

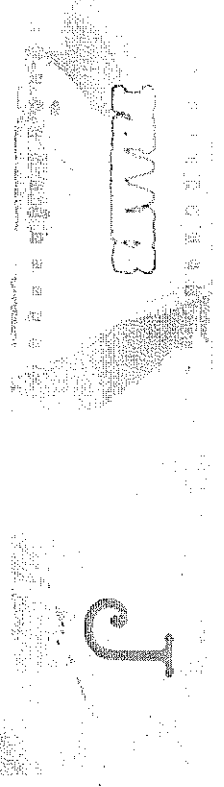
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REFEREED ABSTRACTS

Hong Kong's modern history will be used to inform and supplement the fictional treatment of the period depicted in both films.

Mike Ingham is an Associate Professor in the English Department at Lingnan University and has worked in Hong Kong tertiary education since 1993, after previous teaching experience in Britain, Italy and Spain. His areas of professional expertise are speech and drama, Hong Kong film and literature, literary linguistics and performance studies, particularly Shakespeare in performance and on film. Mike is a founder member of Theatre Action, a Hong Kong based drama group that specialises in action research on more literary drama texts. He also directs student productions in English at Lingnan University as part of the university's liberal arts mission.



Russell L. Johnson
Reading Disability in Clara Bow Films: *My Lady of Whims* (1926)

This paper derives from two observations. The first comes from film historian Andrew Bergman, who noted in a 1971 book that: 'Every movie is a cultural artifact and as such reflects the values, fears, myths, and assumptions of the culture that produces it.' The other is disability scholar Douglas C. Baynton's comment in a 2001 essay that 'Disability is everywhere in history, once you begin looking for it, but conspicuously absent in the histories we write.' Disability is also everywhere in the movies, once one begins looking for it. Accordingly, this paper looks closely at one film starring silent screen icon Clara Bow, the 1926 feature *My Lady of Whims*. In the film, Bow portrays a flapper character of the type for which she is best remembered. As a love interest, the film gives her character a psychologically impaired World War One veteran (played by frequent Bow co-star Donald Keith). Thus, the film brings together two images of disability which caused great concern in the 1920s: the 'jazz-rat flapper' and the disabled, mal-adjusted veteran. As the two work through their attraction/repulsion for each other, the 'values, fears, myths, and assumptions' of Americans in the 1920s regarding disability are clearly revealed.

Russell L. Johnson earned his PhD from the University of Iowa in 1996. His first book, *Warriors Into Workers: The Civil War and the Formation of Urban-Industrial Society in a Northern City* (Fordham University Press, 2003), won the Benjamin F. Shambaugh Prize of the State Historical Society of Iowa for the most significant book on Iowa history published in 2003. His current research project examines disability in the early twentieth century United States through the lens of Clara Bow movies. A Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Otago in New Zealand, Johnson previously taught at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey.