The 12ᵗʰ Annual Harry Potter Academic Conference

October 20-21, 2023

2023

This Fully Online Conference is Hosted by

CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE
Philadelphia, PA

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HPAC Coordinators
Patrick McCauley, PhD (Chestnut Hill College)

Patrick McCauley is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy at Chestnut Hill College. He is the author of *Into the Pensieve: The Philosophy and Mythology of Harry Potter*.

Karen Wendling, PhD (Chestnut Hill College)

Karen Wendling is Associate Professor of Chemistry and the Chair of the Center for Natural and Behavioral Sciences at Chestnut Hill College. She is the author of several presentations relating to Science in *Harry Potter* and using *Harry Potter* to improve pedegogy.

Drs. Patrick McCauley and Karen Wendling teach an Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar at Chestnut Hill College entitled "The Emergence of the Hero in the Epic Voyage." We gratefully acknowledge our "Hero" students, whose excellent scholarship provided the initial spark (and ongoing inspiration) to create and continue the Harry Potter Conference.

HPAC Editorial Board
HPAC Editorial Board

Lauren Camacci, PhD
Annetta Dolowitz, PhD (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
Barbara Wech, PhD (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
Hannah Yanow, EdD (Menlo College)
Laurie Beckoff, MSc
Briana Vecchione, PhD (Cornell University), Instagram Coordinator

We would like to acknowledge that HPAC meets at Chestnut Hill College, which sits on the ancestral lands of the Lənape Haki-nk (Lenni-Lenape). We acknowledge the sacred and historical significance of these lands -- a small gesture towards recognizing, honoring, and reconciling with the Lənape Haki-nk people, whose lands and water we benefit from today.

The coordinators gratefully acknowledge all the members of the Chestnut Hill College Community, without whom the conference would not be possible.

CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE

Welcomes you to the twelfth annual
Harry Potter Academic Conference

The Harry Potter Conference is an annual academic conference held at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This interdisciplinary conference provides a forum for scholarly presentations arising out of the series of books by J.K. Rowling.

CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE, founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in 1924, in an independent, Catholic institution that fosters equality through education. Faithful to its strong liberal arts tradition, Chestnut Hill College offers academic programs of excellence in the areas of undergraduate, graduate, and continuing studies. Sponsorship of the Harry Potter Conference is just one of the many ways in which Chestnut Hill College demonstrates its commitment to its mission: to provide students with a holistic education in an inclusive Catholic community marked by academic excellence, shared responsibility, personal and professional growth, service to one another and the global community, and concern for the Earth.

Disclaimer: Chestnut Hill College is a non-profit institution. The Harry Potter Conference and Chestnut Hill College are not affiliated with J.K. Rowling, Bloomsbury Press, Warner Brothers, or Pottermore.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
Friday, October 20
All Times are Listed as Eastern Standard Time (EST)

8:30 – 9:00   **Conference Rooms are Open for Registrants**

9:00-9:10   **Opening Welcome**   Griffin Room/Raven Room

Conference Section 1 (Concurrent Sessions)

Session 1a. Textual Studies 1
The Ivory Tower, Harry Potter, and Beyond: A Sampler of the Forthcoming
Anthology   Griffin Room

Moderator: Whited

9:10-10:10: **Whited** (Editor) with authors **McLeod**, **Olver**, and **Kullmann**

 McLeod, "London as a Magical Location in the H.P. Series"
 Olver, "Eye Wonder? Reflecting Harry in Animal Eyes"
 Kullmann, "Politics of Suppression and Violence in *Fantastic Beasts*"

"Hot off the Press" (Textual Studies)

10:10-10:30, **Freeman**, Robin Ellacott and the Running Hallows: Potter Echoes in the Most Recent Cormoran Strike Novel

Session 1b. Harry Potter and Psychology   Raven Room

Moderator: McCauley

9:10-9:30, **Yanow**, "An Autoethnography: Rereading the Original Seven and Discovering the Healing Components of Escaping to a Fantasy World at the age of 35"

9:40-10, **Blatcher**, "The Cave: Diving into Darkness to Shed Light on the Evil of Lord Voldemort"

10:10-10:30, **Kohler**, "The Prisoner of Negotiation: How Harry Becomes His Own Obstacle to Success"

10:40-11:00 Break   Griffin Room/Raven Room

11:00-11:10 Introduction of the Plenary Speaker   Griffin Room

11:10-12:10 Plenary Lecture   Griffin Room

Mary Pyle, PhD, Trinity College Dublin
Harry Potter and Psychoanalysis:
An Exploration of the Extra-Ordinary Popularity of the
H.P. Series Among both Adults and Children

12:10-1:10   Lunch Break   Griffin Room/Raven Room

Conference Section 2 (Concurrent Sessions)
Session 2a. Diversity and Inclusion 1   Griffin Room
Moderator: Sutton-Ramspeck
1:20-1:40, **Sutton-Ramspeck**, "'All we'd need would be some Polyjuice Potion': The Many
     Contributions of Polyjuice to the Harry Potter Series"
1:50-2:10, **Kim**, "Monster: Undeath of the Author"
2:20-2:40, **Vecchione**, "Beyond *Harry Potter* Canon: Cultural Rebellion in the Marauders Era
     Fandom"
2:50-3:10, **Coble**, "Harry Potter and Climate Change"

Session 2b. Textual Studies 2   Raven Room
Moderator: Camacci
1:20-1:40, **Matsakis**, "Harry Potter and the Fancast Characters"
1:50-2:10, **Schott**, "Teaching Firenze, Firenze Teaching: The Pedagogical Usefulness of
     Centaurs"
2:20-2:40, **Sharkey**, "Bodies, Souls, and Spirits: Harry Potter as a Trichotomist Metaphysic?
2:50-3:10, **Martin**, "About the Hogwarts Ghosts"

3:20-2:35   Break   Griffin Room/Raven Room

Conference Section 3 (Concurrent Sessions)
Session 3a. Diversity and Inclusion 2   Griffin Room
Moderator: McLaughlin
3:40-4:00, **Blanda**, "Statute of Secrecy: Using *Harry Potter* to Explore Ideas of Diversity and
     Belonging"
4:10-4:30 **McLaughlin**, "Queering Blood Purity: Abjection, Muggleborns, and MSM"
4:40-5:00 **Turgeon, Martinez, Vicars**, "'She-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named': Harry Potter Fans'
     Identity and Behavior Change amid the Author's Transphobia"

Session 3b. Key Chapters in *Harry Potter* Raven Room

Moderator: Whited

3:40-4:00, **Whited**, Chapters 7, 8, and 9 of Chamber of Secrets: "Mudblood and Murmurs," "The Deathday Party," and "The Writing on the Wall."

4:10-4:30 **Aaron**, Chapters 17 and 18 of Prisoner of Azkaban: "Cat, Rat, and Dog" and "Moony, Wormtail, Padfoot, and Prongs"

4:40-5:00 **Kim**, Chapter 24 of Deathly Hallows: "The Wandmaker."

5:10-5:20   Day 1 Closing Remarks Griffin Room/Raven Room

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
Saturday, October 21
All Times are Listed as Eastern Standard Time (EST)

9:00-9:20   Conference Rooms are Open for Registrants

9:30-9:40 Opening Welcome Griffin Room/Raven Room

Conference Section 4 (Concurrent Sessions)

Session 4a. Textual Studies 4 Griffin Room

Moderator: Beckoff

9:40-10:00   **Beckoff**, "'On second thought, let's not go to Hogwarts—'tis a silly place': Castles in *Harry Potter* and Arthurian Literature"

10:10-10:30   **Wech, Dolowitz**, "You Kant have Light without Dark"

10:40-11:00   **Parks**, "Ancient Runes Made Easy? Hard-to-Read Writing in *Harry Potter* and *Beedle the Bard*"

Session 4b. Film, Canon, and Fandom Raven Room

Moderator: Camacci

9:40-10:00   **Lewis**, "An Encomium of Cuarón: Adaptation as Art"

10:10-10:30   **Simonetta**, Harry Potter and the Wizarding Tourist

10:40-11:00   **Martin**, "On the Significance of Harry Potter Themed Weddings"

The Raven Room closes at 11:15 following the conclusion of the session

11:10-12:10 Lunch Break Griffin Room/Raven Room

12:10-12:20   Introduction of Invited Speakers   Griffin Room

12:20-12:40 **Satterly**, "Hem Hem … I Take Umbridge with the Stain: Healing Potterheads with CON-nection"

12:50-1:10 **White**, "The Transfigurations and Significations of 'Hedwig's Theme' in an Expanding Transmedial World"

1:20-1:40 **Cromwell**, "A Shifting Legacy? The Fanfic Reaction to Trans Representation and Heteronormativity in Hogwarts Legacy"

1:50-2:05   Break

2:10-2:30 **Hager**, "Developmental Networks in Young Adult Literature: A Closer Look at *Harry Potter*"

2:40-3:00 **Lee, Heath, Jackson, Coyne**, "Reframing Past Bullying Experiences Through the Lens of *Harry Potter*"

3:10-3:30 **Puglin**, "Using Harry Potter to Frame Activism in Social Movement Organizing"

3:40-4:00 **Kavanaugh**, "Coming out of the Cupboard: A Phenomenological Exploration of Fandom and LGBTQ Identity"

4:10-4:20   Break

4:25-5:25   Potterversity Live!   Griffin Room
Join Katy McDaniel and Emily Strand, hosts of the MuggleNet podcast Potterversity, along with the show's producer Laurie Beckoff and special guests, as they record a live episode of the academic Harry Potter podcast! Audience participation is welcomed and encouraged in this interactive panel.

5:25-5:30   Closing

8:00-9:00   Conference Toast and Open Discussion with Community
            Conference Toast Room on Zoom Events

Abstracts

Feel welcome to continue the conversation with presenters in person or by email (where available).
Co-authored presentations are listed under the first author's name.
🪄 *indicates a first-time HPAC presenter*
🦉 *indicates an invited presentation*

Laurie Beckoff, MSc   lbeckoff22@gmail.com   Independent Scholar

"On second thought, let's not go to Hogwarts—'tis a silly place":
Castles in Harry Potter and Arthurian Literature

One of the most prominent medieval features of the *Harry Potter* series is the primary setting: the thousand-year-old castle that is home to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Just as King Arthur gathers his knights of the Round Table at Camelot, the Hogwarts castle is where young wizards train, tournaments are held, and Dumbledore's Army is formed. However, Arthur's knights also visit various castles on their quests, and the halls of Hogwarts have far more to offer than classes and contests. This paper applies the framework and findings of Molly Martin's 2019 book, *Castles and Space in Malory's Morte Darthur*, to the *Harry Potter* novels, investigating Hogwarts as a place of politics, community, ritual, domesticity, confinement, and battle, like the castles of Arthurian literature.

Stephanie Blanda, PhD   blanda@lvc.edu   Lebanon Valley College

Statute of Secrecy: Using Harry Potter to Explore Ideas of Diversity and Belonging

In the world of *Harry Potter*, the International Statute of Secrecy is a wizarding law which was instituted in order to hide the existence of witches and wizards from Muggles. Ostensibly, the Statute was created to protect the Muggle and wizarding worlds from each other. However, after over 300 years, is it time to revisit this decision? That is, should wizarding society continue to hide from the Muggle world, or should they come out into the light? Many of the arguments in favor of upholding the Statute echo arguments of segregation and isolation. This presentation explores how a debate on the International Statute of Secrecy can be used in the classroom to stimulate a discussion on diversity and belonging in the college setting and in society as a whole.

Alexis Blatcher, BS 🪄   alexisblatcher@yahoo.com   Independent Scholar

The Cave: Diving into Darkness to Shed Light on the Evil of Lord Voldemort

"The Cave" is one of the most evocative chapters in the *Harry Potter* series. It is the closest the reader comes to seeing what could best be described as Voldemort's inner sanctum. Examining "The Cave" through the lens of forensic psychiatry reveals that Voldemort shares traits and ways of thinking analogous to violent, sadistic personality types like Ted Bundy and John Wayne Gacy. This presentation

will demonstrate how "The Cave" paints a portrait of Voldemort's evil as rooted in a real-world pathology.

Sarah Borden Sharkey, PhD 🪄   sarah.borden@wheaton.edu   Wheaton College

Bodies, Souls, and Spirits: Harry Potter as a Trichotomist Metaphysic?

The many and varied examinations of *Harry Potter* and philosophy, including those by Bassham and by Sehon, have attempted to sketch out the metaphysics underlying the series. Is it fair to ask for these to lay out a fully coherent metaphysic, given the vivacity of the images for articulating a moral vision? Continuing in the spirit of Bassham's and Sehon's provocative possibilities and thought experiments, this presentation queries what sort of metaphysics might be at work, proposing that the series may be better read as trichotomist than dualist and that the version may be a type of creative, quasi-hylomorphic type (rather than a 'substance trichotomism'). Such a view could address challenges arising from the account of soul in *Harry Potter* as well as perhaps offering a point at which the author's literary creativity could prompt creative philosophical work.

Ann Coble, PhD   ann.coble@belmont.edu   Belmont University

Harry Potter and Climate Change

What can the *Harry Potter* series have to say about how we might approach climate change? There are no obvious connections, no direct discussions of the climate, no descriptions of Hogwarts' house-elves composting the remains of the dinners and feasts. There are no discussions by Hagrid on the importance of protecting the Forbidden Forest for future generations in the face of rising temperatures or deforestation. This presentation explores the Order of the Phoenix, Dumbledore's Army, and the strengths and skills of each House and how the lessons they impart can contribute to climate change considerations and dialogues.

Ben Cromwell, MFA 🦉   sideshowben@gmail.com   Utah Valley University

A Shifting Legacy?
The Fanfic Reaction to Trans Representation and Heteronormativity in Hogwarts Legacy

In February 2023, *Hogwarts Legacy* debuted, an open-world role-playing game (RPG) set in *Harry Potter'*s wizarding world. In the months leading up to the game's release, players were divided on whether to buy and play the title, with the LGBTQ+ community seemingly supporting a boycott, while some anti-trans activists supported the game explicitly to "troll" trans people. Upon release, *Hogwarts Legacy* quickly became the best-selling game of the year. While the controversy surrounding the game persisted, actual gameplay presented a somewhat mixed bag in terms of LGBTQ+ representation. The game lays claim to the first openly trans character in the wizarding world, as well as gender-inclusive player options and language. However, many saw this inclusion as mere tokenism, and some have critiqued the game's lone trans character, noting her name, Sirona Ryan, begins with Sir and ends in a

traditionally male name. This talk will explore fandom reaction to *Hogwarts Legacy*, including discussion of fanfic – especially trans fanfic – about the game.

Annetta Dolowitz, MPH, MSW, (ABD)   adolowitz@uab.edu   University of Alabama at Birmingham

Barbara Wech, PhD   bawech@uab.edu   University of Alabama at Birmingham

You Kant Have Light without Dark

What do the *Harry Potter* characters' personalities mean for us as readers? What could they have meant to the characters themselves?

This paper focuses on an assessment of Lord Voldemort and other dark *Harry Potter* characters (Bellatrix Lestrange, Dolores Umbridge, and Lucius Malfoy) in terms of the Dark Tetrad personality traits. These traits include narcissism, Machiavellianism, psychopathy, sadism, and spitefulness. As Dumbledore notes in Movie 3, "Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." As such, we also looked at the Light Triad of personality which includes Kantianism, Humanism, and Faith in Humanity. Examination for this set of personality traits focuses on Hermione Granger, Luna Lovegood, Arthur Weasley, and Dobby.

Louise Freeman, PhD   lfreeman@marybaldwin.edu   Mary Baldwin University (*Emerita)*

Robin Ellacott and the Running Hallows: Potter Echoes in the Most Recent Cormoran Strike Novel

Since J.K. Rowling was outed as Robert Galbraith, author of the *Cormoran Strike* mystery series, Potter scholars have shown thematic connections between the two series. Most notable are the strong plot similarities between the fourth books. The seventh Strike book, *The Running Grave*, published on September 26, 2023, contains the predicted echoes to *Deathly Hallows*. In a 24-hour period, Robin relives much of the last half of *Deathly Hallows*, alternating between the roles of Harry, Ron, Hermione, Dobby, and Neville.

Mark J. Hager, PhD 🦉 🪄   mhager@menlo.edu   Menlo College (*Emeritus)*

Developmental Networks in Young Adult Literature: A Closer Look at Harry Potter

Mentoring relationships across literary genres are most often traditional dyads of older mentors with younger protégés. Reliance upon the dyadic relationship between Harry and Dumbledore ignores potent mentoring moments Harry experiences with peers and adults. This analysis demonstrates the utility of developmental network theory to understand mentoring relationships in the *Harry Potter* series. The seven books are coded to identify Harry's mentoring moments across the series. Developmental network theory, identity development, and the concept of possible selves provide the *a priori* operational definitions for coding. Beyond Dumbledore, other adults and peers provide key

developmental mentoring roles throughout the series: protection, acceptance and confirmation, friendship, role modeling, counseling, and parenting. Thus, a networked model of developmental relationships is more illuminating than traditional dyadic analyses.

Katherine Kavanaugh, PhD   EdCare Denver

Coming Out of the Cupboard: A Phenomenological Exploration of Fandom and LGBTQ Identity
The experience of belonging to a fandom (or fan community) has been shown to heighten a sense of community and is implicated in LGBTQ identity development. Relational Cultural Theory provides a conceptual framework through which to understand the phenomenon of identifying as an LGBTQ member of the Harry Potter fandom. This qualitative study uses a feminist phenomenological approach. Seventeen self-identified LGBTQ members of the Harry Potter fandom created timelines of their fandom engagement and "coming out" journey and a semi-structured interview about their experiences to answer:

- What are the experiences of LGBTQ individuals in the Harry Potter fan community?
- How might involvement with the Harry Potter fan community have contributed to LGBTQ identity formation?
- How has belonging to the Harry Potter fan community contributed to the lives of LGBTQ individuals?

This presentation shares the five themes that emerged from a thematic analysis of the data.

Lorrie Kim   LorrieKimWriter@gmail.com   Independent Scholar

Monster: Undeath of the Author
Claire Dederer devoted a whole chapter to her in *Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma*. Putin compared himself to her. Some fans call her She Who Must Not Be Named. In more innocent times, it was easier to play with the notion that the author was "dead." But for those of us attempting to engage with the text and influence of *Harry Potter* in the fourth year of the TERFpocalypse, how do we think about her now?

Abigail Kohler, MBC   abbielk@yahoo.com   Independent Scholar

The Prisoner of Negotiation: How Harry Becomes His Own Obstacle to Success
At the beginning of *Prisoner of Azkaban*, Harry tries to manipulate Uncle Vernon into signing his Hogsmeade permission form. After this fails, Harry makes a hasty effort to ask Fudge if he could sign the form. In his final attempt, Harry clumsily asks McGonagall to let him go to Hogsmeade. When faced with negotiations, Harry neglects preparation and assumes other parties have needs that inherently oppose his own. He does not define his "best alternative to a negotiated agreement" (BATNA) and ignores that of other stakeholders. He fails to adequately frame his points and provide a constructive anchoring point for his conversations. Consequently, Harry misses opportunities for collaboration and faces outcomes

that fall short of optimal Pareto efficiency. This presentation examines Harry's negotiation tactics throughout *Prisoner of Azkaban* and provides insights on negotiation dynamics, emphasizing the importance of strategic planning and cooperation for achieving mutually beneficial outcomes.

Haeeun Lee, EdS 🪄🦉   haeinarang@gmail.com   University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Reframing Past Bullying Experiences Through the Lens of Harry Potter

Long after being bullied, many individuals find it difficult to leave their bullying experiences behind and to move forward with their lives. This study included 13 undergraduate students who reported experiencing mild to moderate bullying during childhood and who were self-proclaimed *Harry Potter* fans, having previously read the entire book series. This thesis project, under the direction of Drs. Heath, Jackson, and Coyne at BYU, used bibliotherapy and scriptotherapy. Participants selected a chapter from the *Harry Potter* series with which they were already familiar and that included bullying situations and rewrote it to insert themselves into the story with the original characters. In rewriting the chapter, participants built and maintained constructive peer relationships with familiar characters in the *Harry Potter* series and reframed their painful memories of bullying. The combined strategies of bibliotherapy and scriptotherapy support individuals' reframing past bullying experiences.

Mark-Anthony Lewis, MA   Independent Scholar

An Encomium of Cuarón: Adaptation as Art

Film has been a medium of adaptation since its earliest days. *Trip to the Moon* (1902) is an adaptation of the novels of Jules Verne. *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) was the eighth film adaptation of L. Frank Baum's novel. And famous feats of filmmaking like *Gone with the Wind* (1940), *Psycho* (1960), and *The Godfather* (1972) were all books first. *Harry Potter* fans may love or despise the Warner Bros. adaptations of their favorite novels, but any bookish nerd worth their salt will always claim "TBWB" ("the book was better"). The films often follow the novels, rather than lead in their own right, which may explain their shortcomings. But depending on the skill of the director, adaptation can be an art in and of itself, a puzzle to solve rather than a blueprint to follow. This video essay serves as an encomium (a rhetorical praise) of Alfonso Cuarón, the director of *Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004), and the artistry he brought to the films. An auteur, Cuarón injected lively creativity into the series, reminding audiences of the wonderful stories that can be told when one lives up to the challenge of transfiguring words on a page into light and sound.

David Martin, MS   david.martin55@verizon.net   Independent Scholar

On the Significance of Harry Potter–Themed Weddings

A Google search for "Harry Potter–Themed Weddings" gets hundreds of hits, some reporting on particular weddings that have happened and others offering help (ideas for your vows) or commercial products (Hogwarts House napkins) to facilitate such a wedding. One obvious reason for such themed

weddings is that the generation raised on *Harry Potter* is of marriageable age. But looking more closely, we see that many couples are looking to the *Harry Potter* novels for examples of what serious commitment means, the type of guidance that, in the past, would have been given by a religious tradition. What does this tell us about the current role of literature in general, and about *Harry Potter* in particular?

About the Hogwarts Ghosts

As we approach Halloween, the time when we are concerned with "ghoulies and ghosties, and long-leggedy beasties, and things that go bump in the night," let us take a moment to consider the Hogwarts ghosts and how they differ from other literary ghosts. The Hogwarts ghosts are much older, they are (mostly) friendly, and though they know nothing about the next world, they know a great deal about this one. In these ghosts, we have another instance of one of the author's favorite techniques: to deal with some non-physical issue, she creates or appropriates a magical thing to represent it (like the dementors representing depression). This presentation explores how the Hogwarts ghosts represent the pervasive influence of the past on the present.

Maria J. Matsakis, MA   mariajmatsakis@gmail.com   Passaic County Technical Vocational School

Harry Potter and the Fancast Characters

In the years since "TERFpocalypse," the Harry Potter fandom has taken matters of characters and plot lines into their own hands. Creating backgrounds for characters who exist only barely in the canon texts (like Mary McDonald, Marlene McKinnon, and Theodore Nott) and writing stories for characters created out of thin air (like Mattheo Riddle, Enzo Berkshire, and Grant Chapman) have become commonplace. What does the future of the fandom look like? With fans taking back the fandom, the story can live on OUTSIDE of the author's intention. Furthermore, the characteristics of the fancast characters show how fans/fan fiction authors are making the story one that they can live in.

Ian McLaughlin, MA   imclaughlin.ma@gmail.com   UNC Greensboro

Queering Blood Purity: Abjection, Muggleborns, and MSM

Blood purity in the *Harry Potter* series is widely read as a metaphor for white supremacy. However, a comparison of some characters' fear of Muggle-born characters—such as the Creevey brothers, Hermione Granger, and Mary Cattermole—to a similar fear of men who have had sex with men (MSM) in the real world reveals a queer reading that links the abject status of both Muggle-born and MSM bodies. Much like the systemic anti-Muggle-born sentiments built into the walls of Hogwarts and codified into legislation in *Deathly Hallows*, MSM face discriminatory federal policies, such as the FDA's longstanding bans and restrictions on groups with "increased risk for AIDS" since the 1980s. This May, the FDA finally integrated its donor qualification policies and regulations to apply to everyone, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Nevertheless, the abjection of both Muggle-borns and MSM continues to cause a deep-seated fear of pure-blood lineage dilution by Muggle-borns and of "dirty

blood" being transfused into a patient is still prevalent and still affects MSM more than other potential donors.

Madison McLeod, PhD   madisonmcleod@me.com   Cambridge University

Catherine Olver, PhD   catherine.olver@icloud.com   Cambridge University

Carsten Kullman, MA   carsten.kullmann@ovgu.de   Otto-Von-Guericke-University

The Ivory Tower, Harry Potter, and Beyond: A Sampler of the Forthcoming Anthology

Join volume editor Dr. Lana Whited as she moderates a panel featuring three of the contributors to *The Ivory Tower, Harry Potter, and Beyond* who discuss their contributions to this long-awaited second volume. Madison McLeod will discuss the magical locations of London, Catherine Olver will delve into the many references to the sense of sight and internalization, and Carsten Kullman will explore how magical authorities' attempts to exert control over chaos in order to tackle emerging anxieties is represented in the *Fantastic Beasts* films as paving the way for Grindelwald's ascent to power.

Mitchell H. Parks, PhD   mhparks@knox.edu   Knox College

Ancient Runes Made Easy? Hard-to-Read Writing in Harry Potter and The Tales of Beedle the Bard

The *Harry Potter* novels repeatedly represent characters as interpreting books and stories to solve problems, a clear metaphor for the kind of engaged reading that *Harry Potter* readers should perform. What happens, though, when the words themselves, let alone their meanings, are not easy to decipher? This presentation examines instances in the novels involving English-language writing in rough shape (for example, because the letters are worn away), words in other languages (such as Latin), and/or other writing systems (such as Ancient Runes) to argue that these moments can be read as metaphors for the novels' engagement with the deep past, in particular, with ancient Greco-Roman literature. The presentation also looks at messages hidden in the illustrations in the Muggle edition of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* (2008).

Jamie Puglin, PhD 🦉   jamiepgln@gmail.com   NC State University

Using Harry Potter to Frame Activism in Social Movement Organizing

Social media has changed the way that social movements operate and even the nature of activism itself. The internet has transformed methods of recruiting young people to social movements, with some organizations using fandom to reach out across social media platforms for activist recruiting. Organizers frame issues using language and symbols from fandoms in order to help make issues more accessible. This project examines the successes and failures of such organizations who utilize fandom and fan community to create a social movement organization. Using qualitative interviews with fan activists and movement leadership, this paper finds that framing issues in a way that capitalizes on a collective fan

identity, specifically of *Harry Potter* fans, successfully recruits and mobilizes young people. In this way, fan activist movements create a dual collective identity as both fans and activists.

Mary Pyle, PhD 🦉 🪄   mpyle@tcd.ie   Trinity College Dublin

PLENARY LECTURE: Harry Potter and Psychoanalysis

There has to be some reason for the extraordinary popularity of the *Harry Potter* series. This presentation uses the author's background expertise as a psychoanalyst to explore how *Harry Potter* resonates with readers in some powerful but unconscious way. Themes include good versus evil, "the Quest," growing up, death, fantasy, and alchemy. The *Harry Potter* series's skill lies in weaving all these themes together to make a coherent narrative of growth and transmutation that resonates with readers of all ages.

Brent Satterly, PhD, LCSW   basatterly@widener.edu   Widener University

Hem Hem… I take Umbridge with the Stain: Healing Half-Blood Fans with CON-nection

Since J.K. Rowling's 2020 Educational Decrees (err…tweets) that firmly established her prejudicial Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist (TERF) position, she systemically created a sociological discursive phenomenon within and among the LGBTQIA+ *Harry Potter* fandom. The Queer "Half-Blood fan" who remains in the fandom copes with what Dederer calls "the Stain," a proverbial Scarlet Letter for Potterheads. It reflects a stigma that marks them—both inside and out—with a very public curse for remaining in the fandom. This is especially poignant for Queer Half-Bloods and other fans who come from traditionally disenfranchised groups. The Stain reinforces oppressive stigmas—and urges one viable alternative for Queer Half-Bloods: The Closet. The Closet, a concept used to conceptualize a space for containing a deeply held secret, presents an even more poignantly painful alternative for Queer Half-Bloods. Going into the Potterverse closet to remain a fan may cause, for some, an internal rupture of integrity, a psychological developmental arrest, or even a traumatic response. And yet herein lies the (hor)crux—coming out as a Half-Blood fan risks at best, condemnation and at worst, losing Queer community. It is well established that seeking out others who have comparable lived experiences or hold similar beliefs can be healing of stigma, isolation, or other psychosocial symptoms of distress. This concept of universality can be explored with the Half-Blood fandom. This panel will explore how *Harry Potter* conventions and conferences provide a healing universality medium for Half-Blood fans. Through anecdotal evidence and audience engagement, Professor Umbridge will cast a spell of healing and freedom, not detention or scarring, to explore the magic that our beloved cons can and have provided to a fractured fandom.

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Teaching Firenze, Firenze Teaching: The Pedagogical Usefulness of Centaurs

One of the things students struggle with most in a college-level literature class is ambiguity. Especially for non-majors taking literature courses for a general education requirement, the fact that something could be interpreted in more than one way can be both intimidating and confusing. However, the real world is ambiguous, and encountering and even embracing ambiguity in literature can be an important part of a student's maturation as a global citizen. This paper uses *Harry Potter*'s centaurs as a case study for ambiguity in meaning. The centaurs have not often featured as a subject that can be read metaphorically. But attempting that reading makes clear that centaurs resonate on many metaphorical levels. Because the centaurs are multivalent, and because they are tertiary characters about whom students generally do not already have strong feelings, centaurs allow students to learn the value of literary elements that can have multiple meanings—some of which were probably never intended by the author who created them.

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Harry Potter and the Wizarding Tourist

This anthropological examination of fan-induced tourism at the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of *Harry Potter* focuses on the fandom's yearning to travel internationally to the studio tour, alongside their emotional connection with the tour itself. The presentation data is fresh documentation from recent fieldwork at the studio tour from July 2023 and covers fandom's feelings of "place" and "embodiment" methods via fans' travels to the studio tour space.

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Potterversity Live!

Join Katy McDaniel and Emily Strand, hosts of the MuggleNet podcast *Potterversity*, along with the show's producer, Laurie Beckoff, and special guests, as they record a live episode! There's a lot to celebrate as *Potterversity* launches a new book: *Potterversity: Essays Exploring the World of Harry Potter*. This collection of essays and conversations, co-edited by Katy and Emily and published by McFarland, pushes Potter Studies forward into a new era. Katy and Emily will discuss the volume's genesis and development and chat with some of its contributors about their essays. The panelists will share their experiences with Potter Studies, discussing current trends, challenges, and what the future of scholarship on the wizarding world might bring. Audience participation is welcomed and encouraged in this interactive panel.

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"All we'd need would be some Polyjuice Potion":
The Many Contributions of Polyjuice to the <u>Harry Potter</u> Series

Polyjuice: what a versatile potion! Beginning in the second book of the *Harry Potter* series, Polyjuice Potion plays a wide variety of important roles. Without Polyjuice, where would the chief villain of *Goblet of Fire* be? How would the trio infiltrate The Ministry of Magic or Gringotts in *Deathly Hallows*? How would we have gotten such an early example of Hermione's superior magical skills—and one of the first instances when she actively embraces rule breaking?

This presentation discusses these questions and other Poly-juicy themes like the anxieties of adolescence, questions of identity, ethical questions, trans issues, compassion, and metaphor for reading.

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"She-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named":
<u>Harry Potter</u> Fans' Identity and Behavior Change amid the Author's Transphobia

How do *Harry Potter* fans negotiate their identities after the author's inflammatory, anti-trans tweets? While many public figures have apologized upon being publicly called out, the author has only doubled-down on her stance. Her recent novel, *The Ink Black Heart*, further demonstrates her unchanged stance: in it, a character is murdered after being accused of being transphobic. Since their premiere in the 1990s, the impact of the *Harry Potter* stories has been felt on a community and an individual level, shaping fans' identities and providing a space of love and belonging to many fans of all backgrounds.

This presentation explores the feelings, identity negotiation, and boundaries of fans who see the author's stance as transphobic using survey data collected from fall 2022 to spring 2023. Preliminary findings highlight that *Harry Potter* fans and former fans adopt a variety of strategies to negotiate their identities, ranging from complete divesting from the franchise to reclaiming messages in *Harry Potter*.

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Beyond <u>Harry Potter</u> Canon: Cultural Rebellion in the Marauders Era Fandom

In recent decades, *Harry Potter* fans have actively and increasingly challenged and reshaped canonical narratives through fan-created content, including art, literature, and other creative media. This work explores elements of cultural rebellion that have emerged within the Harry Potter fandom community—specifically, by analyzing a popular subgenre of fandom known as the "Marauders Era." The Marauders Era fandom places a particular emphasis on including queer, racial, and socioeconomic representation in the wizarding world. This work is perhaps most evident in the popular fan fiction book series, *All the*

Young Dudes, which narrates the experiences of the self-titled Marauders' friend group during their education at Hogwarts. The explosive popularization of this fan fiction era demonstrates the powerful impact that *Harry Potter* fans have in further developing the wizarding world beyond the canon and, in doing so, creating community spaces that transcend controversial views held by the author and to promote a more inclusive fandom.

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The Transfigurations and Significations of "Hedwig's Theme" in an Expanding Transmedial World
John Williams' enchanting celeste motif quickly came to represent all that is magical about not only Hedwig but also Harry himself, his new school and home, and the wider wizarding world. Today, it is among one of the most widely known and easily hummed film themes in history, but on its journey over the last two decades, it has been handled by a whole host of composers who have altered, evolved, and in some cases replaced it or destroyed it beyond recognition. This paper tracks this journey, looking firstly at the signifying role taken on by different parts of the motif and its handling by Williams in various settings before analyzing the different approaches taken to by subsequent film composers. The paper also looks at examples of the theme's use elsewhere in the transmedia universe of the canonical and non-canonical wizarding world, including trailers, video games, theme parks, studio tours, and fan-made musicals, and its notable absence from the *Cursed Child* play. The cultural resonance and prominence that the theme now enjoys is inextricably linked to the global success of the franchise itself but arguably due in no small part to the magical essence of a theme created by one of the masters of modern Hollywood scoring.

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Key Chapters in Harry Potter
In this panel, three seasoned Potter scholars share their close textual analyses of several pivotal chapters in the *Harry Potter* series, including *Chamber of Secrets*'s "Mudblood and Murmurs," "The Deathday Party," and "The Writing on the Wall," *Prisoner of Azkaban*'s "Cat, Rat, and Dog" and "Moony, Wormtail, Padfoot, and Prongs," and *Deathly Hallows*'s "The Wandmaker."

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An Autoethnography: Rereading the Original Seven
and Discovering the Healing Components of Escaping to a Fantasy World at the Age of 35

This autoethnographic paper reflects on a year of Hannah's life (October 2022–October 2023), which included the first re-read of the entire original seven-book *Harry Potter* series since college. Flash to October 2022: Still recovering from a traumatic labor and delivery in January 2020, raising their first child through the isolation and prolonged sense of impending doom brought by the covid-19 pandemic, leaving a stable job at Stanford, and developing shingles, Hannah dove head-first into her favorite book series, grasping for an escape. At the age of 35, they felt as if they were soothing their 11-year-old self but also seeing new things: understanding Lily's magic and Snape's story on a deeper level and noticing the lack of attention adults were giving to children's voices throughout the series. In rediscovering her core self and by reveling in the small details, Hannah was doing her own healing work. This autoethnographic analysis process demonstrates the healing components of finding escape, respite, and joy through fantasy text at the age of 35.