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The Croatian Association of Researchers in Children's Literature and the University of Zadar  
cordially invite you to

The 14<sup>th</sup> International Child and the Book Conference  
(CBC2019):

*Beyond the Canon (of Children's Literature)*

8 – 10 May 2019

and to the post-conference event

*Children's Literature Scholarship in Europe*

11 May 2019

Zadar, Croatia

The International Conference *The Child and the Book*, launched in London in 2004, has since taken place in different countries (Belgium, UK, Turkey, USA, Canada, Norway, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Poland and Spain). It gathers scholars and students focusing on children's and young adult literature, who exchange experiences, insights and knowledge in this interdisciplinary field. The Croatian Association of Researchers in Children's Literature (CARCL) and the University of Zadar are organising the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference edition in May 2019.

The main topic of the Conference raises questions following recent research on the canon of children's literature, focusing on exclusion from the canon, i.e. on literature and related phenomena and forms of expression which remain *beyond the canon*. Canonical works are generally considered to be of high value and vital for different spheres of human existence, both at the personal and at the social level. Simultaneously, literary and related systems which develop beyond the canon often prepare new beginnings which eventually influence the canon. Popular literature and children's literature are examples of literary systems that enable

the exploration of new areas and extend beyond their own boundaries, often creating new meanings and exploring innovative modes of expression. Thus, we also wish to encourage thinking about the position of children's literature with regard to the literary canon in general and bring the attention of scholars and students to the frequent devaluation of the artistic quality of children's literature as a whole, and to ascribing to it utterly utilitarian attributes. Such views place children's literature beyond the mainstream canon, both national and international. We are particularly interested in the borderline position of children's literature, picturebooks, young adult literature and related systems, which enrich the world of children's culture and balance on the fine line between recognition and dispute. Accordingly, we also encourage participants to concentrate on works written for children placed beyond the canon of children's literature, for different reasons, and on how they may cross an imaginary borderline between acceptance and rejection in either direction. We hope to pinpoint, understand, and clarify different factors that have an impact on these processes and explore how they may be viewed in a diachronic perspective.

Taking these issues as starting points, the Conference will focus on the following general **topics**:

1. Children's literature and the literary canon
2. Forming the canon of children's literature: contexts and influences
3. Inside and outside the canon: reasons for inclusion/exclusion and forgotten titles
4. The canon of children's literature vs. the canon of young adult literature
5. Translation and publishing practices in relation to the canon(s) of children's and young adult literature
6. The international canon and the perception of own and other cultures in the national canons of children's literature
7. Canonical illustrations and the (re-)interpretations of children's classics
8. Reading practices and the canon of children's literature
9. Adaptations of the canonical titles of children's and young adult literature
10. The canon of children's culture: literature, arts, multimodality, new media...

The official languages of the Conference are English and Croatian.

A second Call for Papers inviting the submission of abstracts and registration, and including additional information about the Conference, will be issued in September 2018.

News and detailed information about the Conference will be published on the Conference website <http://cbc2019.hidk.hr/> and on the official website of the Croatian Association of Researchers in Children's Literature: [www.hidk.hr](http://www.hidk.hr). Should you have any further inquiries or require additional information, please contact us at the following email addresses: [childbook2019@gmail.com](mailto:childbook2019@gmail.com); [narancic-kovac@ufzg.hr](mailto:narancic-kovac@ufzg.hr); [rbacalja@unizd.hr](mailto:rbacalja@unizd.hr).

On behalf of the Organising Committee

Smiljana Narančić Kovač and Robert Bacalja, convenors