



## Call for Papers

### Conceptions of Girlhood Now and Then: “Girls’ Literature” and Beyond

Linnæus University, Växjö, Sweden  
6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> of October 2020

The history of comprehensive analysis of “girls’ literature” as a genre is an established study in Nordic scholarship. Scholars such as Birgitta Theander, Marika Andræ and Mia Österlund have explored girls’ literature and coming-of-age stories in Swedish-language texts as well as in translated texts. The concept of “flickbok,” which roughly translates into “girl’s book,” is a specific genre label with a defined set of characteristics within a Swedish-language context.

Drawing on this scholarship, we are seeking academic papers exploring the idea of girls and girlhood in children’s literature and young adult literature and film, both in Nordic and in international primary texts. We welcome papers on both historical texts that have been defined as girls’ literature and conceptions of girlhood in contemporary literature of various genres. Scholarship might include what it means to be a girl in specific texts or as demonstrated by particular fictional girls, how girlhood is constructed in texts, how we define “classic texts for girls,” and the ways in which those definitions change over time, or in different countries.

We are especially interested in papers that examine shifting definitions of gender and how it is performed in texts defined as “girls’ literature,” the ways in which texts respond to social issues of girls and girlhood, and how contemporary coming-of-age stories address what it means to be a girl in a specific time and place.

We encourage papers on (but not limited to) topics such as:

- Representations of girls/girlhood in children’s and YA literature and film
- Intersectional approaches to the concept of girls’ literature and girlhood in children’s and YA literature and film
- Adaptations, revisions, and translations of “classic” girls’ books
- Girl-centric communities in children’s and YA literature and film

- LGBTQ+ approaches to the concept of girls within children's and YA literature and film
- National and international perspectives on and definitions of girls and girlhood, as well as "girls' literature" as a genre
- Norm-critical readings of children's and YA literature and film
- Pedagogical approaches to girls/girlhood in children's and YA literature and film

The conference language is English. Academic papers should be accessible to an international audience. The following presentation formats are available:

- 20 minute paper presentations
- 10 minute poster presentations
- 20 minute pre-recorded video presentation which is followed by an online Q and A
- Panels of three 20 minute paper presentations

Please submit your abstract to [girlsliteratureandbeyond@lnu.se](mailto:girlsliteratureandbeyond@lnu.se). Abstracts should be up to 300 words long. Please include a brief biography of no more than 100 words and indicate which presentation format you prefer. The submission deadline is **the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2020**.

We are looking into the possibilities of compiling an essay collection based on a selection of the conference presentations. There will be possibilities to explore the Swedish county Småland during the conference.

Please note that there will be a conference fee.

The conference will be hosted by Centre for Childhood Research in Literature, Language and Learning (CHILLL) at Linnæus University in Växjö, Sweden. It will be co-organised with the Swedish Institute for Children's Books and Dawn Sardella-Ayres, who holds a PhD in Children's Literature from the University of Cambridge.

For further information regarding the conference, please contact:

[girlsliteratureandbeyond@lnu.se](mailto:girlsliteratureandbeyond@lnu.se)