

COIL Reflection Spring 2022, Media and Race MCO303

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On March 21, 2022, the first meeting of the COIL initiative between the Jagiellonian University and Salem State University was held at a joint seminar session hosted by Prof. Rebecca Hains and Prof. Michał Choiński. The meeting was conducted on the Zoom platform, and it was attended by students enrolled in the Institute of the English Studies (American literature – Southern Culture and Literature seminar) and in a Media and Communication Department course taken by majors and general education students (Media and Race MCO303).

For 90 minutes, almost thirty students from Salem and from Kraków exchanged their perspectives on the issues of race, gun ownership, the representations of history and gender, as well as the war in Ukraine.

The springboard for this conversation was material selected by Prof. Hains, a documentary "Mickey Mouse Monopoly: Disney, Childhood & Corporate Culture," which students from both universities viewed to prepare for the meeting.

All the students seemed to share Disney films as part of their childhood experiences, and the immediate common ground the topic provided served as a strong foundation for their conversation as it progressed to other topics of cultural comparison.