

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

Conference Programme  
11-13 February, 2026  
University of Münster

# 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 Orłowski 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: Ongeschied 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 Høiem*

**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 Holkgård 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 Laliena & 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**

