or CGI animation?

There is something really special about cel for me, but CGI has produced some of my favourite films too!

Favourite academic book?

Amy Davis' *Good Girls and Wicked Witches* is what introduced me to Disney Studies, and I have also been loving Shearon Roberts' *Recasting the Disney Princess in an Era of New Media and Social Movements*.

Biggest influence on your scholarship?

Amy Davis and her work made me believe I could study Disney Princesses, I have never looked back. Rebecca Hains' and Shearon Roberts' work on princesses has also been a huge inspiration for me.

Why should we check out the *International Journal of Disney Studies*?

IJoDS is exploring and analysing one of the most successful global media conglomerates in the world, and its relationship with us in society. Disney is everywhere, and the journal will really be able to showcase just how expansive Disney is, and what that means for our understandings of popular culture and wider society.

Why a journal, why not a book series?

Disney Studies is an international and interdisciplinary field that is continuing to grow. Because of this, in the past it has been really hard to find and collaborate with folks and read their work, as well as work on new projects! The journal will provide a home for Disney Studies that makes it easier for readers to find academic work on Disney, as well as future collaborators!

What was the topic of your PhD.?

My PhD analyses the images of femininity within the Disney Princess Phenomenon, from the films, to merchandise and consumer experiences.

What advice would you give to a first time article writer?

Rebecca's points are so valuable, and I would definitely echo her advice there. I would also recommend that your argument is consistent and



strong throughout the article and get peer feedback wherever you can! One of the things I am very proud of for this journal is we offer an ECR early submission route, so if this is your first time doing something like this, you can get feedback from us before you go through the peer review process!

Why is Disney important to you?

I have loved Disney since I can remember! Disney makes me feel at home, it brings me joy, and it's gotten me through some really hard times. I think that Disney films and consumer experiences have the opportunity to teach people important lessons in an engaging and accessible way, and understanding what those lessons are and what they could be in the future is integral for us moving forward as a society.

What is original about the journal?

This is the first journal dedicated to Disney Studies! It is international and interdisciplinary in scope, with ECR support and also wider commentary section to discuss all the happenings around the world relating to Disney.

What are you working on?

I have recently published my first book, *The Disney Princess Phenomenon: A Feminist Analysis*. I am in the process of writing up a project on influencer culture, as well as starting a new project on Disney Princess audiences. I am also really excited to be working with Rebecca combining our expertise on adaptation and the Disney Princesses!

Favourite museum?

I am going to say, the Selfie Museum in San Antonio, TX. I went with some DisNet friends whilst at PCA and we had a ball taking so many photos! It was a great example of identity and the self in a networked age. I am definitely waiting on a Disney Selfie Museum...

What are your top 5 movies of all time?

Oh no. Ok. I will try: Frozen II, The Princess Diaries, Legally Blonde, Atlantis: The Lost Empire and The Little Mermaid (live action).