

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 Orlovski 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

Counterstory as Protest: African American YA Literature, Book Bans and the Politics of Resistance

Nardia Lipman

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

Frederikke Holtegaard 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

Drawn into Controversy: *Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation* and the Politics of Book Banning

Joanna Webb Johnson

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

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

Janell Pycior

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

Erin Weinberg

Teaching Banned Books in the Time of Trumpism

Michaela Wipond

16.45 - 17.00 (CET)

Closing remarks: Jennifer Gouck and Sarah Pyke

