

Conference Schedule

The Citizen-Child: Global Perspectives on Children's Literature and the Making of Modernity

Hosted by the University of Antwerp

In collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh and Ocean University of China

25-26 June, 2026

Location: Grauwzusters, Lange Sint-Annastraat 7, Antwerp

DAY 1, 25 June

9.00 Registration (*Grauwzusters, Lange Sint-Annastraat 7, Antwerp*)

9.30 Conference opening (*Room: Promotiezaal*)

9.45 **Keynote 1:** Nina Christensen: "On your own – together. Transnational identities and liminal characters in and around contemporary picturebooks crossing borders"
(*Room: Promotiezaal*)

10.45 Comfort break and time to switch to panels

11.00 Parallel sessions 1

1.1. Childhood and nationhood I

(*Chair: Nicola Daly, Room: Promotiezaal*)

- Shawna McDermott, "Wonder Child and Infant Muse: Scottish Girlhood on the Edge of Modernity"
- Derong Xu, "The 'Child-oriented' View and the Birth of Children's Literature in China"
- Lifang Li, "The Intellectual Enlightenment and Methodological Value of the 'New Child'"

1.2. Ethics and ideals in children's literature

(*Chair: Yasmine Motawy, Room: Chapel*)

- Chengcheng You, "Minor Forms, Major Ethics: Exploring Interspecies Modernity in Virginia Woolf's Children's Writing"
- Sin Wen Lau & Shih-Wen Sue Chen, "Criminal Children and the Question of Morality in *The Bad Kids*"
- Lidong Xiang, "Unwanted and Mediated: Childhood Ideas and Ideals in Kraus and Wang"

1.3. Multicultural societies and migration

(Chair: Gabriela Lee, Room: Basement, S.-106.1)

- Maria Balkan-Malecka, "Multiculturalism and Migration Narratives in Polish and Swiss Children's Literature: Comparative Analysis"
- Soudabeh Shokrollahzadeh & Behrouz Roustakhiz (hybrid), "The Citizen-Child Beyond Borders: Borderland Imagination in Ahmad Akbarpour's *The Emperor of Words*"

1.4. Non-Russian Children's and Young Adult Literature within the Russian Literary Field

(Chair: Sara Pankenier Weld, Room: Basement, S.-106.2)

- Kirill Maslinsky, "Children's Poetry Translated From Minority Languages Into Russian: A Story of Modernization?"
- Yauheniya Lekarevich, "Indigenous Folklore on the Russian Fantasy Market: Negotiating Models of Agency"
- Inna Sergienko (hybrid), "'The Call of the Ancestors': Constructing Ethnic Identity in Contemporary Russian Folk Horror"

12.30 Lunch

14.00 [Parallel sessions 2](#)

2.1. Picturebooks

(Chair: Sietse Hagen, Room: Promotiezaal)

- M.J. Cagumbay Tumamac (hybrid), "Erasure and Recentring of Indigenous People's Education in the *Kuwentong Katutubo* Picturebooks from the Philippines"
- Mareike Stoll, "A, B, See! Photobooks for Children in the Context of 1970s New Pedagogy in the U.S. and West-Germany"
- Lei Wen and Xu Cuiyu, "Poetic Dwelling: On the Children's Perspective and Modernity Resistance in Cao Wenxuan's Picture Books"
- Catherine Butler, "Island Engines: Domesticating *Thomas & Friends* in Britain, Sodor and Japan"

2.2. Childhood and nationhood II

(Chair: Qian Qian Xu, Room: Chapel)

- Zhang Mei, "The Making of the Modern Chinese Child: Viewed Through the Lens of Illustrations in Late Qing and Early Republican Chinese Children's Book"
- Courtney Weikle-Mills, "Anansi Stories in Modernizing Jamaica: Children's Tales from the Joseph J. Williams, SJ Ethnological Collection"

- Yiwei Li, "Chinese Children's Rhymes and the Second Sino-Japanese War"
- Margaret Chao-Chuan Chiu, "Temple Narratives and the Making of the Non-Mainstream Citizen-Child"

2.3. **Subjects · Relationships · Narratives: Reframing Understandings of Modernity in a Global Context using Children's and Young Adult Literature**
(Chair: Sarah Park Dahlen, Room: Basement, S.-106.2)

- Geraldine Balzer and Eleni Louloudi, "Children as Agents of Change: The Discomfort of Counter-Storytelling as a Form of Resistance"
- Zhiyun Zhou and Teresa Strong-Wilson, "Encountering One Another: Crossing the Boundaries of Different and Difficult Knowledges through Exploring Chinese Children's Literature in English for Classroom Teaching"
- Margaret Mackey (video), "Palimpsestic Narrative Repertoires and International Child Readers"

2.4. **Children, music and the making of modernity**
(Chair: Philip Nel, Room: S.002)

- Tyler Bickford, "Comparing children's music and children's literature as twenty-first century media industries"
- Maria Sonevytsky, "Musical Rituals of Soviet Childhood: Discipline and Gender in the Fanfare Ensemble of the Kyiv Palace of Pioneers"
- Juan Carlos Poveda, "Childhood on Screen: Representations of Childhood in the Songs of Cachembo and Pin Pon During the Popular Unity (Chile, 1970-1973)"
- Wei Zheng, "The History of 'Listening': A Modern Dimension of Chinese Children's Literary Reception"

2.5. **Civic Education and Propaganda in Russian Children's Literature**
(Chair: Svetlana Maslinskaia, Room: S.-106.1)

- Svetlana Maslinskaia, "Old Young Citizens: The Preservation of Child-Citizen Models in Russian Children's Literature (2000–2021)"
- Giulia De Florio, "Why and How to Tell a Difficult Past: Russian Children's Literature about Soviet Traumas (2000-2021)"
- Laure Thibonnier, "War time. Contemporary Russian Children's Literature Redefining Civic Education (2022-2025)"

16.00 Coffee break

16.30 **Keynote 2:** Kai Arne Hansen, "Singin' Bout a Revolution: Children's Musical Activism and Changing Times" (Room: Promotiezaal)

18.00 Conference dinner (*Universiteitsclub, Prinsstraat 13b, Antwerp*)

DAY 2, 26 June

9.00 **Keynote 3:** Shih-Wen Sue Chen, "Curiosity and Observation: Children's Literature, Science, and Modernity" (Room: Promotiezaal)

10.00 Coffee break

10.30 **Parallel sessions 3**

3.1. **Nationhood, Nostalgia, and National Identity Through Picturebooks for Young Readers**

(Chair: Lidong Xiang, Room: Promotiezaal)

- Sarah Park Dahlen, "Picturebooks about Korean Adoption in a Rapidly Evolving Geopolitical Context"
- Nicola Daly, "'Our Reo is what makes Aotearoa unique': Languages and Childhood Citizenship in 'The Lost Words'"
- Yasmine Motawy, "Picturebooks and the Changing City: Neoliberal Urbanism and Nostalgia in Contemporary Cairo"
- Frederikke Holkgard Buhl, "Staying in the Zoo: Danish Self and the African 'Other' in Jørgen Clevin's Picturebooks"

3.2. **Transformations and Negotiations: Trans/National Adaptations of Children's Narratives**

(Chair: Lifang Li, Room: Chapel)

- Hebah Uddin, "Putting Pen to Praxis: *A Bit of Earth* and the Role of the Scholar-Author in Telling New Promise in Children's Publishing"
- Christine Case, "Transmedial and Transnational Adaptations of H.C. Andersen's *Little Girls*"
- Gabriela Lee, "Despair/Desire/Love: A Threefold Adaptation of the Legend of Mariang Makiling"
- Tungabhadra Banerjee, "A Tailor-Bird Against Empire: Folklore, Childhood, and the Quiet Rebellion of *Tuntunir Boi*"

3.3. Child Figures in the Modernization of Chinese Children's Literature

(Chair: Derong Xu, Room: S.002)

- Lan Lyu, "Collective Memory, Sensory Politics, and the Parallax View: New Realist Approaches to Shaping Child Characters in Chinese Picturebooks"
- Tan Ziyang, "A Comparative Study of the Representations of Disabled Children in Chinese and Western Children's Literature in the New Century"
- Yue Wang, "Constructing Queer Boyhood: Effeminacy and Passionate Friendship in Huang Beijia's *Wo Fei Le*"

3.4. Trauma and resilience

(Chair: Reeta Kangas, Room: S.004)

- Sietse Hagen, "Traumatic Representations as Windows and Mirrors: Healing and Resilience in Padma Venkatraman's *The Bridge Home*"
- Tanja Schangin, "A Phone Connected to Nowhere? The Child, Collective Mourning and Transnational Mediations of the Wind Phone in Contemporary Picturebooks"
- Jéssica Andrade Tolentino, "Agency Otherwise: Marginalised Childhoods and the Critique of Modernity"

12.30 Lunch

14.00 [Parallel sessions 4](#)

4.1. Fairy tales and fantasy

(Chair: Vanessa Joosen, Room: Chapel)

- Jianli Jiang, "Sun Yuxiu's *Fairy Tales* Series and the Modern Construct of Child"
- Reeta Kangas, "Transcultural Fables in the Making of Nationhood: A Case Study of Early 19th-Century Finnish Children's Literature"
- Raahi Adhya, "A World Above the Sea: Translation, Sensory Detail, and Modern Childhood in Colonial Bengal"

4.2. Body and gender

(Chair: Catherine Butler, Room: S.004)

- Anna Mei Piro, "The 'valuable bodymind' and ableism in American children's books"
- Yuchen Yang, "'I Suppose I'm Made So': Gendered Modernity's Patriarchal Constraints and Griselda's Impatient Agency"
- Sun Yan, "Childhood as Method: Writing the Ecological Body in Children's Literature in the Age of Acceleration"

4.3. **(Re)Introducing the Modern Child: Critical Dialogues with Power, Shame, and Censorship**

(Chair: Lien Claeys, Room: Promotiezaal)

- Sara Pankenier Weld, "Children's Literature as Dialogue"
- Paavo Van der Eecken, "Shame On Who? Reassessing the Role of Shame in Children's Literature Research"
- Philip Nel, "Fear of a Woke Planet: Censorship, Safety, and the Child Citizen"

4.4. **Time, Space, and Belongingness in Chinese Internal Migrant Children's Literature**

(Chair: Courtney Weikle-Mills, Room: S.002)

- Yifan Qing, "Growing up in Parental Absence: Left-behind Children in Chinese Children's Literature"
- Runyuan Bai, "Silenced in Mobility: Migrant Girlhood, Voice, and Belonging in Contemporary Chinese Children's Literature"
- Ginny Qian Qian Xu, "Between Rural and Urban: Migrant Families, Space, and Belonging in Chinese Children's Literature"

15.30 **Keynote 4:** Zhu Ziqiang, "Examining Radical Postmodern Children's Literature Theories" *(Room: Promotiezaal)*

16.30 Closing notes and reception