

Call for Papers

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Open to receiving manuscripts for the 31st volume, 2024, until 2nd of October 2024

The topic of the 31st volume : ***On Child and Childhood. Language, Culture, Literature***

Imagination is the dynamo of childhood, shaping the most important story we tell ourselves and the stories we tell, directly and indirectly, to our children. Taking the theme of childhood from the realm of fictional lives and putting it forward for consideration, we are aware that this theme in its heterogeneity is a wonderful connector between subjectivities and between generations of academics.

Nowadays, childhood is bestowed its own primordial place in a system of reference. As Colin Heywood states², seeing children as ‘impaired adults’ had been, in remote centuries, the norm and not the exception. Nevertheless, autonomy of childhood as an emancipated age has not always been present in the history of civilization. Although some of the invariants referring to the child and childhood have been preserved along the centuries, so have been some clichés. Man as a sentient being, endowed with natural goodness is more nuanced today as compared to J. J. Rousseau’s followers.

The writers did their best in shaping this path, of gathering and distilling the remembrances of things past, like Marcel Proust, in the form of literature as the art of words and consequently, of a time regained. Or they were the ones to fuse together loss and optimism in children-characters, making them one of the most alive group of characters, such as Mark Twain. The emotions and the unhappiness of children were brought to light by Hector Malot. While their tribulations and resolutions in shaping a destiny, as portrayed by Charles Dickens, had a large impact on the opinions of society and therefore positively impacting the laws of society regarding the safeguard of children.

The famous writers of the world had brought up another magic ingredient, by combining the enchantment of the world with the disenchantment of the world and getting a humanly tender result about the nature of mankind.

¹ Analele Universității din Oradea Fascicula Limba și Literatura Română, ISSN 1224-7588, peer-reviewed, <https://analeromana.uoradea.ro/>

² *A History of Childhood: Children and Childhood in the West from Medieval to Modern Times* by Colin Heywood, Polity Press, Cambridge, 2001. Translated into Romanian by Ruxandra Visan, Bucuresti, Trei Publishing House, 2017.

It seems that the age of constructs, as our age is, taking resemblance on the topic of identity, favours a complex approach of children and childhood. The most influential role in shaping the age of childhood in a family but also in shaping the perceptions we have on children, as a social construct, belongs to the relationship between parents and children. This is the benchmark in addressing the evolution of childhood as a social construct. For children, parents constitute the main alterity, the big Other One.

Launching the call for papers on this topic we are aware that the childhood, as a theme, is also the connector with the future paths. For everyone in this world, except for *the curious case* of Benjamin Button, in Francis Scott Fitzgerald's words, childhood cannot be lived in real life, therefore it is a product of what Vladimir Jankélévitch called "The Irreversible and The Nostalgia ". We long for bridging the irreversible that puts itself between the adult self and *the lost time*, and we create palliatives of imagination trying to reach the other side of the self.

Change is a fact, one of the most striking magical wands of childhood. Despite difficulties or even harsher fights with life, childhood has a graceful way of dealing with change. How can childhood be at the epitome of change, while being so eternal in our memories?

The topic is open also to reflections of childhood under communism and post 89 society in Romanian literature. Linguistic papers are received with open minds. Cultural issues tangent to the topic can share their unique context with other debates.

Papers that do not touch the topic of childhood are welcomed, as they can be part of other general rubrics of our journal, such as: classics and moderns, dialogues of literature, exile, myths and post-modern authors, identity and its expressions in literature, comparative literature studies, language phenomena.

Possible topics:

Imagination as the engine of childhood
The need to connect to childhood to be a human being
Restauration of childhood, children and compensation mechanism
The honesty of emotions
What can adults learn from children?
Priorities of childhood, coming of age novels
Portals, other worlds, fantasy adventures
Uneducated children of the past
Birth, motherhood, fatherhood
The anatomy of a desire
The YA genre
The childhood of a genre or of a research phenomenon
Enchantments and Disenchantments of Childhood
Curiosity, invention, circuits of words and circuits of honesty

Further References:

Heywood, Colin. *A History of Childhood: Children and Childhood in the West from Medieval to Modern Times* by Colin Heywood, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2001. [Translated into Romanian by Ruxandra Visan, Bucuresti, Trei Publishing House, 2017.]

Hunt, Peter. *Understanding Children's Literature*. Taylor & Francis Ltd, 2005.

Maybin, Janet and Watson J. Nicola (eds). *Children's Literature: Approaches and Territories*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2009.

Mihalache, Ștefania. *Copilăria. Reconstituiri literare după 1989*. Pitești: Editura Paralela 45, 2019.

Sandu, Ana Maria. „Copilăria nu este o temă minoră în literatura noastră” – interviu cu scriitoarea Ștefania MIHALACHE. Dilema Veche nr. 839 din 19 - 25 martie 2020.

<<https://dilemaveche.ro/sectiune/regimul-artelor-si-munitiilor/copilaria-nu-este-o-tema-minora-in-literatura-629851.html>>