

HEROES, TRICKSTERS & VILLAINS IN CHILDREN'S

AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Biennial Graduate Student Children's Literature Conference

Master of Arts in Children's Literature Program UBC iSchool

Vancouver, BC / July 2-4, 2021



WELCOME

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which The University of British Columbia stands is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x^wməθk^wəỷəm (Musqueam) People.

LETTER FROM THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Welcome to Fresh from the Fight 2021!

When we first coined the title for our conference, we had no idea that we would be "holding out for a hero" for quite so long. However, despite its challenges, over the 2-year planning period for this conference, we have witnessed an immense breadth of heroism. From medical staff working tirelessly through the pandemic, protestors of racial and political injustice, to climate advocates, our conference theme has only become more relevant. These discussions of portrayals of heroics (and indeed, villainy and trickery) have only increased in children's and Young Adult media, so what better time to convene from around the world to consider how these depictions are manifesting in media and culture?

While the virtual venue of this year's conference reduces some of our typical programming, most deeply felt in the lack of a plentiful brunch smorgasbord, we have also been able to invite a larger audience, at greater convenience. We hope that everyone participating in this year's conference will emerge with even more enthusiasm for the field of children's literature, and consider joining us again for future iterations of the conference.

This conference would not have been possible without the support of our conference organizing committee, composed entirely of hardworking graduate students from the MACL program. We would also like to thank our own heroes, our faculty partners, sponsors, behind the scenes administrators, presenters, moderators, and IT supporters.

It is with our greatest pride and pleasure that we keep our promise from when we postponed the conference in early 2020 - and welcome you to three, vibrant, inspiring days of graduate student research, fresh from the fight!

Minori Kato-Hopkins, Elizabeth Leung, and Yi Luo 2020/2021 Organizing Committee Co-Chairs

ABOUT FRESH FROM THE FIGHT

Taking inspiration from how Greta Thunberg, Autumn Peltier, and Emma González have become advocates for global, social, and environmental change, more and more children, teens, and young adults are stepping into the roles of heroes and champions to some—and as troublemakers or rebels to others. For years, children's and young adult media has told the same story—from crime-fighting vigilante groups to the 'Chosen One' narrative—and as a new generation comes of age in the wake of such stories, life once again begins to imitate art. In the context of children's and young adult literature, villains often, but don't necessarily, take the form of powerful governments or adults who won't listen. At the same time, diverse narratives and nuanced figures (such as tricksters and anti-heroes) reveal ambiguities within this dichotomy of heroes, villains, and perceptions of "good" and "evil."

Fresh from the Fight: Heroes, Tricksters, and Villains in Children's and Young Adult Literature and Culture is a space to interrogate these narratives.

This three day Biennial Graduate Student Research Conference in Children's Literature marks the eighth time that students from the Master of Arts in Children's Literature Program at UBC's iSchool collaborate to host a children's literature conference. The event strives to reflect the multidisciplinary nature of the the program-jointly offered by the Department of English Language and Literatures, the Department of Language and Literacy Education, the Creative Writing Program, and the School of Information (iSchool)– addressing the full lifecycle of works from conception and publication to dissemination and criticism. The conference regularly draws graduate students from North America and around the world.

Find us blogs.ubc.ca/freshfromthefight2020/ Follow us @MACLconference

HEROES, TRICKSTERS & VILLAINS IN CHILDREN'S

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR. STEPHANIE TOLIVER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

OF MONSTERS AND HEROES: Black Girls Saying and Creating Space through Fantasy Worlds

Stephanie R. Toliver is an assistant professor of Literacy and Secondary Humanities at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Informed by her love of science fiction and fantasy texts as well as her experience as a 9th and 10th grade English teacher, Toliver's scholarship centers the freedom dreams of Black youth and honors the historical legacy that Black imaginations have had and will have on activism and social change. Specifically, she focuses on representations of and responses to Black youth in speculative fiction texts to discuss the implications of erasing Black children from futuristic and imaginative contexts and to assist teachers in imagining how classrooms can use speculative fiction as a means to center Black joy and Black dreams. Her academic work has been published in several journals, including Journal of Literacy Research, Journal of Children's Literature, Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy, and English Journal. Her public scholarship has been featured on LitHub, Huffpost, and the Horn Book.



You can learn more on her website ReadingBlackFutures and find her articles on ResearchGate.

Here is a brief summary of her keynote lecture in her own words. "The rampant murders of Black women and girls in the United States proves that this place is not safe for us. In fact, it is questionable whether any space currently known can be safe for Black girls when antiblackness and misogynoir is interwoven into the fabric of our world. For this reason, it is imperative that researchers explore the unbound landscapes Black girls create for themselves in fantastic narratives, landscapes where Black girls are situated as the heroes, instead of society's monsters."

DR. ANGEL MATOS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

NOT YOUR CHOSEN ONE: A Queering of the YA Superhero Narrative

Angel Daniel Matos is an assistant professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at Bowdoin College interested in young adult literature and media, queer studies, and screen cultures. His work broadly explores how queer children and teens are imagined in youth literature and media, and how queer youth literatures and cultural productions complicate normative understandings of teen-oriented works. His scholarship has been published in journals such as Children's Literature, Research on Diversity in Youth Literature, The ALAN Review, and QED: A Journal of GLBTO Worldmaking, in addition to a handful of edited volumes. Along with Pamela Robertson Wojcik and Paula Massood, he is one of the co-editors of Media Crossroads: Intersections of Space and Identity in Screen Cultures, published in March 2021 by Duke University Press. His monograph, tentatively titled The Utopian Possibilities of Queer Young Adult Literature and Culture, is expected to be published by Routledge in late 2021.



You can learn more on his website, Angel Daniel Matos, Ph.D., and follow him on Twitter: @ProfAngelMatos.

In this keynote, Dr. Matos will examine how queer young adult literature has destabilized normative understandings of superheroes and the chosen one narrative, focusing specifically on the trope of the "powerless teen." What happens when a queer narrative focuses not on the traditional hero, but on the ordinary and everyday people who witness these heroic acts? And how does this shift in focus push us to envision queerer, more utopian futures?

RICHARD VAN CAMP

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

WRITING FROM REVENGE TO MAKE PEACE

Richard Van Camp is a proud Tlicho Dene from Fort Smith, NWT (Northwest Territories). He is the author of 26 books in just about every genre. His novel, The Lesser Blessed, is now a feature film with First Generation Films and his graphic novel, A Blanket of Butterflies, with Scott Henderson was shortlisted for the Eisner Award.

In this keynote with best selling author, Richard Van Camp, he will give you insight into how you can use your writing from the spirit of revenge to help you find peace in your own life in a good and gentle way.



You can visit Richard on Facebook, Twitter, SoundCloud, Instagram and at www.richardvancamp.com





PROGRAM

Time PDT	Friday, July 2	Saturday, July 3	Sunday, July 4
7 - 8 a.m.		Social ∕ Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner	
8 - 9 a.m.	Welcome Message (starts at 9 a.m.)	Panel / Protests and Marches: Activism Around the Globe	Panel / In the Mirror: Monsters and the Posthuman
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Social / Speed Networking	Panel / Girl Power: Feminism and Female Identity	Panel / "Monsters" from Within
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Panel / Where the Tricksters Are: Placing Tricksters in Time and Space	KEYNOTE Dr. Angel Matos	Panel / The Writer's Studio: Creative Readings 2
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Social / Themed Discussions in Secret Hideouts	Panel / Complicating Gender Stereotypes	Panel / It Consumes Us: Depictions of Mental Health and Eating Disorders
2 - 3 p.m.	Panel / "I'm not the bad guy, kid": Villainous Stereotypes	Panel / The Writer's Studio: Creative Readings 1	Panel / Liminal Limelight: Reinventing Heroism
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Panel / Neglected No Longer: Confronting Life, Death, and Trauma	KEYNOTE Dr. Stephanie Toliver	KEYNOTE Richard Van Camp
5 - 6 p.m.	Panel / Adapting to the Times: Heroes of (Re)Imagined Futures	Panel / Tricky Tricksters: Disrupting Notions of Tricksters	Panel / Perilous Pride: Embracing Queerness in its Many Forms
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	s are in Pacific Daylight T	Swamp Watch Party	Closing Comments / Social Becoming Chaotic Artistic Geniuses with Gartic Phone

All times are in Pacific Daylight Time (PDT, UTC -7)

DAY 1 FRIDAY, JULY 2

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Welcome Message

A welcome message from the conference organizers.

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Social - Speed Networking

Before rushing into our first panel, we want to give everyone a chance to meet some of their fellow presenters and attendees. In a series of breakout rooms, you'll have a chance to meet your fellow conference goers and share your research interests. If you're a presenter, don't forget to promote your panel!

11:00 a.m- 12:00 p.m. Panel - Where the Tricksters Are: Placing Tricksters in Time and Place

Moderator - Rhys Delios | IT Support - Minori Kato-Hopkins

- Elizabeth Dulemba Tricksters and Witches: Hero and Anti-hero Stereotyping of Mythological Archetypes in Children's Literature
- Aleksandra Wieczorkiewicz Against the Adults. Artful child-tricksters in the novels by Kenneth Grahame, Rudyard Kipling and J.M. Barrie
- Roya Zendebudie "Mist and Moonlight": Navigating Borders of Identity and Space as a Trickster in Neil Gaiman's The Graveyard Book
- Ekaterina Shatalova Image of Baba Yaga in Contemporary Children's and YA Books

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Themed Discussions in Secret Hideouts

"To the Batcave, Robin!" In this social event, you'll have the chance to talk to other scholars who explore similar research interests in your own secret hideout (we're starting a petition to rename "breakout rooms" to "secret hideouts" to better match our aesthetic). We'll have room such as: fantasy, queer representation, gender, anti-heroes, picturebooks, and more. If there is a specific theme you'd like to discuss, send us an email in advance and we can make it happen!

All times are in PDT. The links to all sessions are available in the Canvas course.

DAY 1 FRIDAY, JULY 2

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Panel - "I'm not the bad guy, kid": Villainous Stereotypes

Moderator - Devon Arthur | IT Support - Elizabeth Leung

- Jessica Gibson Hooks, Scars and Madness: Disabling Stereotypes in Disney Villains
- Xen Virtue We Form Our Own: An Examination of the Queer Metaphor of Magneto
- Carrie Anne Thomas From Film to Book Adaptations: Stereotypes and Values in Wreck-It Ralph and Ralph Breaks the Internet
- Ryanne Kap The Harm of Hitting Back: How Let the Right One In and Stranger Things Exhibit and Exploit the Cycle of Bullying
- Noah Mullens Child-Sized Frank-N-Furters and Sinister Lip Sync Assassins: Rethinking the Queer Villain in Visual Media for Youth

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Panel - Neglected No Longer: Confronting Life, Death, and Trauma

Moderator - Minori Kato-Hopkins | IT Support - Logaine Navascués

- Zheng Yang An Uncertain Encounter: Resistance and Metamorphosis in World War Two Coming-of-Age Narratives
- Julie Veitch "I Am Not Afraid" Said the Little Girl to the Trembling Cat: An Exploration of the Way Trauma is Sidelined in Coraline
- Hunter Tuinstra "The Magic Was Already Here:" Spectrality of Memory and Home in the Tiffany Aching Series
- Kimberlee Bartle 'The Container, the Reaper, and the Hybrid: Exploring Necromantic Affordances in Contemporary YA Literature'

DAY 1 FRIDAY, JULY 2

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Panel - Adapting to the Times: Heroes of (Re)Imagined Futures

Moderator - Yi Luo | IT Support - Rhys Delios

• Lizette Arellano - Tracing a 'New Woman's' Journey in Young Adult Literature

• Alexandra Lukawski - I am Todd Hewitt:The Noise, Agency, and Surveillance in The Knife of Never Letting Go

- Ayu Ratna Ningtyas Barbie in Film Adaptation Barbie and The Three Musketeers (2009): Hero and Femininity
- Sharon Crossett I am become death: Problematising the hero, in young adult dystopian fiction

DAY 2 SATURDAY, JULY 3

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Social - Breakfast (Lunch or Dinner)

It's time for breakfast in Vancouver, lunchtime in Sao Paulo, and late dessert in Shanghai. Join us from wherever you are in the world with whatever food and drinks are most appropriate to chat with other conference attendees.

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Panel - Protests and Marches: Activism Around the Globe

Moderator - Sadia Zafrin Lia | IT Support - Minori Kato-Hopkins

- Jing Jin & Cathy Yue Wang Taming the Rebellious Child: The Adaptation of Nezha in Three Chinese Animations in the Socialist and Post-Socialist Eras
- Ritwika Roy From Partition to Parsippany: Revolutionary Re-imaginings of Thakurmar Jhuli in Kiranmala and The Kingdom Beyond
- Betül Gaye Dinç "I am standing like Greta!": Climate Activism Through Picturebook Engagement in Turkey
- Rabia Khokhar Children's Literature and Activism
- Summeiya Khamissa Reimagining Queer Muslim Youth: Existing as More Than a Victim

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Panel - Girl Power: Feminism and Female Identity Moderator - Sadia Zafrin Lia | IT Support - Rhys Delios

- Ciara O'Siorain 'Matriarch, may I?: Exploring Female Identity and Feminine Power Relations in the Home-Space in Children's Literature
- Anna Travagliati Mysterious and Wise, Generous and Feminist: The Witch in Dalla parte delle bambine's Picture Books
- Iana Nikitenko My Little Pony: transformation of the image of girl heroes and girlhood through the development of media franchise
- Ariel Little Wiley Trickster or Feminist Heroine?: Re-evaluating the Power and Personal Agency of Little Women's Amy March
- Rosalyn Borst Unleashing the Beast Within: The Representation of Female Anger in How to Knit a Monster

All times are in PDT. The links to all sessions are available in the Canvas course.

DAY 2 SATURDAY, JULY 3

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. KEYNOTE - Dr. Angel Matos "Not Your Chosen One: A Queering of the YA Superhero Narrative" Moderator - Minori Kato-Hopkins | IT Support - Elizabeth Leung

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Panel - Complicating Gender Stereotypes Moderator - Rhys Delios | IT Support - Elizabeth Leung

- Myrnalejandra Canales-Gutierrez Suggestions or Assertions: Themes of Childhood and Gender in Peter and Wendy and El laberinto del fauno
- Charlotte Husnjak Distressed, Demonised or Deconstructed? Presentations of femininity and abject womanhood within the 'Shrek' series.
- Caitlin Boyle Silvertongue's Daughter: Meggie, Women, and Agency in Cornelia Funke's Inkheart
- Natasha Lomonossoff Complicating Notions of Gender and Morality in Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials

• Carla Plieth - The adolescent female sexual perpetrator and her male victim in Cristina Moracho's Althea & Oliver

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Panel - The Writer's Studio: Creative Readings 1 Moderator - Elizabeth Leung| IT Support - Rhys Delios

- Shuyin Yu "Posthumorous Processing: A Love Story"
- Yukta Bajracharya "Dhoncholecha: A retelling in verse"
- Laetitia Adams "Wild Flaming Consequences"
- Tita Kyrtsakas "Robin"

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. KEYNOTE - Dr. Stephanie Toliver "Of Monsters and Heroes: Black Girls Saying and Creating Space through Fantasy Worlds"

Moderator - Elizabeth Leung | IT Support - Minori Kato-Hopkins

All times are in PDT. The links to all sessions are available in the Canvas course.

DAY 2 SATURDAY, JULY 3

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Panel - Tricky Tricksters: Disrupting Notions of Tricksters

Moderator - Vitor Faustino dos Santos | IT Support - Yi Luo

• Alex Henderson - "Socio-political Ragnarök": The resonance of the Trickster figure in queer YA fiction

- **Dylan Loring** Sheep in Wolves' Clothing: The-Not-So-Subversive Subversiveness of Stalky and Co.
- Logaine Navascués The many faces of the trickster: An ecocritical analysis of Pablo Finds a Treasure by Andrée Poulin and Isabelle Malenfant

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Social - Swamp Watch Party

"This'll be fun. We'll stay up late, swapping manly stories, and in the morning... I'm making waffles." - Donkey

Join us for a late night (or morning, or day) of relaxed socializing! Access Shrek 2 from your streaming service of choice (for Canadian folks, you can rent it on YouTube for a relatively low cost), and set it up to play on your device(s). We'll all meet in a Zoom call with cameras and audios turned off, and we will all hit "play" at the same time! Enjoy the timeless classic that inspired our conference title, while live-chatting with friendly conference peers - see you there!

DAY 3 SUNDAY, JULY 4

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Panel - In the Mirror: Monsters and the Posthuman Moderator - Elizabeth Leung | IT Support - Rhys Delios

• Cristina Sánchez - You Won't Believe This: Imaginary Monsters and Incredulous Adults in Children's Picturebooks

- Jodie Coates The Turing Text: Catfishing the Reader in The Illuminae Files
- Grace Guy Liquid Humanism: Agency and Belonging in Jeff Lemire and Dustin Nguyen's Descender

• Marisa Bordonaro - The Transformation of the Monster in Akwaeke Emezi's Pet

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Panel - "Monsters" from Within

Moderator - Rhys Delios | IT Support - Logaine Navascués

- Ikram Belaid "We are all someone's monster": disrupting the fantasy hero narrative in Bardugo's Grishaverse
- Charlotte Gross Gothic Entertainment: "Scooby Doo" and the monster within
- Anagha Gopal 'Heroic' Bodies: Representation, Relatability, and Reading against Fatphobia in Vitor Martins' Here The Whole Time

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Panel - The Writer's Studio: Creative Readings 2 Moderator - Elizabeth Leung | IT Support - Rhys Delios

- Elizabeth Dulemba "Two Lies and a Truth"
- Ciara O'Siorain "Petrified: The Return of the Medusa"
- Wafa Pathan & Julia Cardinale "Lali's Two Flavored Ice cream"

DAY 3 SUNDAY, JULY 4

12:30 p.m. - 1:30pm Panel - It Consumes Us: Depictions of Mental Health and Eating Disorders

Moderator - Sonali Kulkarni| IT Support - Elizabeth Leung

- Amy Naylor 'The girl who leaves a trail of violence in her wake': Mental Illness and the 'Haunted Girl' in Nick Lake's Whisper to Me
- Madeleine DeWelles Heroes and Villains: Representations of Eating Disorders in Young Adult Literature

2:00pm - 3:00 p.m. Panel - Liminal Limelight: Reinventing Heroism Moderator - Juli Yin| IT Support - Minori Kato-Hopkins

- Beatriz Lostalé Seijo Human or hero? Idealisation and admiration in 21st century children's books biographies
- Anna Shapland History as Magic: Reinventing Heroic Legend as a Coming-of-Age Narrative in BBC's Merlin
- Glorinel Oquendo-Pagan A Thin-Line Between Good and Evil: Morally Gray Characters in Contemporary Young Adult Fiction
- Michael Brodski "Out of the Mouth of Babes"? Greta Thunberg's Heroism vs. Adultist Thinking

• Giovanna C. Lucci - From tricksters and villains to heroes: a multimodal analysis of the characterization of Brazilian folkloric creatures in Orlandeli's Arvorada

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. KEYNOTE - Richard Van Camp "Writing from Revenge to Make Peace"

Moderator - Rhys Delios IT Support - Minori Kato-Hopkins

DAY 3 SUNDAY, JULY 4

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Panel - Perilous Pride: Embracing Queerness in its Many Forms

Moderator - Minori Kato-Hopkins| IT Support - Yi Luo

- Rhys Delios Queerness and Sympathetic Villainy in Young People's Comics
- Leila Matte-Kaci Are You a Monster Too?: Elsa and the Monster in the Closet
- Shuyin Yu Orientalism and Orientations, Silkpunk and Agender Childhoods
- Kathleen Forrester Corrupting Columbus: The Decolonial and Queer Work of Perversion in Thomas King and Kent Monkman's 'A Coyote Columbus Story'

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Closing Comments/Social - Becoming Chaotic Artistic Geniuses with Gartic Phone

Closing comments and thank yous from our conference organizers.

Wondering whether you have a future in picture books (or not)? Join us for an entirely unhelpful art exercise! We're wrapping up the conference with a light-hearted social event, where we invite you to play Gartic Phone with us! (You can also join us as a spectator, if that's more your vibe after a busy few days of socializing). We will all be connected in a Zoom call, but as always, turning your camera and/or mic on is optional! We plan to play for about an hour, or slightly longer depending on demand.

Gartic Phone is a browser game that combines the "telephone game" and pictionary - basically, participants will submit a prompt, such as "Gorilla walking the streets of Paris." The prompt will be sent to another participant, who will have to draw this prompt on their device of choice (mobile compatible, no app download needed). This drawing will be sent to the next participant, who will have to guess the prompt they are drawing...and so on, and so forth! Be prepared for a chaotic mess of drawing and guessing - and watch the prompt unravel in the face of artistic genius.

Minori will send out an invite code to the Gartic Phone game lobby once the closing comments have been concluded, so be sure to join us in the Zoom call!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Stephanie Toliver Dr. Angel Matos Richard Van Camp

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Vancouver Children's Literature Roundtable (VCLR)





THANK YOU