

Academic Collaboration JAMS-boree!

JAMS, Anime Expo, and Fan Connections

Billy Tringali

Volume 4

When JAMS first began as a single thought in the Kyoto International Museum of Manga in 2017, I never could have imagined the incredible reach this journal would grow to have, nor the hundreds of people I would get to meet who were just as passionate about anime scholarship as I was. And when our inaugural issue came out in 2020 with only six papers and fewer than 600 views, I could never have predicted that, only a few years later, just one of JAMS' scholarly articles would be able to get 25 times that number of readers.

And so, it is with incredible enthusiasm that I welcome you to the fourth volume of the *Journal of Anime and Manga Studies*. In addition to an amazing slate of papers this year, I'm also excited to share with you the other news from 2023, including our very first academic symposium and a massive spike in readership for the journal.

JAMS @ Anime Expo

This year, JAMS partnered with Anime Expo and *Mechademia* to run the first-ever MechaJAMS symposium in July. Held at the Los Angeles Convention Center in tandem with Anime Expo 2023, this symposium consisted of nine panels, with topics ranging from the study of isekai anime to anime's use in supporting information literacy education, to the use of anime in protest art. This partnership was a massive undertaking, but one I feel was remarkably worthwhile. This was JAMS' first



representation at the scholarly side of an anime convention, and my first time being a featured speaker at such an event! As the symposium's keynote speaker, I was able to talk to a crowded room

of attendees about JAMS' founding, as well as answer their questions about publishing academic research and scholarship on anime.

Panels at the symposium were incredibly well-attended: in fact, three panels filled the room with so many excited attendees that many had to be turned away! These stellar panels were:

- **Second Impact: The Music of Evangelion II** by John Marr, David F. Lopez, and Elliott Jones.
- **The Physics of Anime** by Roman Gomez
- **Marx, Foucault, and Ouran High School Host Club** by Emilie Waggoner



Marx, Foucault, and Ouran High School Host Club



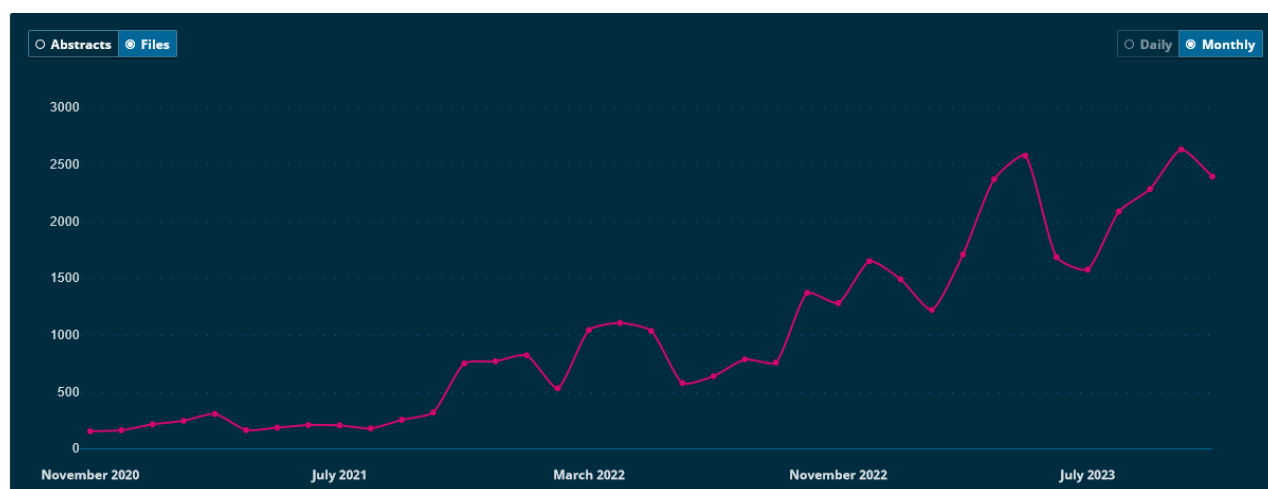
Second Impact: The Music of Evangelion

There are currently plans to move forward with collaborations between JAMS and Anime Expo to continue to host a yearly JAMS Symposium at Anime Expo, so I am incredibly thrilled to see what next year will bring! My heartfelt thanks go out to **Alex Romero**, Anime Expo's incredible Entertainment Coordinator, alongside *Mechademia's* **Frenchy Lunning** and **Ed**



Hoff, who extended the opportunity to collaborate on this symposium to JAMS, and proceeded to pass the torch to JAMS to run this symposium (hopefully!) for many years to come. I truly believe that working with fannish intermediaries, like anime conventions, is one of the best ways for scholars to engage directly with fans interested in popular culture scholarship.ⁱ See Appendix A for the complete list of all presentations at the MechaJAMS symposium.

JAMS' Readership



As anime continues its rise to prominence in academic scholarship, JAMS' readership continues to increase as well. Last year, our most-viewed article had a little over five thousand views. This year, our most-viewed article has triple that number.

Our most read articles include:

- *A Survey of the Story Elements of Isekai Manga* by Paul Price, with 15,155 total views as of November 30th, 2023.
 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.jams.v2.808>
- *The Spectacular Mundane in the Films of Studio Ghibli* by Zoe Crombie, with 8,116 total views as of November 30th, 2023.
 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.jams.v2.507>
- *Embedded Niche Overlap: A Media Industry History of Yaoi Anime's American Distribution from 1996 to 2009* by Finley Freibert, with 6,026 total views as of November 30th, 2023.
 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.jams.v1.234>
- *Boy with Machine: A Deleuzoguattarian Critique of Neon Genesis Evangelion* by Betty Stojnic, with 4,654 total views as of November 30th, 2023.
 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.jams.v2.822>
- *Japanese Anime Fandoms in the UAE: An Exploratory Study on Media Accessibility, Habits and Cultural Perceptions* by Urwa Tariq and Sarah Laura Nesti Willard, with 3,967 total views as of November 30th, 2023.
 - DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.jams.v2.774>

Special Thanks

Very special gratitude must be given to JAMS' incredible copyeditors:

Jaclyn Koshofer and Peggy Wood

Thank you for your time and expertise in the over 200 pages JAMS is publishing this year. And a massive must also go to our incredible peer reviewers, whose diverse backgrounds and scholarly insight has fostered an incredible crop of papers that I hope you, our wonderful readers, will find engaging, informative, and inspiring.

My thanks also go out to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for continuing to publish this journal, as well as to Indiana University Indianapolis, who are allowing JAMS to be, for the very first time, something I can officially work on as part of my day job.

JAMS is a labor of love that is free to submit to, free to be published in, and free to read. This is a journal created by and supported by people who give their time and knowledge because we love anime and find it so, so worthy of serious academic discussion.

I hope the papers within this volume will inspire you to love anime just as much.

Thank you for your readership.

With warmth,

Billy Tringali

Editor-in-Chief

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Notes:

ⁱ Alberto, Maria, and Billy Tringali. 2022. "Working with Fannish Intermediaries." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 38 (September). <https://doi.org/10.3983/twc.2022.2227>.

Bibliography:

Alberto, Maria, and Billy Tringali. 2022. "Working with Fannish Intermediaries." *Transformative Works and Cultures* 38 (September). <https://doi.org/10.3983/twc.2022.2227>.