



International Research in Children's Literature

Call for Papers — Special Congress Issue 20.2 (2027)

"Crossing Borders, Shifting Selves: Migration, Liminality, and the Reimagining of Childhood in Global Children's Literature"

The development of research on children's and young adult literature worldwide has increasingly turned toward the analysis of migration, borders, and liminality — themes that resonate deeply with contemporary global realities. Across diverse cultural contexts, literature for young readers is engaging with experiences of displacement, border-crossing, cultural hybridity, and fluid identities, offering spaces to question and reimagine notions of home, belonging, nation, and childhood. Scholarly work in this field often emerges at the intersection of literary studies, cultural studies, translation studies, and pedagogy. Literary analysis frequently comes into conversation with pedagogical practices concerned with how literature can foster critical literacy, intercultural understanding, and empathy in times marked by migration crises, forced displacement, and growing social inequalities. At the same time, posthumanist, ecocritical, and decolonial approaches are expanding the frameworks through which children's literature is being read, foregrounding the entanglements between human and more-than-human worlds, and highlighting the role of literature in challenging dominant ideologies and imagining alternative futures.

The recent IRSCL 2025 Congress, titled "Borders, Migration, and Liminality in Children's Literature," held in Salamanca (Spain), offered a unique opportunity to examine these themes from a multiplicity of perspectives — literary, aesthetic, cultural, linguistic and pedagogical. Building on the dialogues initiated at the congress, this Special Issue invites contributions that explore how children's and young adult literature (and related media) negotiate, represent, and theorize experiences of migration and border-crossing, and how they open up liminal spaces for the redefinition of childhood in a changing world.

We particularly welcome contributions that explore the intersections between literary forms and wider cultural fields, including audiovisual narratives, performance arts, digital media, multimodal storytelling, and transmedia narratives. Moreover, this Call emerges at a time of profound social and political reconfigurations worldwide, and we therefore encourage submissions that engage with critical theories such as decolonial and anticolonial studies, diaspora studies, migration studies, border studies, queer theory, Indigenous epistemologies, critical posthumanism, and multimodal analysis.

Contributions may focus on, but are not limited to:

- Representations of migration, forced displacement, diaspora, and refugee experiences
- Liminal childhoods and hybrid identities



- The poetics and politics of borders in children's and YA literature
- Transcultural, translingual, and transmedia narratives of migration and displacement
- Translation and circulation of border-crossing narratives
- Indigenous and decolonial storytelling across borders
- Trauma, memory, and healing in border-related narratives
- Posthumanist and ecocritical perspectives on migration and liminal spaces
- Intersections of literature with audiovisual media, theatre, music, visual arts, and digital platforms
- Pedagogical practices engaging with literature on migration and borders
- Historical revisions of childhood imaginaries in relation to nation, identity, and future

Submission guidelines:

Please send your **completed manuscript** to the guest editors:

Johari Murray (jnals.cc@gmail.com), Izaskun Elorza (iea@usal.es), and to the journal editor, Roxanne Harde (rharde@ualberta.ca), by **November 1, 2025**.

Email subject: "IRCL Special Issue Borders, Migration, and Liminality."

The submission should include:

- 1 **complete anonymized copy** of manuscript, with abstract (~100 words) and 5-7 keywords, totaling no more than 7000 words
- 1 cover letter with a brief bio (~ 50 words)

Please take into account the **changes to the IRCL style guide** as we have migrated to Johns Hopkins University Press.