



L-Università ta' Malta
Faculty of Arts

Department
of English



University
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The Child and the Book Conference

The Role of the Child as Citizen: Constructing
Childhood through Agency and Activism

 Valletta Campus

 26–28 May 2022

Convenors: Dr Giuliana Fenech (University of Malta) | Prof. Vanessa Joosen (University of Antwerp)

Thursday 26 May

- 08:00** Breakfast Cultural Tours (Optional)
- 09:00** Registration and Coffee
- 09:30** Conference Opening
- 10:00** Keynote Speaker: Prof. Nina Christensen (Chair: Farriba Schulz)
- 11:00** Panels 1 – 3
- 12:45** Lunch
- 13:45** Panels 4 – 6
- 15:30** Coffee Break
- 16:00** Panels 7 – 9
- 17:45** Break
- 18:00** Roundtable 1 - Children's Literature Research, Publishing, Projects (Chair: Vanessa Joosen)
- 19:30** Conference Dinner (Optional)

Friday 27 May

- 08:00** Breakfast Cultural Tours (Optional)
- 09:00** Coffee and Networking
- 09:30** Keynote Speaker: Meg Rosoff (Chair: Giuliana Fenech)
- 11:00** Panels 10 – 12
- 12:45** Lunch (Optional Cultural Tours)
- 14:15** Panels 13 – 15
- 16:00** Coffee Break
- 16:30** Panels 16 – 18
- 18:15** Break
- 18:45** Roundtable 2 - European Network of Children's Literature Research (Chair: Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer)
- 19:45** Cultural Visit (Optional)



Saturday
28 May

08:00	Breakfast Cultural Tours (Optional)
09:00	Coffee and Networking
09:30	Keynote Speaker: Prof. Justyna Deszcz-Tryhubczak (Chair: Vanessa Joosen)
10:30	Panels 19 – 21
11:45	Lunch (Optional Cultural Tours)
13:15	Panels 22 – 24
14:45	Coffee Break
15:15	Panels 25 – 27
16:45	Conference Closing / CBC 2023 Announcement
17:00	Drinks (Optional)

Panel Outlines

Plenary - Aula Magna	Conference Room 1 - Meeting Room 102	Conference Room 2 - Meeting Room 103
Panel 1 – READING AS A TOOL FOR EMPOWERMENT Chair: Svetlana Kalezić-Radonjić	Panel 2 – LINKS BETWEEN MATERIALITY AND AGENCY Chair: Virginie Douglas	Panel 3 – CHILDREN AND THE POLITICAL AVANTGARDE Chair: Kenneth Kidd
<p>Inclusive Children’s Literature as a Reading for Pleasure Tool in the Primary School Classroom: A Scottish and German Comparative Case Study – Maisha Auma and Melanie Ramdarshan Bold and Farriba Schulz</p> <p>The Power to Change the World: A Call for a Children’s Crusade – Ana Margarida Ramos</p> <p>The Fun(damentals) of Reading Characters in Maltese Children’s Literature - Leanne Ellul</p> <p>The Role of Emotions in Power Struggles between Young Children and Adults: A Functional Absence of Anger in the Dutch Picturebook <i>Handje?</i> – Rosalyn Borst</p>	<p>Children’s Agency and Materiality: The Transformative Power of Picture Books – Marnie Campagnaro</p> <p>Cartonera Publishing with Children: Intergenerational Solidity and Cultural Activism – Mar Sanchez</p> <p>Typewriters as an Instrument of Empowerment for Children: Representation in Contemporary Picture Books – Katharina Egerer</p> <p>‘I was transported in thought to the scenes of childhood’: Reading Children/Children Reading – Maria Frendo</p>	<p>The Child and No Book: Political Activism in Breakbeat, Slam Poetry and the New Auditory Avantgarde – Michael Heyman</p> <p>Ageism and Activism: Generation Z Authors as Truth-Tellers – Jill Coste (virtual)</p> <p>The Transhuman and the Sea: Political Activism in Contemporary Fantasy Novels for Young Adults – Hadassah Strichnothe (virtual)</p> <p>Comic Stoicism as Reclaimed Agency: Children’s Resistance to the World of Adults in the Works of Edward Gorey – Nikola Novaković (virtual)</p>



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<p>Panel 4 – CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND BOOKS Chair: Julie McAdam</p>	<p>Panel 5 – RACE, HERITAGE, AND CIVIC PRIDE Chair: Roxanne Harde</p>	<p>Panel 6 – THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN CHILDREN’S CIVIC AGENCY Chair: Vanessa Joosen</p>
<p>Role Models Inspiring Social Change – Tracy Fletcher</p> <p><i>Envisioning Steps Towards Advancing Children’s Rights Through Books [Panel]</i></p> <p>Using Children’s Literature to Engage in Utopian Thinking - Julie McAdam</p> <p>Addressing School Violence through Children’s Literature: Initial Findings from a Teacher-researcher Collaboration in Pakistan - Rabaha Arshad</p> <p>Stews and Skeps: Intergenerational Human Rights Education with The Discovery Book Club - Rowena Seabrook</p>	<p>The Whiteness of America Green: Space, Race and Ecology in <i>Caddie Woodlawn</i> and <i>M.C. Higgins, The Great</i> – Nicholas Kleese</p> <p>Through the Streets of Babylon, Led by a Child: Race and Child Activism in Heritage Spaces – Karen Sands O’Connor</p> <p>Child Curators Inside and Outside of the Text: Young People’s Agency and Activism in Museum Kid Lit and Exhibits – Naomi Hamer and Ann Marie Murnaghan</p> <p>Propelling Mass Movements Forward: Black Lives in Anti-Racist Literature for Young People of Our Americas – Regan Postma Montañaño (virtual)</p>	<p>Meeting Shakespeare at School: Adolescent Agency in School Story Adaptation of Shakespeare – Michael Marokakis</p> <p>Wonderland Belongs to Everyone: Fusing Politics with Pedagogy to Promote Ethics of Enchantment – Anna Kérchy</p> <p>Polish Children’s Literature in the Battle for Children’s Rights – Elzbieta Jamróz-Stolarska and Bożena Hojka</p> <p>Transgressing Normative Girlhood: Conduct Manuals for Black Girls – Miranda A. Green-Barteet (virtual)</p>
<p>Panel 7 – FROM TRAUMA TO EMPOWERMENT Chair: Elizabeth Leung</p>	<p>Panel 8 – COLLABORATIONS WITH CHILDREN Chair: Nicholas Kleese</p>	<p>Panel 9 – FACILITATING AGENCY THROUGH PICTUREBOOKS Chair: Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer</p>
<p>Temporal and Spatial Shifts As A Means of Empowerment in Narratives on Child Abuse and Neglect - Katrin Dautel and Daniela Brockdorff</p> <p>Picturebooks Inspiring In-Depth Learning: Stories of Determination and Wisdom – Janice Bland (virtual)</p> <p>Adult Author, Adolescent Consciousness: Aidan Chambers’ Infusion Technique in Theory and Practice - Andrea Davidson (virtual)</p> <p>Own Your Own Story: How Transgender Children are Speaking through Picturebooks – Emanuel Madalena (virtual)</p>	<p>X is for X Ray Days, Y is for Lesser Yellow Legs, Z is for Zorro: The Making of <i>Alphabet Book</i> - Devon Arthur</p> <p>Giving Children and Adolescents’ Voice and Space through Live Radio Productions - George Cremona</p> <p>Children in the Driver’s Seat: Novelty Books as Vehicles for Power - Jodie Coates</p> <p>Here on Earth: Citizenship, Anti-Oppressive Pedagogy, and KidLitLab! - Denise Hánh Huỳnh, Nicholas Kleese, Sean Cameron Golden and Sarah Kopp-Reddy</p>	<p>The Small Girl Who Lives Next Door: Child Language Activism – Nicola Daly (virtual)</p> <p>Life Below Water in Children’s Non-Fiction Picturebooks – Kerenza Ghosh (virtual)</p> <p>Children Living Inside a Whale: Ocean Awareness and Exploitation in <i>Orphans of the Tide</i> – Marisa da Silva Martins (virtual)</p> <p>Dead Children: Inhuman Agencies Involved in Contemporary Picturebooks about Death – Soledad Véliz (virtual)</p>



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<p>Panel 10 – ACTIVIST PICTUREBOOKS Chair: Marnie Campagnaro</p>	<p>Panel 11 – THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE Chair: Anna Czernow</p>	<p>Panel 12 – CHILDREN’S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE Chair: Karen Sands O’Connor</p>
<p>Can We Not Save our Planet, or do “Green” Informational Picturebooks Invite Critical Engagement? – Krzysztof Rybak</p> <p>A Small Step for a Small Person? Scripts of Migration and “Rehoming” in Contemporary Dutch Language Picturebooks – Sara Vanden Bossche</p> <p>Activism, Veganism and Notions of EcoDemocracy in Finnish Picture Books – Marianna Koljonen (virtual)</p> <p><i>M is for Movement</i>: Children’s Text as Space for Conscientization and Political Participation – Herdiana Hakim (virtual)</p>	<p>‘What about justice?’ Girls and Agency in YA Rape Fiction – Roxanne Harde</p> <p>Thumbing Trans Noses: Exploring Trans-Positive Harry Potter Fanfiction Framed as a Deliberate Response to J. K. Rowling’s Anti-Trans Twitter Statements – Jennifer Duggan</p> <p>“I will love you as [...] justice loves to sit and watch while everything goes wrong”: Challenging the Unjust System in Lemony Snicket’s <i>A Series of Unfortunate Events</i> – Caroline Starzecki</p> <p>Children’s Rights and Justice in the United Arab Emirates: The Case Study of Maitha Al Khayat’s <i>Wadeema’s Law</i> Book – Sarah Laura Nesti Willard and Fawzia Gillani Williams (virtual)</p>	<p>Upholding Children’s Right to Participate in the Publishing Process – Nicky Parker</p> <p>Teaching Citizenship and the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals through Children’s Literature – Maria Alcantud Diaz (virtual)</p> <p>Migration, Migrants and Human Rights in Children’s Literature – Angela Balca (virtual)</p> <p>The Children’s Literature Network (CLN) and the Hidden Social Activism behind Mid-Century Children’s Literature – Amanda Allen (virtual)</p>
<p>Panel 13 – CHILDREN’S ROLE IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS Chair: Barbara Kalla</p>	<p>Panel 14 – GENDER EQUALITY AND ITS IMPACT ON CHILDREN’S LIVES Chair: Inès Naji</p>	<p>Panel 15 – THE CHILD’S PERSPECTIVE ON NATIONALISM, VIOLENCE AND RECOVERY Chair: Nina Goga</p>
<p>Education for Environmental Citizenship: The Contribution of Non-Fiction Children’s Literature Supporting the Development of Ecological Critical Thinking – Letterio Todaro and Tiziana Mascia</p> <p>Ecofeminist Picturebook Biographies on Forestation – Anto Thomas Chakramakkil</p> <p>How can Climate Change Themed Children’s Literature Prompt Greater Environmental Awareness Among Young Readers? – Ben Screech</p> <p>Roots of Rebellion: An Ecofeminist Approach to Power and Teenage Activism in Adolescent Fiction – Anne Klomberg</p>	<p>Young Adult’s Voice Against Homophobia: Same Sex Parenting in a Russian Coming of Age Novel – Iana Nikitenko (virtual)</p> <p><i>Queer AIDS Activism in Young People’s Literature [Panel]</i></p> <p>Back to the Past: Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World, the AIDS Crisis, and the Limits of Reparative Reading - Angel Daniel Matos</p> <p>Games as Activism: The Gaiety of GayBlade - Derritt Mason</p> <p>AIDS Activism and the Late-Twentieth-Century YA Novel - Gabriel Duckels</p>	<p>Fighting for a Better Future: Children’s Gangs in Post-War Germany – Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer and Jörg Meibauer</p> <p>Chilean Empowered Children in <i>Al Sure de la Alamed</i> – Sandra Leticia Oropeza Palafox</p> <p>Negotiating Hope in Recent Latinx Books about Border Crossing – Macarena García González and Evelyn Arizpe</p> <p>Creating Space for Agency and Activism through Shared Reading of a Challenging Picturebook – Tone Louise Stranden</p>



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<p>Panel 16 – ANTHROPOCENTRIC CHILD EMPOWERMENT Chair: Farriba Schulz</p>	<p>Panel 17 – NAVIGATING WAR HORRORS THROUGH STORY Chair: Smiljana Narančić Kovač</p>	<p>Panel 18 – BEYOND DISABLING STEREOTYPES Chair: Justyna Deszcz-Tryhubczak</p>
<p><i>'It's Only Human!' Anthropocentric Views in Children's and Young Adult Literature: From Ecocriticism to Ecopedagogy [Panel]</i></p> <p>Nature, Mindfulness, and Ecological Compassion in Children's Literature: Seeking Our Lost Soul through Reading and Writing - Dorota Michulka and Georgia Kalogirou</p> <p>From an Animal World to a Reconstructed Reality: Ecocriticism in European Picturebooks - Xavier Minguez López</p> <p>Reading of What Is Yet to Come: University Students Reviewing Children's Literature in the Context of the Anthropocene for the Literary Classroom in Primary Schools - Farriba Schulz</p> <p>Environmental Disaster and Human Greed: Children's Critical Responses to Eco Picturebooks - Janet Evans</p> <p>Taking Time to Consider a Better (Fairer and Greener) World: Working with Picturebooks and Creative Writing Practices in the Classroom - Georgia Kalogirou</p>	<p>The Role of the Child in a War Zone: Using a Cognitively Challenging Picturebook on War to Support Emotional and Critical Literacy Among 11–13-year-old Students – Åse Marie Ommundsen and Gro Marie Stavem</p> <p>21st-Century Children's Literature about the Holocaust and Citizenship Education: Ecocritical Reading in a Comparative Approach – Barbara Kalla</p> <p>The Anarchy of Children's Archives: Trauma and the Transnational Child - Emily Murphy</p> <p>Palestinian Children's Literature's Role in the Battle for Human Rights – Hanan Mousa (virtual)</p>	<p>Girls Defeat Patriarchy: Children Protagonists in Dalla Parte delle Bambine – Anna Travagliati</p> <p>“There is only one baby”: Activism, Ableism, and the Changeling Myth in Kenneth Oppel's <i>The Nest</i> – Elizabeth Leung</p> <p>Can Children Think Critically? Voices on Gender Stereotyping in Literature for Malaysian Classrooms – Hai Nin Yeoh and Huey Fen Cheong (virtual)</p> <p>Child Agency in Mid-Victorian Children's Periodicals: The Case of Aunt Judy's Magazine – Laurence Talairach (virtual)</p>



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<p>Panel 19 – ACTIVISM, AIRWAVES AND ARCHIVES Chair: Carly Wanner-Hyde</p>	<p>Panel 20 – EXPLORING CHILDREN’S AGENCY IN THE CLASSICS Chair: Xavier Mínguez-López</p>	<p>Panel 21 – SUBVERSION, LITERATURE AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION Chair: Gabriel Duckels</p>
<p><i>Agency, Activism, Archive and Airwaves: Challenges and Possibilities of a Childhood Studio Podcast [Panel]</i></p> <p>The Archives on the Air – Anna Mae Duane</p> <p>How a Podcast Can Make Child Agency Appear - Victoria Ford Smith</p> <p>Public Accounts of Activism: Using a Podcast to Promote Knowledge of Resistant Literacies in Black American Communities - Katharine Capshaw</p>	<p>‘She is Shedding the Light All Over’ - Lucy Maud Montgomery’s <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> – Dorota Pierlorz</p> <p>Talking to the Child or Talking with the Child? Adult Child Conversations as a Space for Child Agency in E. Nesbit’s <i>The Story of the Treasure Seekers</i> – Virginia Douglas</p> <p>You Could Give it Up: The Agency of the Female Child in Noel Streatfield’s <i>Ballet Shoes</i> – Ines Naji</p>	<p>Subversive Messages Between the Lines – Smiljana Narančić Kovač</p> <p>Change the City, Change the World: Urban Fantasy in Novels by China Mieville and Marcin Szezygielski – Maciej Skowera (virtual)</p> <p>Growing Up in the Time of Martial Law and People Power Revolution – Glenda Oris (virtual)</p>
<p>Panel 22 – CHILDREN IN THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT Chair: Victoria Ford Smith</p>	<p>Panel 23 – THE AGENTIC POWER OF AUTO/BIOGRAPHY Chair: Melanie Ramdarshan Bold</p>	<p>Panel 24 – AGENTIC CHILDREN’S LITERATURE Chair: Georgia Kalogirou</p>
<p>Adults Should Start to Listen to Us: Naidoo’s Creative Collaborations with Young People – Helen King</p> <p>Book Talk on BookTok – Sonali Kulkarni and Emilie Owens</p> <p>Citizenship through Agency – Agency through Court. Janusz Korczak, the Orphans’ Home and the Collegial Court – Anna Czernow</p>	<p>Contemporary Children’s Biography - Louise Couceiro</p> <p>“We support girls today so they change the world tomorrow”. Shaping Girls’ Agency in the Contemporary Polish Magazine <i>Kosmos dla Dziewczynek</i> (<i>Cosmos for Girls</i>) - Gabriela Niemczynowicz-Szkopek</p> <p>Portraits of the Artist as a Young Girl: The Representation of Agency in Biographies about Female Artists – Chiara Malpezzi</p>	<p><i>Active Reader - Activist Child: 100 Years and 100KM of Agentic Children’s Literature [Panel]</i></p> <p>Citizenship and Children’s Identity in <i>The Adventures of Nils</i> and <i>Scouting for Boys</i> – Björn Sundmark</p> <p>Child-Readers as Co-Authors: Magic Realist Children’s Literature and Non-Didactic Education - Aliona Yarova</p> <p>“My Brother’s Husband”: Child Agency through Seriality, Interculturality, Sexuality and Identity - Chrysogonus Siddha Malilang</p>



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Panel 25 – AETONORMATIVITY IN CHILD EMPOWERMENT PROCESSES Chair: Ana Margarida Ramos	Panel 26 – POLITICAL SUBJECTIVITIES IN CHILDREN’S LITERATURE Chair: Anna Duane	Panel 27 – DIVERSITY AND CHILDREN’S CIVIC RIGHTS Chair: Macarena García González
<p>United in Childism and Activism: Adolescence and Old Age in Anne Fine’s <i>The Granny Book</i> – Vanessa Joosen</p> <p>The Adult’s Role in Supporting or Facilitating Child Character’s Opportunities to Exercise their Rights – Nina Goga</p> <p>Zora Neal Hurston for Kids – Kenneth Kidd</p>	<p>The Figure of the Heroic Child and Formation of Political Subjectivities – Svetlana Kalezić Radonjić</p> <p>Love Me, Please Understand Me: Reading Subjectivity from Diaries and Letters of Left-behind Children in China – Shuya Su</p> <p>Snapshot of Muslim Girlhood: Negotiating Hood through the Vignette in <i>Lahore with Love</i> and <i>The Day I Became a Woman</i> – Tehmina Pirzada (virtual)</p>	<p>Representation of Agency and Children’s Rights in Contemporary Children’s Literature in Turkey – Yasemin Yilmaz Yuksek (virtual)</p> <p>Reclaiming Children’s Narratives: Children Writing for Children in Contemporary India – Ritwika Roy (virtual)</p> <p>The Portrayal of Child as an Engaging Citizen in Portuguese Children’s Literature – Sara Reis de Silva</p>



Roundtables

Roundtable 1 (26 May): Children's Literature Research, Publishing, Projects (Chair: Vanessa Joosen)

Roxanne Harde (International Research in Children's Literature and
Children's Literature Association Book Series)
Melanie Ramdarshan Bold (Words of Colour and Spread the Word)
Nicky Parker (Amnesty International)

Roundtable 2 (27 May): European Network of Children's Literature (Chair: Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer)

Małgorzata Cackowska (University of Gdansk)
Marnie Campagnaro (University of Padova)
Anna Czernow (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)
Nina Goga (Western Norway University for Applied Sciences, Bergen)
Svetlana Kalezić Radonjić (University of Montenegro)
Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer (University of Tübingen)
Jörg Meibauer (University of Mainz)
Smiljana Narančić Kovač (University of Zagreb)

Updated: 24th May 2022