Call for Papers for the Yearbook of the German Children’s Literature Research Society
(Jahrbuch der Gesellschaft für Kinder- und Jugendliteraturforschung/GKJF) 2018

The second volume1[1] of the open access, peer-reviewed *Jahrbuch der Gesellschaft für Kinder- und Jugendliteraturforschung/GKJF* takes the upcoming 50th anniversary of 1968 as an opportunity to explore both the historical and contemporary dimensions of this caesura. The editors are seeking papers that address the various implications of the topic of ‘68 in its various forms (narratives, picture books, comics, graphic novels, films, television, computer applications) from both a theoretical and material perspective, as well as discuss their implications for children’s culture today. The manner in which ’68 is addressed and reflected in current children’s media is also of interest. Articles may be in German or English, and while articles on German children’s literature are particularly welcome, the editors also warmly welcome proposals for contributions on any other cultural and linguistic areas in which 1968 was a significant caesura.

“Under the pavement lies the beach” or “Power to the imagination”– these slogans characterize the movement of ’68, which publicized its social and political demands in a creative and programmatic fashion. The year 1968 not only marks a significant upheaval in what was then West Germany, it also has strong East and West European as well as international dimensions. ’68 can be understood as a cipher for protest movements which radiated into various social areas. Existing institutional structures and intergenerational relationships as well as individual lifestyles were re-evaluated and challenged in light of the concomitant politicization. Literature and the media were subjected to critical revision, new formats and writing styles established, traditions either abandoned or continued within new paradigms.

Children’s literature and media were significantly shaped by these developments. Their contents were influenced by the anti-authoritarian discourse in education and by the demands of emancipation movements, their themes and aesthetics by politicized concerns and a new orientation towards sociopolitical reality. Children’s literature scholars have identified and researched this development as a paradigm shift. More recent studies, however, also look to the developments of the late 1950s and early 1960s, pointing out that changes on the literary-aesthetic level were apparent much earlier.

50 years after what has been called a paradigmatic caesura, the cipher “68” will be brought into focus to further illuminate the terrain, to develop new questions, and to critically examine established positions. Possible questions are: How emancipatory was emancipatory literature for girls? Are (new) innovative pedagogical implications discernable within the texts of this epoch? What changes in attitudes towards Nazism and the Holocaust are evident in genres, texts, and themes? (How) Did narrative forms and illustrations change? How are the historical upheavals around 1968 seen and classified today and how are they reflected in representations of family, childhood, and adolescence?

Possible themes and approaches with reference to children’s literature or media are:

- changed narrative and narrative forms, changed characters and images
- gender (especially images of women and girls, including stereotyped roles)

• (altered) perception of otherness
• innovative children’s theatre (Rote Grütze, Grips etc.)
• new television programs for children
• postcolonialism (with a critical revision of the topic of “The Third World”)
• difference theories (including new concepts in youth and social work and their literary design)
• changes to the action system (newly founded publishing companies, journals, media)
• development of children’s literature research
• …

Beyond the focus theme, the Yearbook will publish up to three open contributions on questions of children’s literature and media from a historical or theoretical perspective; proposals for these open contributions are also welcome.

Formalities:

Please send an abstract of no more than 300 words for an article on the focus theme or for an open contribution by 15.09.2017. The abstracts should provide a short summary with reference to theoretical positions, and name the main literature to which the article will refer. The article itself should not exceed 40,000 characters (including spaces, footnotes and bibliography), and should be submitted to the editors as a Word document no later than 01.03.2018.

Please send your abstracts to:

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A style sheet will be sent once abstracts have been accepted. We look forward to receiving your proposals.
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