

## Navigating Children's Literature through Controversy

# Textxet

STUDIES IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

*General Editors*

Theo D'haen (*University of Leuven*)

Karen Laura Thornber (*Harvard University*)

Zhang Longxi (*City University of Hong Kong*)

Hans Bertens (*University of Utrecht*)

VOLUME 104

The titles published in this series are listed at *brill.com/tscl*

# Navigating Children's Literature through Controversy

*Global and Transnational Perspectives*

*Edited by*

Elżbieta Jamróz-Stolarska  
Mateusz Świetlicki  
Agata Zarzycka



BRILL

LEIDEN | BOSTON

Cover illustration: A girl trying to read a book while the hands of adults are covering her eyes. Reproduced with kind permission of the author: Patrycja Dąbrowska.

Permission has been granted to publish Irena Lorentowicz's illustration from the book "Matthew the Young King", 1945.

The Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available online at <https://catalog.loc.gov>  
LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2023034288>

Typeface for the Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic scripts: "Brill". See and download: [brill.com/brill-typeface](https://brill.com/brill-typeface).

ISSN 0927-5754

ISBN 978-90-04-68272-6 (paperback)

ISBN 978-90-04-68329-7 (e-book)

Copyright 2023 by Koninklijke Brill nv, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Koninklijke Brill nv incorporates the imprints Brill, Brill Nijhoff, Brill Schöningh, Brill Fink, Brill mentis, Brill Wageningen Academic, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Böhlau and V&R unipress.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission from the publisher. Requests for re-use and/or translations must be addressed to Koninklijke Brill nv via [brill.com](https://brill.com) or [copyright.com](https://copyright.com).

This book is printed on acid-free paper and produced in a sustainable manner.

# Contents

Notes on Contributors VII

Controversy and Children's Literature: Introduction 1

*Elżbieta Jamróz-Stolarska, Mateusz Świetlicki and Agata Zarzycka*

## PART 1

### **(G)Local Controversies**

- 1 Controversy on the Children's Book Market in Poland and Its Cultural and Social Background 9  
*Bożena Hojka and Elżbieta Jamróz-Stolarska*
- 2 Coming Out: LGBTQ+ Topics and Polish Young Adult Literature 27  
*Monika Woźniak*
- 3 Being Controversial in Scandinavia: An Iconotextual Analysis of Selected Norwegian and Danish Picturebooks 44  
*Hanna Dymel-Trzebiatowska*
- 4 Political vs. Personal: Gender-Role Formation in the Works of Ukrainian Female Children's Writers in the 1930s 56  
*Snizhana Zhygun*
- 5 The Controversial Truth: Postmemory and the Great Terror in Yulia Yakovleva's *The Raven's Children* and Eugene Yelchin's *Breaking Stalin's Nose* 70  
*Sylvia Kamińska-Maciąg*
- 6 Controversies over the Holocaust and the Greek Civil War: Painful Memories in Greek Children's Books 85  
*Meni Kanatsouli*
- 7 Trauma Representation and Aestheticization in North American Young Adult Holocaust Literature 99  
*Talia E. Crockett*

## PART 2

*Transcultural Controversies*

- 8 Boys' Friendship or Something More? Re-Examining Janusz Korczak's *King Matt the First* and Its English Translations 115  
*Joanna Dybiec-Gajer*
- 9 Annotated Editions as a Misappropriation of the Author's Voice and of Children's Reading: Some Polish Editions of Fairy Tales by Charles Perrault 132  
*Barbara Kaczyńska*
- 10 Beguiling Bygones and Relapses into Barbarism: Censoring Old Children's Literature in the Netherlands 147  
*Charlotte van Bergen*
- 11 Controversies of Authentic Adolescent Realism in Isabel Quintero's *Gabi, a Girl in Pieces* (2014) and Louise O'Neill's *Asking For It* (2015) 166  
*Jennifer Mooney*
- 12 "I'm Not a Teapot": The Controversy of (Post)Humanity in Selected Novels by Neal Shusterman 185  
*Anna Bugajska*
- 13 "Behind the Bars, No World": Brecht Evens' *Panther* as an Ironic Response to Children's Literature 200  
*Katarzyna Smyczyńska*
- 14 Two-Dad Families in Children's Nonfiction Picturebooks 216  
*Angela Yannicopoulou*
- 15 The Children's Literature Scholar as a Two-Headed Creature (Lofting and Damrosch) 229  
*Anna Czabanowska-Wróbel*
- Index of Persons 241

# Notes on Contributors

## Editors

### *Elżbieta Jamróz-Stolarska*

is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Information and Media Studies (University of Wrocław). She has published widely on the children's book market, design and illustration. Her major recent work is *Serie literackie dla dzieci i młodzieży w Polsce 1945–1989. Produkcja wydawnicza i ukształtowanie edytorskie* [*Children's and Young Adults' Literature Series in Poland 1945–1989: Book Market and Design*] (Warszawa, 2014).

### *Mateusz Świetlicki*

is an Assistant Professor at the University of Wrocław's Institute of English Studies and Director of the Center for Young People's Literature and Culture. His research interests include Canadian, American, and Ukrainian children's and YA literature and culture, gender studies, popular culture, and film. His most recent book, *Next-Generation Memory and Ukrainian Canadian Children's Historical Fiction: The Seeds of Memory* (Routledge, 2023) examines the transnational entanglements of Canada and Ukraine.

### *Agata Zarzycka*

is an Associate Professor at the Institute of English Studies (University of Wrocław). She has recently published *A Goth Reflection: Self-Fashioning and Popular Culture* (Wrocław, 2019). Her research interests include literary studies focused on speculative fiction, gothic studies, game studies focused on video games and role-playing games, fan studies, subcultural and cultural studies.

The editors are co-founders and members of The Centre for Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature at the University of Wrocław.

## Contributors

### *Bożena Hojka*

is an Assistant Professor at the University of Wrocław (Poland). Her research interests concern the relationship between text and image in various types of publications, with particular emphasis on educational books for children, widely understood publishing and communication theory. Currently she is

conducting research on picture- and illustrated dictionaries for children. She is a member of The Centre for Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature at the University of Wrocław.

*Monika Woźniak*

is an Associate Professor of Polish Language and Literature at the University of Rome "La Sapienza". Her research focuses on Literary Translation, Children's Literature and Translation and Audiovisual Translation. She has published widely on all these topics. Recently, she co-authored a monography on Italian reception of Henryk Sienkiewicz's *Quo vadis* (*120 lat recepcji "Quo vadis" Henryka Sienkiewicza we Włoszech*, 2020) and co-edited (with Maria Wyke) a volume on *Quo vadis* for Oxford University Press (*The Novel of Neronian Rome and its Multimedial Transformations*, 2020).

*Hanna Dymel-Trzebiatowska*

is an Associate Professor at the Department of Scandinavian and Finnish Studies of the University of Gdańsk, Poland. The focal points of her studies are Nordic children's literature, picturebooks, translation and theory of translation. Apart from books on Swedish grammar, translation theory and reading therapy she co-edited *The Picturebook: a mirror of social changes* (2016), *The Picturebook. Introduction* (2017), *The Picturebook. Lexicon 1* (2018).

*Snizhana Zhygun*

is an Associate Professor at Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University (Ukraine) and a researcher at Taras Shevchenko Institute of Literature of Ukrainian National Academy of Science. She is interested in literary theory, Ukrainian literature of the 20th century, and ideological influences on texts and those caused by texts.

*Sylvia Kamińska-Maciąg*

is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Slavic Studies at the University of Wrocław. Her scientific interests include Russian fantasy literature of the 19th century, esotericism, psychoanalysis in literature, Russian children's and youth literature, historical fiction, and memory studies.

*Meni Kanatsouli*

is a Full Professor at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece) where she teaches children's literature. Her most representative papers are: "Aspects of the Greek Children's Novel: 1974–1994", *CLA-Quarterly* (20. 3), 1995: 121–125; "Censorship in Greece: 1974 to the Present", *PARA.DOXA* (2.3), 1996: 397–402; and "Games Inside Books for Young Children", *Bookbird* (50, 4), October 2012: 33–40.



*Talia E. Crockett*

received her PhD in English Literature from the Victoria University of Wellington in 2023. Prior, she received her HonBA in English from the University of Toronto and worked in the Canadian publishing and film criticism industries. Her research focuses on literary representations of trauma and contemporary trauma theory, Holocaust literature, and settler colonial literature.

*Joanna Dybiec-Gajer*

is an Associate Professor at the Pedagogical University of Kraków, where she is Head of the Chair for Translator Education. Her main research interest concern translating for younger audiences, contemporary translation practices, amateur translation, and translator training. Her recent book publications include coedited volumes *Negotiating Translation and Transcreation of Children's Literature: From Alice to the Moomins* (2020) and *Mediating Practices in Translating for Children: Tackling Controversial Topics* (2021).

*Barbara Kaczyńska*

is a translator, university teacher, and PhD candidate at the Faculty of Applied Linguistics of the University of Warsaw. She holds a master's degree in applied linguistics and history. She has conducted research on metafiction in children's literature and other media, and on medieval Polish lexicography. Currently, she is working on a doctoral dissertation about the reception of classic French fairy tales in Polish children's literature from 1768 to 2018.

*Charlotte van Bergen*

has obtained a master's degree in children's literature from Tilburg University in 2018, and has finished a research master in historical, literary, and cultural studies at Radboud University in 2021. She was an intern at the Centre for Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature at the University of Wrocław in 2018–2019. Currently, she works for the Dutch Research Council.

*Jennifer Mooney*

is an Assistant Professor in the School of English, Dublin City University. She is chair of its MA in Children's and Young Adult Literature degree programme and co-director of the Centre for Research in Children's and Young Adult Literature. Jennifer's teaching and research interests include gender and sexuality in young adult literature and popular culture, recent critical concerns with posthumanism and ecocriticism, and Irish studies.

*Anna Bugajska*

is an Associate Professor at the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow. The Head of the Institute of the Modern Languages and the Language and Culture Studies Department; cooperates with the General and Applied Ethics Department. She is interested in biopolitics, bioethics, philosophy of science and technology, and crossover and fantastic fiction.

*Katarzyna Smyczyńska*

is an Assistant Professor at Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Poland. Her current research interests and publications focus upon ethics in contemporary visual narratives. She teaches courses in visual storytelling, media studies, and contemporary Anglophone literature and culture. In recent years she has published a number of academic articles and book chapters on contemporary visual literature, including a two-author book with Magdalena Sikorska (Tako 2019).

*Angela Yannicopoulou*

is a Full Professor of children's literature at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. Her research interests include ideology in children's literature, visual literacy, and picturebooks. She has published many papers and books on children's literature and literacy.

*Anna Czabanowska-Wróbel*

is a Titular Professor at the Faculty of Polish Studies, Jagiellonian University in Kraków. She is a researcher of Modernist literature, contemporary poetry and children's literature and the founder and head of the Children's and Youth Literature Research Centre at Jagiellonian University. She is the author of six books and editor/co-editor of numerous volumes, including a series devoted to imagination in children's literature.