

# **stop2024 Taiwan Children's Literature Research Association (TCLRA) International Conference Kids and Adults Allowed: Children's Literature for Everyone**

Keynote Speaker: Kenneth Kidd, University of Florida

Soochow University, Taipei

23 November 2024

Deadline for abstracts: 25 February 2024

## **Call for Papers**

Children's literature and our understanding of it is becoming increasingly complex. The assumption that young people benefit from stories that have characteristics different from those read by adults is not something to be taken for granted. Some have argued, for example, that the ease of access to wide ranging knowledge via television and the internet has erased the division between adult and child. Others contend that children's literature is a misnomer because they believe the texts labeled as such really only serve adults' interests. Certainly adults control the creation and dissemination of this literature. Meanwhile, they seem to be increasingly enjoying it, so much so, that adults can now enjoy "children's books" written exclusively for them, as explored by Michelle Ann Abate in *No Kids Allowed: Children's Literature for Adults* (2020).

Much of the delight that children's literature offers to readers of all ages comes through creatively experimenting with format and multiple modes of representation. Picturebooks and graphic narratives can make complex ideas easier to understand, and add layers of visual complexity to seemingly simple stories. Such features serve the interests of divergent age groups. Kenneth Kidd, for example, finds that children's books often do the work of philosophy as well as contribute to the way philosophy is often learned by adults. Some of the most poignant cultural critiques revolve around children's texts and have been presented through the perceiving eye of child narrators.

Children's books tend to be shorter than adult texts and linguistically simpler while still employing rich, poetic language and exploring consequential issues. Such features can stimulate meaningful foreign and second language learning for students of any age. Children's literature may never have been completely the domain of the child. Still, scholars, educators, publishers, and readers continue to find and reinvent ways in which texts broadly categorized as children's literature can be used and appropriated by people of all ages. This conference seeks to explore the features and uses of children's literature for divergent ages, purposes, and people groups.

### **Possible topics may include, but are not limited to the following:**

- Crossover literature
- Children's & YA literature in language education
- Changing concepts of childhood in children's & YA literature
- Appeal of children's & YA literature to adults
- Comics and Graphic narratives (novels, biography, history, manga, etc.)
- Graphic instructional literature
- Adaptations of children's & YA literature to film and videogames

- Children's literature meant for adults
- Inter- and cross- generational relationships in children's literature
- Challenging and controversial topics in texts for children
- Children's & YA literature in cultural studies
- Fanfiction
- Use of children's & YA literature by scholars
- Radical children's & YA literature
- Teaching literary criticism through children's & YA literature
- Folk literature and fairy tales
- Multicultural and international children's & YA literature
- Mainstream literature used with or read by children
- Literature written by child and young adult writers

**Important Dates:**

- 25 February 2024: Abstract submission deadline
- 18 March 2024: Notice of acceptance
- 15 October 2024: Revised abstract
- 23 November 2024: Conference Date

**Important Points:**

- Please submit proposals of no more than 350 words (include 5 keywords) for 20-minute panel presentations to the following email address: [tclra2024@gmail.com](mailto:tclra2024@gmail.com)
- Submissions should be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.
- Include a personal biography of no more than 100 words.
- It is expected that all presentations will be made in person.
- Conference Website: <http://english.scu.edu.tw/tclra2024>