



Universität
Münster



THINKING OF THE CHILDREN: BOOK BANS, CENSORSHIP AND LITERATURE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Conference Programme

11–13 February, 2026

University of Münster



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DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

14.00 - 14.15 (CET)

Opening remarks: Jennifer Gouck and Sarah Pyke

14.15 - 15.30 (CET)

Panel 1: European Perspectives I

No Book Bans in Western Europe? Book Censorship and Child Protection in France and Germany

Inge Orlowski and Jo Platteau

To protect the child from everything unsightly: Evaluations of children's literature in Swedish library press, 1903-1940

Sebastian Lönnlöv

Censorship as Theme and Structural Device in the Metatheatrical 8+ Performance *Hendrik IV: Ongeschikt voor Kinderen*

Mahlu Mertens

Break

16.00 - 17.15 (CET)

Panel 2: Histories and Contexts

A Clue in the Blue-Bound Books: An Exploration into the Censorship and Gatekeeping of Historic Children's Literature

Kyra Droog

The Sacred Child and the Vernacular Reader: Transnational Histories of Censoring Youth Reading

Fatima Naveed

Science and Censorship in Progressive-Era US History Books: The Case of Lucy Sprague Mitchell and Margaret Wise Brown

Elizabeth Massa Hoiem

Break

17.45-19.00 (CET)

Panel 3: Racism and Resistance

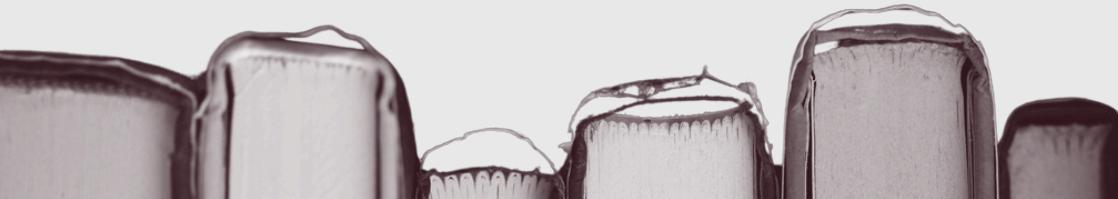
Confronting Slavery's Ghosts: Gothic Conventions in Book Bans and Banned Books

Maude Hines

Censorship or Anti-racism? The Reappraisal of a Danish Children's Classic

Frederikke Holgaard Buhl

End of Day 1



DAY 2: THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

14.00 - 15.15 (CET)

Panel 4: European Perspectives II

The Children's Book as an Ideological Tool: Censorship and Reading Control in Czechoslovakia 1948-1989

Milan Mašát

On Censorship and Publication of 'Destructive' Children's Books in Putin's Russia

Ekaterina Shatalova

Silent Exclusions and Imported Panics: The State of Children's Books in Post-Socialist Albania

Ina Lamllari

Break

15.45 - 17.00 (CET)

Panel 5: Politics and Practices

Skim, Quote, List

Katherine Inglis

Dangerous Knowledge: The Slippery Slope of Censorship in Rachel Caine's *The Great Library Series*

Janieke Koning

Break

17.30-18.45 (CET)

Panel 6: Allyship and Activism

Queer in a Time of Book Banning: A Few Strategies from a Red State Educator

Elissa Myers

Books, Bans, and Backlash: Book Censorship and Queer Erasure in Alberta

Anah-Jayne Samuelson

Reading to Resist, Not Conform: How Queer Young Adult Literature Functions in Response to Book Banning Efforts

Christopher Morabito

End of Day 2



DAY 3: FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

12.00 - 13.15 (CET)

Panel 7: Publishing and Consumerism

Age-Appropriate or Censorship? “Cleaning Up” Young Adult Fiction Through the New Adult Label

Lore Goossens

Independent Publishing and Contemporary Censorship in Children’s Literature: A Qualitative Case Study

Daniel Lallena & Rosa Tabernero

Contested and Commodified: The Banned Book in Contemporary US Consumer Culture

Aline Franzus

The Role of the Public in Censoring Children’s Books in China

Svetlana Kharchenkova

Break

13.45 - 15.00 (CET)

Panel 8: Censorship in/and Libraries

I Read Whatever I Want! Public Library Strategies for Defending Children’s Access to Literature

Rina Teske

Queerbrarians Summer Reading Challenge 2025: Banned Books Edition

Claudia Frick & Daniela Markus

Between the Stacks and the Stakes: Risk Work and Book Banning in UK School Libraries

Alison Hicks

Break

15.30-16.45 (CET)

Panel 9: Teaching Banned Books

Using Milton’s “Areopagitica” as an anchor text to teach book banning

Erin Weinberg

Hierarchy of Intent: Building Inclusive Reading Classrooms in the Era of Book Bans

Janell Pycior

16.45 - 17.00 (CET)

Closing remarks: Jennifer Gouck and Sarah Pyke

