

**De la estaca al martillo. Un viaje por los universos de Joss Whedon: The First Spanish Academic Book about the Author and His Artistic Career: Mar Rubio-Hernandez, Irene Raya Bravo, Inmaculada Casas-Delgado, and Cristina Algabe**

Our proposal for roundtable consists in the presentation of *De la estaca al martillo. Un viaje por los universos de Joss Whedon* (Diabólo Ediciones, 2015), the first academic book dedicated to the author published in Spain. This book, which was coordinated by the researchers Pedro J. García and Irene Raya Bravo, is a project of the academic association Liga de Investigadores en Comunicación (<http://www.ligaincom.com>), a research group created in Seville in 2012. The scholars who belong to this group focus their research on cultural studies and, specifically, relevant aspects of popular culture.

The book is composed of fourteen chapters where sixteen authors from the Academia and communication industries develop a thorough study of Whedon's work in different fields, from his TV productions to his incursion as a comic book writer and including his mainstream cinematic works as well as his independent films not so popular among general audiences. Based on the interests and specializations of the authors, each chapter focuses on a key element of Whedon's work associated with a particular title of his cultural production: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* is analysed as the epitome of the new millennium Quality Television; the author's ability to create expansive and transmedia universes is dissected through paradigmatic examples like *Angel* or *Marvel Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*; the female characters in *Firefly* and *Serenity* are studied to explore complex constructions of gender roles; or how his particular author's brand is noticeable in all his works, from blockbusters like *The Avengers* to more personal productions such as *In Your Eyes* as well as in quite experimental television works like *Dollhouse* or in his reinterpretation of Shakespeare's play *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Several authors of this book (María del Mar Rubio-Hernández, Cristina Pérez Algaba Chicano and Inmaculada Casas-Delgado) and one of the coordinators (Irene Raya Bravo) will take part in this roundtable, whose main objective will be explaining the great importance of Whedon's works outside their own production context and showing how universal topics and themes present in their narratives have become an interesting object of study for the Spanish Academia.