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International Conference
New Directions in Children's Literature Research

Nature Agency

Teaching Children's Literature through Dialogic Practices

Padova, 13–14 April 2023

Sala delle Edicole (Piazza Capitaniato 3)
Biblioteca Beato Pellegrino (Via Beato Pellegrino 28)
Orto Botanico (Via Orto Botanico 15)

www.childrensliterature-unipd.it



In collaboration with



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Università di Padova

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UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA

13 APRIL 2023

Nature Agency

Teaching Children's literature through Dialogic Practices

The conference aims to enhance the quality of education and strengthen international collaboration within the field of environmental children's literature. In line with key works on dialogic teaching, with UNESCO's "Education for Sustainable Development Goals Learning Objectives" (2017), and with theoretical perspectives on children's agency, the conference brings together international scholars to investigate and augment both students' and teachers' critical thinking and collaboration through dialogue and cultural exchange while reading and analysing picturebooks and children's literature.



9:00

Welcome address

Daniela Mapelli, Rector Magnificus of University of Padova, Italy
Egidio Robusto, Dean of Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and Applied Psychology (FISPPA) University of Padova, Italy

Session 1: Plenary

Venue: Sala delle Edicole

Chair: **Marnie Campagnaro**, University of Padova

9:30

How children's literature readers can become critical citizens and learn about values and children's rights

Mariona Graell Martín and Maria Pujol Valls, *Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC Barcelona)*

This paper discusses how children's literature can help to spread awareness of children's rights among readers and encourage them to participate in society and become critical citizens. It aims to determine the ethical values most present in a specific corpus and their relationship to children's rights and citizenship education.

10:00

A poetic bird - human dialogue

Elin Stengrundet, *Western Norway University of Applied Sciences*

This paper explores the dialogues in the well-known Norwegian children's song "Lille måltrost" ["Little Song Thrush"] (Alf Prøysen, 1949) from an ecocritical perspective. Specifically, the analysis explores the dialogue between text and music, and the song's dialogue with the literary tradition.

10:30

Discussion

10:45

Break

11:15

Young students' interaction with picturebooks related to environmental issues

Gro Ulland, *Western Norway University of Applied Sciences*

This paper presents and reflects upon different entrances to picturebooks related to environmental issues and classroom experiences involving young students' (2nd grade) responses to these picturebooks.

11:45

Reflection on the inclusiveness messages in *The story of the Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her to Fly*

Lea Ferrari, University of Padova

This story by Louis Sepulveda was used in a training program for promoting positive attitudes toward peers in primary school students and to improve the quality of their school experience. This contribution reflects critically on the inclusiveness perspective of the selected episodes. Some points of reference are targeted to develop future guidelines that link children's literature to the inclusiveness of school contexts.

12:15

Discussion

12:30

Lunch Break

**Session 2: Parallel Workshops
Venue: Polo Beato Pellegrino 28**

WORKSHOP 1

14:15 - 15:00

Keywords: Writing workshop, creative writing tasks, analysis of several picturebooks, e.g. *Verden sa ja* [The world said yes, Kaia Dahle Nyhus, 2018], and *The Giving Tree* [Shel Silverstein, 1964] SDG 12 and 13
With Gro Ulland, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

WORKSHOP 2

14:15 - 15:00

Keywords: Illustrated poetry, explore various illustrations, representations of nature and dialogue, SDG 17
With Elin Stengrundet, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

WORKSHOP 3

15:15 - 16:00

Keywords: Children's rights, ethical values, citizenship education, critical thinking, children and young people's literature
With Mariona Graell Martín and Maria Pujol Valls, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC Barcelona)

WORKSHOP 4

15:15 - 16:00

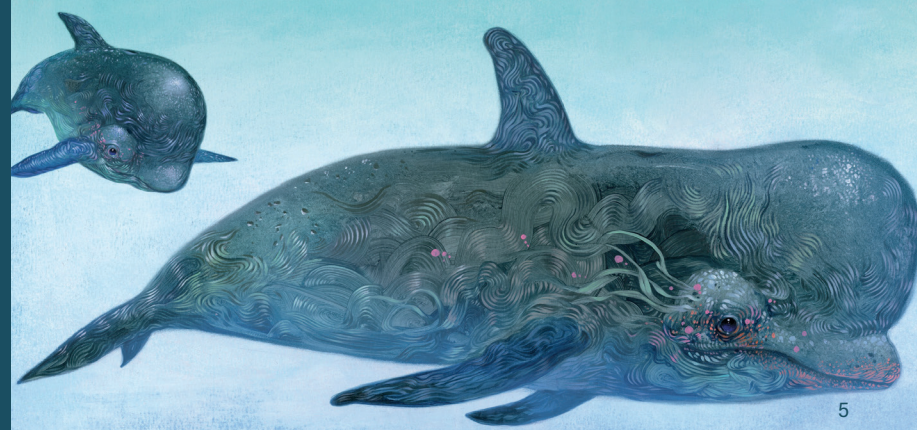
Keywords: Literary dialogues, 'my wood', children's agency, natural resources, SDG 8
With Nina Goga, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

**Session 3: Guided Tour in English
Venue: Biblioteca Beato Pellegrino**

16:30 - 17:30

Visit@Beato: Guided tour of the historical Beato Pellegrino Complex and University Library

Visit to the **Book Exhibition NATURE AGENCY**
Children's Literature, Environmental Imagination & Ecopedagogy



14 APRIL 2023

9:15

Welcome, Workshop Sharing and Summing Up

Session 4: Plenary
Venue: Sala delle Edicole

Chair: Lea Ferrari, University of Padova

9:30

Dialogue, literary circles and critical thinking

Mariona Graell Martín, Mariona Graell Martín & Maria Pujol Valls, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC Barcelona)

This work explores how critical thinking can be developed through children's literature reading and later dialogue among pre-school and primary school children.

10:00

Negotiations about the right to nature

Nina Goga, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

This paper explores key dialogues in *Ronia the Robber's Daughter* (Astrid Lindgren, 1981) about to whom nature belongs.

10:30

Picturebooks, ecoliteracy and journalism: Giving students voice

Marnie Campagnaro, University of Padova

Picturebooks can engage students in multimodal methods of learning in a university setting. This paper investigates the efficacy of using picturebooks specifically chosen to create a university magazine and convey increasingly complex ecosystem concepts and ecoliteracy.

11:00

Discussion

11:30

Break

Session 5: Master Class

12:00

Illustrating books and promoting respect for the environment and all living beings

Roger Olmos, writer & illustrator

Moderator: Lina Vergara, Logos Edizioni

The master class will focus on Olmos's artistic perspective and environmental activism. A great lover of animals, Olmos has adopted a vegan lifestyle and for many years he has been committed to promoting respect for the environment and all living beings through his works.

13:00

Lunch Break

Session 6: Guided Tour in Italian

Venue: Biblioteca Beato Pellegrino

14:00 - 14:45

15:00 - 15:45

Visit@Beato: Guided tour of Beato Pellegrino University Library

Visit to the **Book Exhibition NATURE AGENCY**

Children's Literature, Environmental Imagination & Ecopedagogy

Session 7: A Geopoetic Experience

Venue: Orto Botanico

15:00

The strenght of the strong: A geopoetic experience

Davide Sapienza, writer, journalist and translator

Geopoetics invites people who joint this experience to question the relationship between man and the Earth, to open our senses and intellect to the experience of life on Earth and to arouse in us a sense of presence in the world. As a transdisciplinary field open to research and creation, geopoetics has brought together literature and geography, while also involving philosophy and the arts.

This activity is primarily reserved for students who are enrolled in the postgraduate course Reading and Literature for Children and Adolescents (0-18 years of age) at the University of Padova.

Session 8: Book Signing with Roger Olmos
Venue: Bibioteca Beato Pellegrino

17:30

Book Signing@Biblioteca Beato Pellegrino

To celebrate his stunning picturebooks included in the Book Exhibition *NATURE AGENCY*. *Children's literature, Environmental Imagination & Ecopedagogy*, come and meet the best-selling author Roger Olmos for a special book signing at the Beato Pellegrino University Library.



Book Exhibition

Nature Agency

Children's Literature, Environmental Imagination & Ecopedagogy

12 – 27 April 2023

Monday-Friday: 9-22
Saturday-Sunday: 9-18

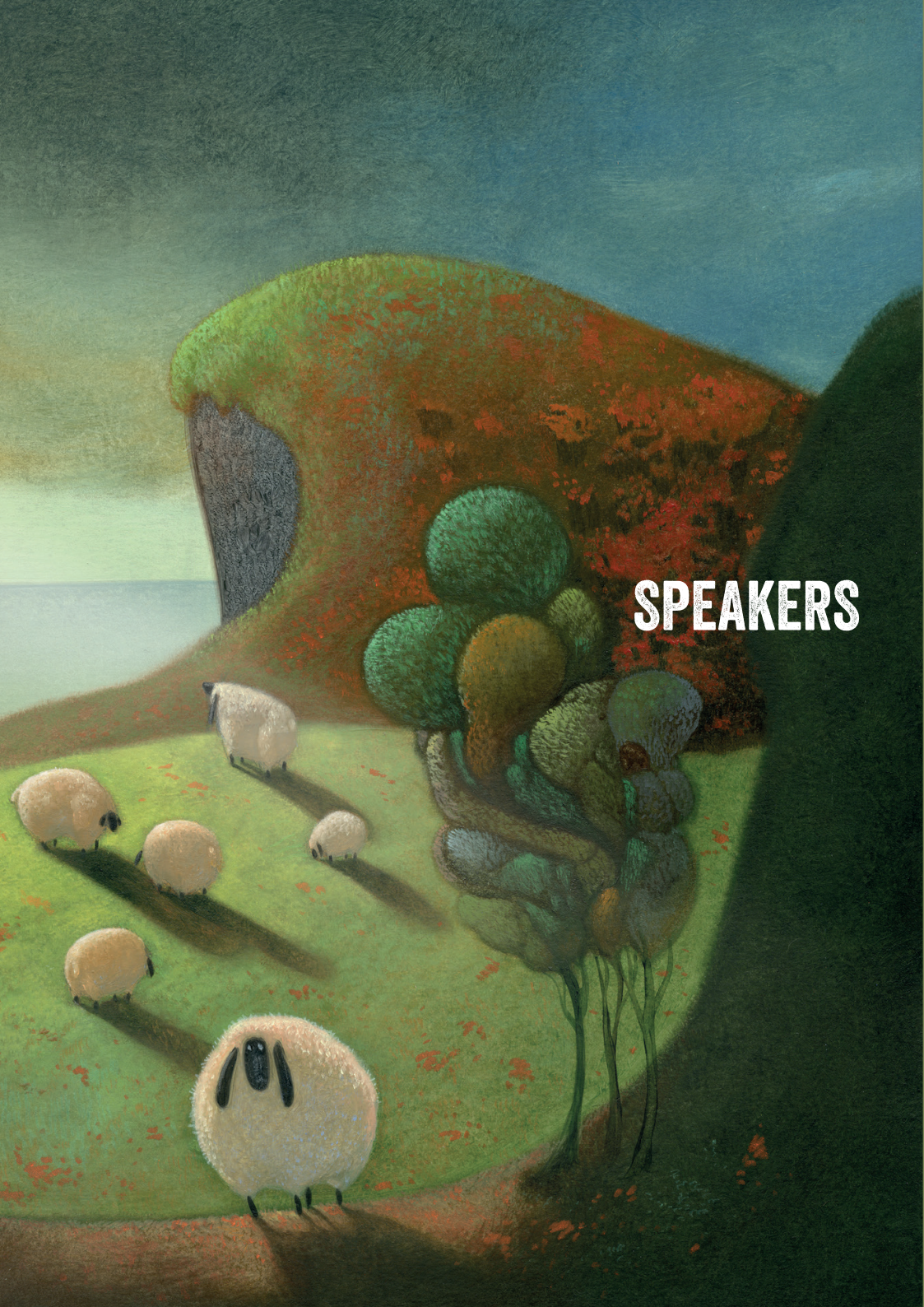
@Biblioteca Beato Pellegrino



Exhibition Curators:
Marnie Campagnaro, University of Padova
Chiara Malpezzi, ChLit Research Group,
University of Padova



Digital Collection



SPEAKERS

Marnie Campagnaro

PhD, is an associate professor at the University of Padova and director of a postgraduate course in children's literature. Her main research fields include picturebooks, fairy-tales, architecture, sustainability, object-oriented literary criticism, and Italian children's writers. Her most recent publications include 'Material Green Entanglements: Research on Student Teachers' Aesthetic and Ecocritical Engagement with Picturebooks of Their Own Choice' (*International Research in Children's Literature*, vol 15(3), 2022) and 'Green Dialogues and Digital Collaboration on Nonfiction Children's Literature' (*Journal of Literacy Education*, vol 4, 2021), co-written with Nina Goga.

Lea Ferrari

PhD, is an associate professor in psychology at the Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Pedagogy and Applied Psychology, University of Padova. Her teaching and research efforts concern the field of positive development and social and emotional learning from early ages with a focus on nurturing resources and talents to promote flourishing in career and life. Recently she published *Social-emotional learning and career development in elementary settings* (2022, *British Journal of Guidance & Counselling*, 50(3), 371-385) coauthored with Kimberly A. Howard.

Nina Goga

is professor of children's literature at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. Her research interests include ecocriticism, nonfiction children's literature, children's rights. Recent publications are 'Material Green Entanglements: Research on Student Teachers' Aesthetic and Ecocritical Engagement with Picturebooks of Their Own Choice' (*International Research in Children's Literature*, vol 15(3), 2022) and 'Green Dialogues and Digital Collaboration on Nonfiction Children's Literature' (*Journal of Literacy Education*, vol 4, 2021), co-written with Marnie Campagnaro.

Mariona Graell Martín

is a lecturer at the Faculty of Education Sciences at Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC Barcelona). Her main research interests are children's literature, children's literature didactics, children's rights, sustainable development goals, moral education, service-learning and pedagogical innovation in higher education. Her latest publications are 'Children's rights and citizenship values in a book selection for young readers' (in press, Revista Complutense de Educación, with M. Pujol Valls) and 'Propuesta de análisis de los derechos del niño y los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible en la LIJ sobre guerra' ('Proposal for the analysis of children's rights and the sustainable development goals in children's and youth literature on war', chapter in press, with M. Pujol Valls).

Roger Olmos

born in Barcelona in 1975, is an internationally renowned illustrator. He has published around ninety books with about twenty publishing houses from all over the world. He studied illustration at the Llotja School in Barcelona and five years as a scientific illustrator apprentice at the Dexeus institute in the same city. After many years in this profession he has reached the point of being able to communicate without text, and the image he creates can speak for themselves. At the very least, they can show what the text does not explain. As a devoted animal lover, he has embraced a vegan lifestyle and through his art he advocates for respect for the environment and all living beings.

Maria Pujol Valls

is a lecturer at the Faculty of Education Sciences at Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC Barcelona). Her main research interests revolve around different aspects on children's literature - didactics, children's rights, ecocriticism, sustainable development goals, translating paratexts, citizenship and Catalan literature. Her latest publications are 'Ecocritical engagement with picturebook through literature conversations about Beatrice Alemagne's On a Magical Do-Nothing Day' (2020, Sustainability, 12(18), 1-16, with N. Goga), 'Children's rights and citizenship values in a book selection for young readers' (in press, Revista Complutense de Educación, with M. Graell) and 'Propuesta de análisis de los derechos del niño y los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible en la LIJ sobre guerra' ('Proposal for the analysis of children's rights and the sustainable development goals in children's and youth literature on war', chapter in press, with M. Graell).

Davide Sapienza

(1963) is an author, journalist and translator. His career started with radio, journalism in the early eighties with bestselling books on U2, Simple Minds, Nirvana, Neil Young. In 1990 he moves to a village in the Alps where he refined his literary skills with extensive traveling and adventures. He's the author of books such as *I Diari di Rubha Hunish*, *La musica della neve*, *Il Geopoeta*. In 2021 he cofounded Fram Produzioni with Lorenzo Pavolini creating original podcasts (*Nelle Tracce Del Lupo*). His geopoetic work resulted in a wide ranging project for *Bodo2024 European Capital of Culture*. Sapienza is also renowned for his work on Jack London (also as part of *The Complete Works for Oxford Uni Press*) and Barry Lopez. For Logos Edizioni he is currently working on some of London's illustrated short stories. www.davidesapienza.net

Elin Stengrundet

is associate professor at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. Her main research interests are 19th century Norwegian literature, and the representation of youth in the literary canon. Recent publications are "Ingeborg Refling Hagens Wergeland" (2022) and "Vadmelsideologi: Vadmel fra 1700-tallet til i dag" [The ideology of Wadmol: Wadmol from the 18th century until today] (2021).

Gro Ulland

is associate professor at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. Her main interests are literary didactics, children's literature and writing didactics, and she has several publications on literature didactics and conversations about literature.

Lina Vergara Huilcamán

born in Talcahuano (Chile), studied sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna and has been the editor of #logosedizioni since 2010.

Scientific Committee

Marnie Campagnaro, University of Padova
Lea Ferrari, University of Padova
Nina Goga, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences
Mariona Graell Martín, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC Barcelona)
Maria Pujol Valls, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC Barcelona)
Elin Stengrundet, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences
Gro Ulland, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

Local Organising Committee

Marnie Campagnaro, University of Padova
Lea Ferrari, University of Padova
Linda Pengo, University of Padova
Tania Van Luyten, University of Padova
Chiara Malpezzi, ChLit Research Group, University of Padova
Anna Mazzi, ChLit Research Group, University of Padova



INFO

University of Padova
Department of Philosophy, Sociology,
Education and Applied Psychology (FISPPA)
Via Beato Pellegrino, 28 35137 PADOVA – Italy

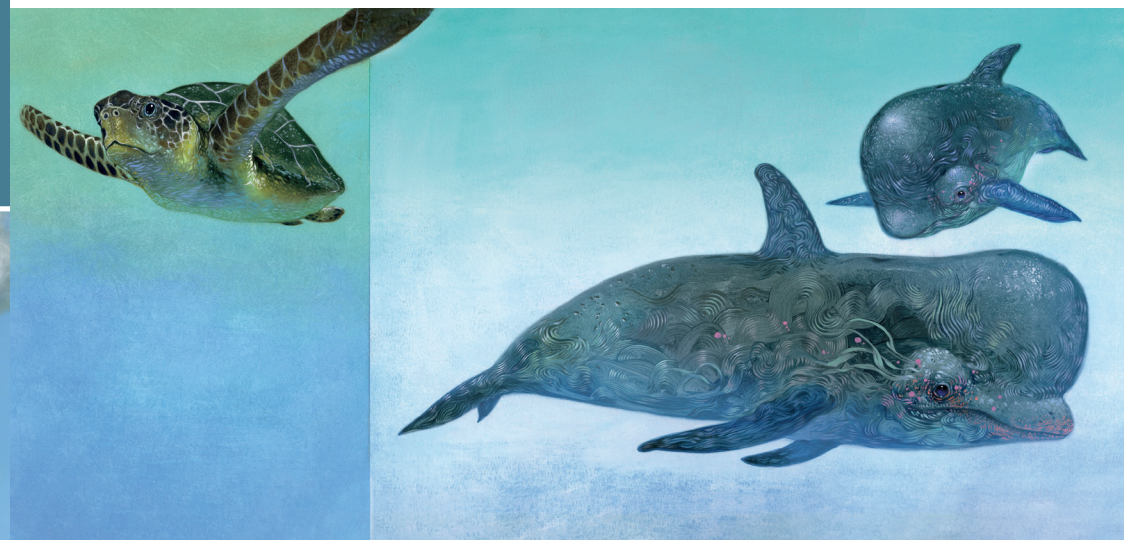
Chair: Marnie Campagnaro, University of Padova
For general inquire about the Nature Agency Conference and the Book Exhibition,
please email Chiara Malpezzi, chiara.malpezzi@phd.unipd.it
For specific questions, please email Anna Mazzi, cdp.childrensliterature@unipd.it

www.childrensliterature-unipd.it

The workshop sessions are primarily reserved for students who are enrolled in the Children's Literature course in Education Sciences, in Primary Teacher Education and in the postgraduate course in *Reading and Literature for Children and Adolescents (0-18 years of age)* at the University of Padova. External invitees can be eventually added to the workshop sessions as attendees until all spots are filled.

The conference will be hosted by the University of Padova in collaboration with the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (Norway) and the International University of Catalunya (UIC Barcelona, Spain).

The Conference and the Book Exhibition are part of the dissemination activities of the four-year NOTED project 'Green Dialogues: Teacher training in environmental children's literature through dialogic teaching practices' (2022–2025).



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Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 4 - SDG 13 – SDG 17