

The Child and the Book Conference 2025



Children Shaping The(ir) World: Between
the Exceptional and the Everyday

Dates: 23-25 April 2025

Location: Mindlabs, Tilburg





Programme

Wednesday 23 April

08:00	Registration
08:45	Conference opening
09:00	Keynote Yasmine Motawy - The Rhetorical Child in a Post-Global World, chaired by Sara Van den Bossche
10:15	Break
10:45	Session 1 Panels 1-3; Peer-reviewed panel 1
12:30	Lunch + Grow Workshop for Exceptional and Everyday Scholars - Rosalyn Borst & Krzysztof Rybak
14:00	Session 2 Panels 4-6
15:45	Break
16:15	Session 3 Panels 7-9
18:15	Drinks Reception @ Raw

Thursday 24 April

08:30	Registration
09:00	Keynote Louise Couceiro - Rethinking The Exceptional: Is it Time for a Radical Reimagining in Children's Nonfiction?, chaired by Rosalyn Borst
10:15	Break
10:45	Session 4 Panels 10-12; Peer-reviewed panel 2
12:30	Lunch + Optional tour of LocHal Library
14:00	Session 5 Panels 13-15
15:45	Break
16:15	Session 6 Panels 16-18
19:00	Conference Dinner @ RistoBar29



**Friday
25 April**

08:30	Registration
09:00	Keynote <i>Edward van de Vendel</i> interviewed by <i>Helma van Lierop-Debrauwer</i> , chaired by <i>Suzanne van der Beek</i>
10:15	Break
10:45	Session 7 Panels 19-20; Peer-reviewed panel 3
12:30	Break
13:00	Closing + CBC26 Announcement
14:00	Lunch

**Saturday
26 April**

09:30	Post-conference trip to Efteling
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Day 1 - 23 April 2025

Session 1 | 10:45 - 12:30

Panel 1	Panel 2	Panel 3	Peer-reviewed panel 1
Exceptionalised Everyday Spaces Chair: Lois Burke	The Gendered Everyday Chair: Sonali Kulkarni	Exceptionally Marginalised Chair: Vanessa Joosen	Restoring the Everyday Reviewer: Sara Van den Bossche
Soumyadeep Chakraborty Free Play of the “Slippery Signifiers”: Locating Ambivalence Shashi Deshpande’s The Hidden Treasure (ONLINE)	Anna Travagliati Ordinary, Free-to-be-themselves Girls: Everyday Feminist Revolutions in Adela Turin’s <i>Ciaobambola</i> and <i>Caravioletta</i>	Oguzhan Yilmaz & Bilge Desteguloglu Beyond Borders and Barriers: Representations of Disabled Refugee Children in Literature as Everyday Heroes	Lucy Stone A Survivor’s Need for Normalcy: Exploring the Everyday in Judith Kerr’s Mog Volumes
Michalina Wesolowska Streets, Backyards, and Common Rooms: Children and Urban Space in Polish Literature in the First Half of the 20th Century (ONLINE)	Keerthi M Breaking the Mold: Resilience and Self-Expression in <i>Sadiq Wants to Stitch</i> and <i>The Unboy Boy</i> (ONLINE)	Stephanie Louise Anderson Boo...I'm a Witch: The Construction of Girlhood in Children's Fantasy Literature	Loaay Wattad Children Writing for Children: Political Agency and Resistance in Palestinian Children's Literature
Diti Vyas, Clement Kabral & Nidhi Vyas The Quotidian and the Invisible: Oral Narratives of Host Children of Uttarakhand, India	Diana Navas Everyday Heroism and Exceptionalism in Contemporary Brazilian Children's and Young Adult Literature: Gender and Social Justice Perspectives	Jingxian Wang A Culture of Silence: China’s “Black Children” under the One-child Policy and Beyond (ONLINE)	

Session 2 | 14:00 - 15:45

Panel 4	Panel 5	Panel 6
Political Childhoods Chair: Anna Czernow	Exceptional Bodies, Everyday Lives Chair: Sara Van den Bossche	Everyday Objects Chair: Georgios Chatziavgerinos
Amy Wells Innocence Up in Flames?: The Challenges and Rewards of Interpreting the Bankes Children's Manuscript Magazine	Lea Bachmann Redefining Normality: Autism, Agency and Childhood in Daniela Schreiter's Autobiographical Schattenspringer-Series	Felicia Boyages The Everyday Extraordinariness of the Bag
Astrid Yuwen Xiao Inventing A Non-typical Young Role Model in Communist China: Everyday Heroism in Comics about Lei Feng (1960s-2020s)	Angela Yannicopoulou Fighting for Inclusion: Picturebooks about Children with Dyslexia	Krzysztof Rybak A Day Is Worth a Thousand Pictures: How Everyday Life is Represented in Baby Picture Dictionaries from Poland and Germany
Chryssa Kouraki The Power of the Ordinary: Children's Empowerment for Educational Change in Picturebooks	Anna Rudolf Exceptional by Birth, Disabled by Narrative Necessity	Luca Cipriano From the Ordinary to the Extraordinary: Transformative Visions in Massimiliano Tappari's Children's Literature Books between Photography and Poetry



Session 3 | 16:15 - 18:00

Panel 7

Child or Adult?

Chair: Angela Yannicopoulou

Vanessa Joosen

How Old Is Snow White? Age Perspectives on the Most Beautiful Girl in the Kingdom

Mårten Michanek

Alfie Atkins' Accountability: Subject Formation in Gunilla Bergström's Picture Books (ONLINE)

Sonali Kulkarni

"Adultification" of YA Novels on BookTok?: Reshaping the Contours of YA Literature through Everyday Media Practices

Panel 8

Education and Citizenship

Chair: Sara Van den Bossche

Megan Swift

Barto on Behaviour: Soviet Values in Post-Soviet Classrooms and Reading

Camilla Ringkjøbing Jensen

Empowering Narratives or Imposing Expectations? The Discourse of "Children as Changemakers" in Picturebooks and Citizenship Education (ONLINE)

Simran Sadh

Democracy, Culture, and Nationhood in Children's Everyday Lives (ONLINE)

Panel 9

Role Models?

Chair: Rosalyn Borst

Eleanor Johnston, Karen A. Krasny & Sonya Sachar

Just Like Me?: Reading Activist Non-fiction for Children through Psychosocial and Historical Literacies Frameworks (ONLINE)

Rosy-Triantafyllia Angelaki

The GREAT...Little Ones: Constructing Childhood and Encouraging Hope in 21st-century Greek Children's Biographies (ONLINE)

Cristina Bartolomé Porcar

Biographical Tales or Fictional Biographies in the Spanish Context: Life Models for Children between Fiction and Nonfiction (ONLINE)

Day 2 - 24 April 2025

Session 4 | 10:45 - 12:30

Panel 10	Panel 11	Panel 12	Peer-reviewed panel 2
War Narratives Chair: Vera Veldhuizen	Young Adult Authorship Chair: Elodie Malanda	Pictured Worlds Chair: Frauke Pauwels	Unruly Selves Reviewer: Lois Burke
Nicola Kirk From Everyday to Exceptional: Representations of Syrian Child Refugees Navigating their Changing Worlds in Youth Literature	Theda Ostermann Becoming the Beloved: Body-Image and Empowerment in Chubby Reader-Insert Fanfiction	Daniel Laliena-Cantero, Lucía Hernández-Heras, Iris Orosia Campos-Bandrés, María Jesús Colón-Castillo & Rosa Tabernero-Sala Agency and childhood in contemporary picturebooks: an exploratory analysis of the White Ravens list (ONLINE)	Tallie Nikitchyuk Giving Wings to the Transgender Experience in Aiden Thomas's <i>The Sunbearer Trials</i>
Yidian Wang The War as an Atmosphere: The Daily Lives in War Narratives of Chinese Children's Novels since the New Millennium	Michael Marokakis Seeking the Exceptional in the Everyday: Critical Thinking Models in Adolescent Writing	Sarah Caré Bridging or Othering?: A Critical Analysis of Czech Intercultural Nonfiction	Caroline Starzecki Perceived Teenage Exceptionalism and the "Neurotic" Protagonist in <i>The Basic Eight</i> (1999) by Daniel Handler
Vassiliki Vassiloudi Becoming a Political Subject in Authoritarian Regimes: Peter Sis' and Eugene Yelchin's Autobiographical Accounts and their Implications for Current (A)Political Childhoods	Marisa Lazar "It Was Specifically Like, 'Your Experience as a Teenage Girl is Really Important'": Adolescent Identity Formation and Rookie	Svetlana Efimova Politics of Everyday Life in Contemporary Picturebooks by Independent Russian Authors	



Session 5 | 14:00 - 15:45

Panel 13

Authoritarianism: Defiant Narratives

Chair: Suzanne van der Beek

Sandra Oropeza

“Los niños no están en contra de nada”, ¿o sí?: Children’s Resistance to Authoritarianism in *La Composición* by Antonio Skármeta and Alfonso Ruano

Dimitrios Goulis

Resisting the Reich: Teenage Agency in Nazi Dystopian Fiction and the Politics of the Everyday

Laure Thibonnier

Literary Representation of Besieged Leningrad’s Children: Exceptional or Ordinary Children? (ONLINE)

Panel 14

Scripting the Everyday

Chair: Rosalyn Borst

Sara Pankenier Weld

The Afterlives of Anthemius of Novgorod

Maria João Lopes

Recording the Daily Life and the Discoveries of Ordinary Teenagers in Exceptional Transformation (ONLINE)

Chrysiida Psarri

Through the Children’s Looking Glasses: Exploring New Wonderlands in Children’s Diaries

Panel 15

Quotidian Exceptionalism

Chair: Marisa Lazar

Vera Veldhuizen

Anyone Could Do It, Even You!: The Inherent Formulaic Tension between the Everyday and the Extraordinary in Children’s Detective Fiction

Kayra Maes

The Child Beyond the Hero: Children’s Engagement in “Ordinary” Communities of Care in the Hero Narrative – A Case Study of Yaba Badoe’s *Wolf Light* (2019)

Burcu Çıldır

Small Acts of Heroism: Children’s Everyday Struggles and Social Impacts in Zeynep Cemali’s Children’s Novels (ONLINE)



Session 6 | 16:15 - 18:00

Panel 16	Panel 17	Panel 18
Children as Research Participants Chair: Carla Plieth	Experiences of Trauma and Violence Chair: Caroline Starzecki	Eco-imaginaries Chair: Diti Vyas
<i>Farriba Schulz, Justyna Deszcz-Tryhubczak & Giuliana Fenech</i> Children's Lifeworlds and Freedom of Expression: Insights from the Fieldwork	<i>Aleksandra Markiewicz</i> When Reality Becomes Fantasy: How Children Create Metaphorical Worlds in Response to Violence	<i>Jonas Vanhove & Simon De Backer</i> Do I Dare to Leave the Universe Alone?: Environmental Crisis, Activism and Narrative Identity in Contemporary Young Adult Fiction
<i>Ewa Maciejewska-Mroczek & Justyna Deszcz-Tryhubczak</i> Exploring Memories of Everyday Life in the Covid-19 Pandemic with Children: A "Messy" Approach	<i>Joanna Hnatów</i> "Normal is the Holy Grail and only those without it know its value": The Torment of Uniqueness in Sarah Crossan's Verse Novels	<i>Chiara Xausa</i> Children Shaping their Worlds through Collective Narratives of Climate Change
<i>Soumi Dey, Elizabeth Nelson, Nicole Smith, Shiqi Liang, Rong Zhang, Rusyda Saffana, Diyuan Peng, Yuting Mu, Zhixin Yu & Xuan Han</i> The Everyday Amazing: Children's Agency in Shaping their Identities through Shared Book Reading	<i>Tara MacMahon</i> "You don't know him": Exploring Heroism and Moral Complexity in <i>You Against Me</i>	<i>Marisa da Silva Martins</i> Towards Greener Cityscapes: Reconnecting Urban Communities to Nature in Contemporary Picturebooks (ONLINE)

Day 3 - 25 April 2025

Session 7 | 10:45 - 12:30

Panel 19	Panel 20	Peer-reviewed panel 3
Speculative Narratives of Exceptionalism Chair: Vassiliki Vassiloudi	Citizenship and Care Chair: Krzysztof Rybak	Tiny Objects, Grand Narratives Reviewer: Sara Van den Bossche
Virginie Douglas Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Children: Reconciling the Ordinary and the Exceptional in David Almond's Magical Realist novels – <i>Skellig</i> and <i>My Name Is Mina</i>	Georgios Chatziavgerinos “You are responsible for your rose”: Everyday Citizenship and the Child's Potential to Change the World in Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's <i>The Little Prince</i>	Maria Anto Performing the Role of Universal Child: The Extraordinary Case of Little Amal (ONLINE)
Ben Dammers Oscillating Spaces and Species: The Exceptional and the Everyday in Frida Nilsson's <i>Lindormars Land</i> (2020)	Anna Czernow Between Exceptional and Ordinary: Children's Citizenship in the Works by Janusz Korczak	Tian Gao Beyond the Classroom: How Tiny Books Shaped Big Learning in Meiji Japan (ONLINE)
Richard Grange The Afterlife of the Normal Child and the Fantastic Object	Frauke Pauwels ‘Just a second’: Temporalities of Care in Historical Picturebooks	

Organising Committee: Sara Van den Bossche, Suzanne van der Beek, Rosalyn Borst, Lois Burke, Sonali Kulkarni, Élodie Malanda, Amanda Parada León, Anne Sonneveld, Jessaline Tanjung, Ginny Xu

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