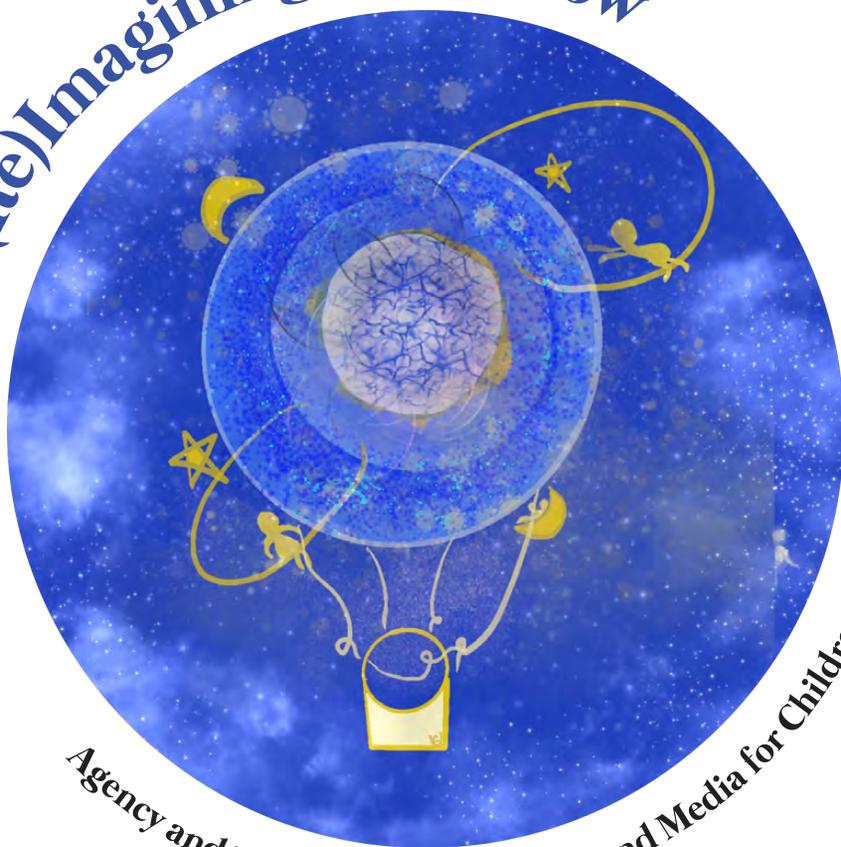


(Re)Imagining Tomorrow



Agency and Possibility in Literature and Media for Children and Young Adults

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE IN CHILDREN'S
AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE, MEDIA AND CULTURE

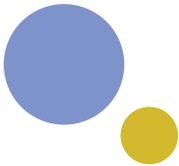
UBC iSchool

Master's in Children's Literature

June 23-24, 2023
Vancouver, BC



**We would like to acknowledge that
this conference will be held at the
University of British Columbia
on the traditional, ancestral, and
unceded territory of the
xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) People.**



WELCOME

We on the conference organizing committee are very excited to welcome you to this year's children's and young adult literature and media conference at UBC.

What do we think of when we imagine the future? That question can seem increasingly difficult to answer these days. In the face of climate change, global disruptions, and the lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the future has become more uncertain than ever before. We no longer know what is around the corner—if, indeed, we ever did. Yet, as much as there is fear in this uncertainty, there is also a measure of hope. The future can be whatever we make it.

Questions of the future have long been concerns in children's and young adult literature and media. From novels and stories focusing on the proper socialization of modern citizens to the dystopian craze of the 2000s and 2010s, the future has been imagined and reimagined countless times. As we look ahead to tomorrow, we also conceptualize the kinds of futures our children will expect to inherit. What will that world look like? Who is included in that world? And who is not?

In (Re)Imagining Tomorrow, we hope to interrogate the future of children's and young adult literature and media. We welcome our presenters and keynote speakers from around the world, joining us both in-person and virtually. The future is what we make of it, and we look forward to doing this work with you all.

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 faculty partners, sponsors, behind the scenes administrators, presenters, moderators, and IT supporters.

We are very happy to welcome you to this year's 2023 conference, (Re)Imagining Tomorrow: Agency and Possibility in Children's and Young Adult Literature and Media!

Malika Kanasheva and Jessica Lussier
2023 Organizing Committee Co-Chairs



What do we think of when we imagine the future?

A Space Odyssey (1968) projected a world in which humanity has spread to the stars, where visiting the moon is as routine as a flight across the country. *Back to the Future Part II* (1989) famously imagined hoverboards and flying cars by the year 2015. The YA dystopian boom of the late 2000s to 2010s imagined compartmentalized, constrained futures like in *The Hunger Games* (2008) and *Divergent* (2011). Today, in the face of impending climate disaster, growing economic disparity, and the lingering effects of a worldwide pandemic, the future still seems not only hard to imagine, but uncertain.

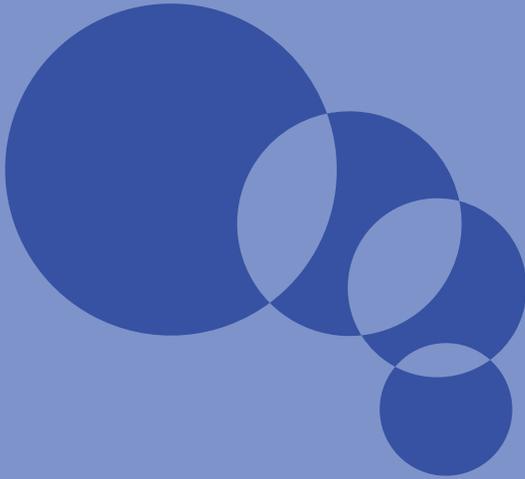
How can we imagine a future that we may not live to see? How do children grapple with inheriting a future riddled with the mistakes and problems we are generating in the present? If the children are the future, what is that future going to look like? What agency do children have to create their own future?

As we live through times of unprecedented global change—technological, cultural, and environmental—the future is no longer a distant reality. The future is created every day. *(Re)Imagining Tomorrow: Agency and Possibility in Literature and Media for Children and Young Adults* aims to discuss topics surrounding the future and its presentation in youth literature and media and showcase graduate students' academic and creative work on the matter.



[blogs.ubc.ca/
reimaginingtomorrow2023/](https://blogs.ubc.ca/reimaginingtomorrow2023/)

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Keynote Speakers

NAFIZA AZAD



Nafiza Azad is a self-identified island girl. She has hurricanes in her blood and dreams of a time she can exist solely on mangoes and pineapple. Born in Lautoka, Fiji, she currently resides in British Columbia, Canada, where she reads too many books, watches too many K-dramas, and writes stories about girls taking over the world.

Nafiza is the coeditor of the young adult anthology *Writing in Color* and author of *The Candle and the Flame*, which was nominated for the William C. Morris Award, The Wild Ones, and Road of the Lost.



GRACE DILLON

Grace L. Dillon (Anishinaabe) is a Professor in the Indigenous Nations Studies Department at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on a range of interests including Native American and Indigenous studies, Studies in Indigenous Futurisms, science fiction, Indigenous cinema, popular culture, race and social justice, and early modern literature. She is the editor of *Walking the Clouds: An Anthology of Indigenous Science Fiction* (University of Arizona Press, 2012) and *Hive of Dreams: Contemporary Science Fiction from the Pacific Northwest* (Oregon State University Press, 2003).

Her work appears in diverse journals including *Science Fiction Studies*; *Foundation: The International Review of Science Fiction*; *Extrapolation*; *The Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*; *The Journal of Science Fiction Film and Television*; *The Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*; and *Renaissance Papers*. Her co-edited volume *The Routledge Companion to Co-Futurisms* will be published in August 2023.

She is the Founder of Imagining Indigenous Futurisms Annual SF Writing Contest, now in its 14th year. She received the Science Fiction Research Association Claerson Award for service to the field. Her various service activities include Editorial Board, Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures (ASAIL); Editorial Consultant, *Science Fiction Studies*; Indigenous Studies Steering Committee, Wilfrid Laurier University Press; Editorial Advisory Board, *Palgrave Studies in Global Science Fiction*; Editorial Board, *Palgrave Science Fiction & Fantasy: A New Canon*; Editorial Board, *Journal of the Posthuman*; Editorial Board, *The New Ray Bradbury Review*; Member, International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts BIPOC Committee; Advisory Board, International Space Station Ethno-ISS.





SCHEDULE

DAY 1

Friday, June 23

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Henry Angus Building (HA 334)

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM CREATIVE KEYNOTE: [NAFIZA AZAD](#) (HA 334)

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM COFFEE BREAK

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

PANEL 1A (HA 334)

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE
IMAGINARY: UTOPIAS AND
DYSTOPIAS IN SPECULATIVE
FICTION

Weiyang Yu / Communist Utopia
and the Anthropocene Narratives:
Children's Sci-fi Film and Literature
from Mao's Period to the Late
1990s in China

K.A. Wiggins / After 'The End':
Building Brighter Futures in
Apocalyptic, Dystopian &
Speculative YA

Rehan Naqvi / A Star in the Mind
Zhiyun Zhou / Children in
Dystopian Fiction: Agents of
Destruction and Hope for Human
Civilization

Emilie N. Curtis / "A Future and a
Past All Bundled Up': The
Simultaneity and Continuity of Past,
Present, and Future in Cherie
Dimaline's *The Marrow Thieves*

PANEL 1B (HA 335)

DECOLONIZING THE FUTURE:
RECLAIMING, REMEMBERING,
AND REIMAGINING TOMORROWS

Friday Okpo / The Postcolonial
Child, Subalternity and the Quest
for Agency: Reading Elnathan
John's *Born on a Tuesday*

Maryam Mohammadkhani /
The Face of the Future in Iranian
Young Adult Novels

Malika Kanasheva / Kitaskinaw
2350: Reclaiming Indigenous
Futures and Storytelling

Athira Mohan / Decolonization in
Canadian Children's Literature:
Beyond Reclamation and
Remembering

DAY 1

Friday, June 23

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM BREAK &
NETWORKING (HA 334)

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

PANEL 2A (HA 334)

EDUCATION, LANGUAGE, AND
LITERACY: CREATING A
BETTER WORLD, ONE CHILD
AT A TIME

Giovanna Corrêa Lucci /
Different Stories and Multiple
Truths: Picturebooks as Tools for
Discussing Language and
Literacy with Children

Abby Solano / Funny Cause It's
True: The Power of Political
Cartoons to Help Students
Process the Present and
Influence the Future

Cheng-Ting Chang / The
Agential Child Protagonist in
Death-Themed Picturebooks in
the United Kingdom, the United
States, Japan, and Taiwan

Vanessa Bedford Gill / Turning
the Page: A Critical Content
Analysis of White Space in the
Representation of Libraries in
Contemporary Children's
Picturebooks

PANEL 2B (HA 335)

TRAVERSING THE
MULTI-(MEDIA-)VERSE: VIDEO
GAMES, COMIC BOOKS, AND
MORE

Glafira Soldatova / "Your Roots
Will Reveal You": Imagining
Futurities in Erzya Comics

Yu Sijia / A Study on the Image of
Nezha: The Early Voice,
Contemporary Development, and
Future Construction of Chinese
Children's Rights Consciousness

Crystal Hurdle /
#WhatWouldJaredDo: The Fallout
of Fandom (excerpt of a verse
novel)

Yang Xinye / Cosmic Horror as
Recreation: The Aesthetics and Fan
Culture of the "Call of Cthulhu"
TRPG

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM **SOCIAL EVENT** - UBC iSchool Lounge

DAY 2

Saturday, June 24

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTION

Henry Angus Building (HA 334)

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

PANEL 1A (HA 334)

“NOTHING CAN BREAK ME”:
TRAUMA, RESILIENCE, AND THE
IMPORTANCE OF
REPRESENTATION

Erin Marty / Trauma and Female
Anger in YA/NA Fantasy: Sarah J.
Maas' *A Court of Silver Flames*

Isabella Fortino / The Art of
Rebellion

Simran Kaur Kaler / Why is the
comment section concerned with
what she was wearing?: Combating
the Bystander Effect in Young
Adult Novels' Portrayal of Sexual
Assault Victimhood

Ritobina Chakraborty / Disability
and the Politics of Representation
in *Wednesday*

Hippo / Rescue Plan

PANEL 1B (HA 335)

“IT'S ALIVE!": MAN, MONSTERS,
AND MACHINES

Shubhneet Kaur Kharbanda /
Agency in Human-Machine

Encounters in Children's Literature:
A Posthumanist Perspective

Swarnali Roy / Birth of a
“Monster”: A Queer Reading of
Post-Humanist Literature

Yi Luo / Animal, Human,
Environment and Cyborg in
Gyo: A Posthuman Approach

Ryan Haddad / Posthuman
Pinocchio: Guillermo del Toro's
Posthuman Child

Protichi Chatterjee / Halfway
Tan-Tan and Possibilities of
Future(s) in Nalo Hopkinson's
Midnight Robber

Layla Khan / Digital Culture and
the Construction of the Self

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ACADEMIC KEYNOTE:

DR. GRACE DILLON (HA 334)

DAY 2

Saturday, June 24

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH - UBC iSchool Lounge

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

PANEL 2A (HA 334)

“THE CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE”: CLIMATE CHANGE, ECO-CRITICISM, AND CHILD ACTIVISM

Frida Sofia Mendoza de

la Luz / Ecological Awareness in Popol Vuh’s Book Adaptation

Jainab Tabassum Banu / The Tree Shouldn’t Be Happy: An Ecofeminist Reading of Silverstein’s *The Giving Tree*

Elanur Eroglu Williams / The Environmental Call to Action in *Seeds of Change* and *The Promise*

Cindy Zhang / How Can Climate Fiction Impact Perceptions of Real-World Issues? Attributions of Responsibility for Climate Change in Catherynne M. Valente’s *The Past Is Red*

Ibha Gupta / Saving the Jungle and Other Childish Pursuits: Examining Environmental Activism in Indian Children’s Picture Books

PANEL 2B (HA 335)

DARING TO DREAM: QUEER ADVENTURES AND GENDER IDENTITY

Roxanne Tan / The ‘Real-Life’ Girl Hero: Media Spectacle of the Girl as Hero Through Comparative Analysis of Agnes Chow and Katniss Everdeen of *The Hunger Games*

Gaetano Lacalandra / “Avere il futuro alle spalle”: An Italian TransTeenager Girl Struggling with the Future in *Un’Alice come un’altra*

Anna Travagliati / Looking for a Feminist Planet: Sci-fi and Gender Issues in Adela Turin’s *Pianeta Mary*

Sebastian Hu / Ugly Feelings, Temporality, and Homosexuality in the *Harry Potter* Series

Braedon Lowey / How To Train Your Child: Queer Values and Activism in *How To Train Your Dragon* and Other Children’s Media

DAY 2

Saturday, June 24

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM BREAK

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

PANEL 3 (HA 334)

TIME HOPS AND MEMORY KNOTS: UNRAVELING THE PAST AND WEAVING THE FUTURE

Vivian Li / Paper Lanterns: On Chinese Folklore, Fantasy, and Mythology

Han Xiao / "More than Memory": Remembrance, Resilience, and Hope for the Future in *The Lord of the Rings*

Lily Rose Fitzmaurice / "Who Will Write Us a Happy Ending?": Exploring the Temporal Power and Agency of Children Towards the Future via Temporal Narration and Manipulation in *The Space Between Before and After* (2019)

Elizabeth Leung / A Possibility of Cure and Death: Disability and Magical Cures in the Timeslip Narratives of Mary Hoffman's *Stravaganza* Series

Mehak Siddiqui / *The Choice*: Imagining the Evolution of Young Adult Relationships in a Technocratic Future

5:30 PM - 6:00 PM CLOSING REMARKS (HA 334)

Saturday, June 24

Friday, June 23

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM	Welcome & Introduction (HA 334)	8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Welcome & Introduction (HA 334)
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Creative Keynote - Nafiza Azad (HA 334)	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<p>PANEL 1A: "Nothing Can Break Me": Trauma, Resilience, and the Importance of Representation (HA 334)</p> <p>PANEL 1B: "It's Alive!": Man, Monsters, and Machines (HA 335)</p>
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Coffee Break (Food Provided)	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Academic Keynote - Dr. Grace Dillon (HA 334)
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<p>PANEL 1A: The Good, the Bad, and the Imaginary: Utopias And Dystopias In Speculative Fiction (HA 334)</p> <p>PANEL 1B: Decolonizing the Future: Reclaiming, Remembering, and Reimagining Tomorrows (HA 335)</p>	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Social Event	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<p>PANEL 2A: "The Children Are Our Future": Climate Change, Eco-Criticism, and Child Activism (HA 334)</p> <p>PANEL 2B: Daring To Dream: Queer Adventures and Gender Identity (HA 335)</p>
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<p>PANEL 2A: Education, Language, and Literacy: Creating a Better World, One Child at a Time (HA 334)</p> <p>PANEL 2B: Traversing the Multi-(Media-)verse: Video Games, Comic Books, and more (HA 335)</p>	3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Coffee Break (Food Provided)
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Social Event	3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	PANEL 3: "Time Hops and Memory Knots: Unraveling the Past and Weaving the Future (HA 334)
		5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Closing Remarks

This conference is made possible through the support of the following organizations:

Erasmus Mundus' International Master in Children's Literature, Media and Culture

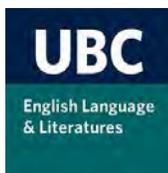
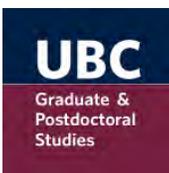
Vancouver International Summer School in Children's Literature

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UBC School of Information
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UBC Department of Language and Literacy Education
UBC Library and Archival Studies
Student Association LASSA

Vancouver Children's Literature Roundtable (VCLR)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Organizing Committee and Moderators

Malika Kanasheva, Jessica Lussier

Ibha Gupta, Carolina Leyton, Yi Luo, Victoria Rahbar,
Ariel Little, Maryam Mohammadkhani,
Vanessa Bedford Gill, Rhys Delios

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Grace Dillon
Nafiza Azad

Faculty and Professional Consultants

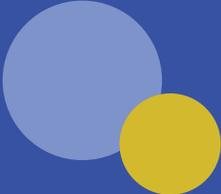
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THANK YOU