



# (Re)Imagining Tomorrow:

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

23 - 24 JUNE 2023 • VANCOUVER, CA  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - ISCHOOL

## Schedule - Friday, June 23, 2023

**1:00PM - 1:15PM: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION -  
HENRY ANGUS BUILDING (HA) 334**

**1:30PM - 2:30PM: CREATIVE KEYNOTE - NAFIZA AZAD  
- HA 334**

**2:30PM - 3:00PM: COFFEE BREAK**

**3:00PM - 5:00PM: 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*



### **3:00PM - 5:00PM: 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

### **5:00PM - 5:30PM: BREAK - NETWORKING - HA 334**

### **5:30PM - 7:30PM: 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



**5:30PM - 7:30PM: 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

**7:30PM - 9:00PM: SOCIAL EVENT - UBC ISCHOOL LOUNGE**



# (Re)Imagining Tomorrow:

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

23 - 24 JUNE 2023 • VANCOUVER, CA  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - ISCHOOL

## Schedule - Sat, June 24, 2023

**8:30AM - 9:00AM: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

**9:00AM - 11:00AM: 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

**9:00AM - 11:00AM: 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

**11:00AM - 12:00PM: ACADEMIC KEYNOTE - DR. GRACE DILLON - HA 334**

**12:00PM - 1:00PM: LUNCH - UBC ISCHOOL LOUNGE**

**1:00PM - 3:00PM: PANEL 2A - HA 334**

**"THE CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE": CLIMATE CHANGE, ECO-CRITICISM, AND CHILD ACTIVISM**

**Frida Sofía 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

**1:00PM - 3:00PM: 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 Trans Teenager 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

**3:00PM - 3:30PM: BREAK**

**3:30PM - 5:30PM: 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

**5:30PM - 6:00PM: CLOSING REMARKS - HA 334**