

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO A SPECIAL ISSUE OF *HUMANITIES*, an international, peer reviewed, open access journal (<http://www.mdpi.com/journal/humanities>)

Children's Narratives as Transnational Cultural Heritage

Children's narratives have often been thought to sum up national character: *Nils Holgersson* as an introduction into Swedish landscapes and cultures, *Heidi* as the epitome of 'Swissness', *Hansje Brinker* as a prototypical Dutch hero, etc. It is important to realize, however, that they became national icons in the eyes of non-Swedish, –Swiss and – Dutch audiences, through transnational reception, adaptation and remediation: Heidi, for example, exemplified the Swiss way of life in the eyes of a German audience. Familiarizing children with and involving them in these ongoing processes of creative transnational appropriation may help them to deconstruct national stereotypes. Positively put, it may help them to feel at home in 'a wider circle of we' that allows for the coexistence of local, national and transnational identifications. Contemporary citizens may well identify simultaneously as, for instance, Bavarians, Germans, and Europeans. Heritage narratives for children may facilitate the development of such a poly-local, multidimensional sense of belonging in today's globalizing world. Young and adult readers also actively contribute to these processes of adaptation and remediation as co-creators of heritage by, for example, participating in fan cultures, as a significant dimension of their emergent citizenship.

The aim of this special issue is to explore the viability of childhood heritage for citizenship education of 8-12-year-olds in a globalizing, multi-ethnic Europe. It seeks to address issues such as: *1) How are children's (non-fictional) narratives constructed as local, regional, national and/or transnational heritage through dynamic processes of adaptation and remediation? 2) How can childhood heritage institutions such as museums, archives and international advocacy organizations facilitate transnational appropriations of aesthetic and educative artefacts? 3) How can children be actively engaged in the process of heritage construction as a significant dimension of their emergent citizenship?*

Papers may address topics such as:

- the trope of home in children's narratives: stories beyond the "home-away-home" plot described by Perry Nodelman in *The Pleasures of Children's Literature*.
- children's texts in an imagological perspective
- transnational fan practices related to children's narratives
- transnational memory in children's literature
- children's narratives as materials for citizenship education
- children and/or young adults as active participants in heritage construction
- children's literature as national and transnational heritage in institutional contexts (museums, heritage libraries, etc.)
- international organizations advocating children's narratives as media for fostering international understanding

Length of the article: 6000-7000 words.

Prof. Dr. Lies Wesseling

Dr. Justyna Deszcz-Tryhubczak

Mr. Mateusz Marecki

Guest Editors

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published continuously in the journal (as soon as accepted) and will be listed together on the special issue website. Research articles, review articles as well as short communications are invited. For planned papers, a title and short abstract (about 100 words) can be sent to the Editorial Office for announcement on this website.

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Keywords

- children's narratives
- childhood heritage
- citizenship education
- poly-local citizenship

Published Papers

This special issue is now open for submission.

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