International Conference "European Network of Picturebook Research"



Credits: Giovanna Zoboli, Simona Mulazzani, II grande libro dei pisolini , Topipittori, 2013.

Home and Lived Spaces in Picturebooks from the 1950s to the Present

PhD Workshop - September 27, 2017 International Conference - September 28-29-30, 2017 University of Padua – Italy

Sala delle Edicole – Piazza Capitaniato, 3 – Padova

Organizer:





At an early age, home and lived spaces are much more than a simple body-space correspondence (Reimer, 2008; Perrot, 2011; Covato, 2014; Cantatore, 2015; Sachiko Cecire, et al., 2015). Lived spaces are constructed of sensory recalls, which, day after day, shape our idea of "home", the *espace vécu* par excellence. Our sense of identity and belonging is influenced by various factors: personal experiences and relationships, the impact of the environment and sensory perceptions. Lived space is a point of reference for children; their body, which is a container, occupies an area inside another container, the house. Thus, the task to finding one's own identity and a sense of belonging can also originate in one's relationship with lived spaces. In literature, houses, habitations, walls and objects are imbued with an extraordinary narrative power, which is capable of penetrating the unexplored privacy of the family; and the most significant representations of the domestic environment can provide new insights into childhood (Beseghi, 1995).

In addition to substantially contributing to narrative plots, home environments also imply strong symbolic references. They provide a variety of narrative settings that can shift from sites of protection, love and care; to disquieting places of observation, deprivation, exclusion, deceptiveness and extreme rebellion. Like the houses themselves, their interiors (bedrooms, kitchens, living rooms, attics, cellars, gardens, etc.) and the objects they contain (doors, windows, tables, chairs, cupboards, book shelves, beds, wardrobes, toys, etc.) can acquire narrative force and offer various interpretation keys. Objects and furniture are not just decoration; they play a vital role because they have a profound influence on the characters' as well the readers' sense of identity and belonging, and shape their idea of justice, goodness and beauty. The goal of the conference is to investigate and compare the development of the representation of home and lived spaces in picturebooks from the 1950s to the present.

We invite papers related to the overall theme of the conference, and to the following areas of interest:

- historical developments and changes in the representation of home and lived spaces
- social and cultural changes in children's public spaces such as kindergarten, school, library, museums, shops, etc.
- domestic environment and interior geography
- depiction of lived spaces in nature (caves, islands, etc.)
- the invention of fictional lived spaces and their influence on the child's concept of home
- interiors and their symbolic implications
- objects and furniture that shape family relationships and self-identity
- home and the child's body
- home and the child's imagination

SUBMISSION

Please send an **abstract of 300 words** maximum and a short biography of **60 words** as two attached Word documents to: Marnie Campagnaro: <u>marnie.campagnaro@unipd.it</u>. E-mails should be entitled: **Conference Home and Lived Spaces in Picturebooks Abstract Submission**.

Abstracts may be in Word with the following information:

a) author(s), b) affiliation as you would like it to appear in the programme, c) email address, d) title of proposal, e) text of proposal, f) areas of interest, g) six keywords.

All abstracts and papers accepted for and presented at the conference must be written in English.

Papers will be 30 minutes maximum, followed by a 15 minute discussion.

Deadline for abstract submission: January 10, 2017.

Notification of acceptance: March 31, 2017.

All submissions are reviewed, under anonymous (blind) conditions, by the members of the Advisory Board and Reading Committee.

CONFERENCE FEE

Early registration fee (before May 15, 2017): € 60,00 Fee after May 15th (till July 28, 2017): € 95,00 Conference dinner: € 35,00 (to be confirmed)

ORGANIZATION

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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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CONFERENCE IN PADUA (ITALY)

The European Network of Picturebook Research was established during the first picturebook conference in Barcelona in September 2007. The network was proposed by Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer (University of Tübingen), who was a member of both the reading committee and co-organizer of the Barcelona conference, and of the core group of picturebook researchers, which includes Evelyn Arizpe, Nina Christensen, Teresa Colomer, Elina Druker, Maria Nikolajeva and Cecilia Silva-Díaz. Since then, biannual picturebook conferences have been held in different European countries:

2007 at the University of Barcelona, organized by Teresa Colomer and Cecilia Silva-Díaz 2009 at the University of Glasgow, organized by Evelyn Arizpe and Maureen Farrell 2011 at the University of Tübingen, organized by Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer 2013 at the University of Stockholm, organized by Elina Druker 2015 at the University of Gdansk, organized by Malgorzata Cackowska

The aim of these conferences is a) to foster international picturebook research; b) to promote young researchers who are focusing on the investigation of picturebooks; and c) to publish selected papers presented at the conferences through international publishers or in peer-reviewed journals.