First Announcement and Call for Papers of 27th IRSCL Congress

21-25 June 2025, University of Salamanca (Spain)

Borders, Migration and Liminality in Children's Literature

The 27th Biennial International Research Society for Children's Literature (IRSCL) Congress will be held from 21 to 25 of June 2025 at the University of Salamanca (Spain), convened by Izaskun Elorza (LINDES Research Group, University of Salamanca) and Carmen Santamaría-García (University of Alcalá).

The Congress will address borderlands, migration, and liminality in children's literature. Borders may serve as geographical boundaries, imposing limitations on interaction with the environment or as political barriers that limit free movement and can result in harsh or traumatic experiences. Yet, borderlands can become wonderlands, as rich spaces of liminality where limits are negotiable and identities become blurred, transient, and recycled.

Borderlands and liminality appear in children's literature in a variety of ways, such as thresholds between different languages, genres, crossover narratives, transitional periods from childhood to adulthood, or the blurring frontiers between the human and the more-than-human. Borders can set limits to free mobility for territorial and political reasons. We must acknowledge a wide multiplicity of borders, such as geographical, legal, linguistic, economic, or cultural, with new types of emerging borders arising with life changes and challenges. The triggers for human migration can be multifaceted, ranging from escaping conflict to searching for new opportunities. In the Anthropocene, economic growth forces human displacement and challenges ecosystems, leading to the need for continuous adaptation by both human beings and other species. The theme chosen for the 27th edition aims to stimulate discussion about these and related topics.

We invite papers, posters, panel sessions and special events (e.g., exhibitions, performances, storytelling, etc.) that engage in discussion on the representation, production and/or reception of migration, borders, and liminality in different genres (fairy tales, fantasy, self-narratives, novels, poetry, biographies, fiction) and formats (picturebooks, graphic novels, digital narratives, films, books) found in children's literature. We encourage approaches including, but not limited to, ecocriticism, posthumanism, materiality, aesthetics, multimodality, discourse analysis, critical content analysis, equity, diversity, and social justice. Relevant topics include, among other, these listed below:

1. Borders between languages and dialects, including translanguaging / Fronteras entre lenguas y dialectos, incluyendo el translingüismo
2. Borders of childhood and coming-of-age narratives / Fronteras de la infancia y narraciones de transición entre edades
3. Decolonial, Postcolonial and Anti-Colonial approaches / Enfoques decoloniales, poscoloniales y anticoloniales
4. Emigration, diasporas, and belonging / Emigración, diásporas y pertenencia
5. Forced displacement and forced return / Desplazamiento forzoso y regreso forzoso
6. Gender identities / Identidades de género
7. Human and more-than-human migratory journeys / Viajes migratorios humanos y más-que-humanos
8. Human, cyborg, and hybrids / Humanos, ciborgs e híbridos
9. Impacts of the Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Chthulucene / Impactos del Antropoceno, Capitaloceno, Chthuluceno
10. Multimodal Analysis of Children Picture Books about Migration Symposium / Simposio de Análisis Multimodal de Álbumes Ilustrados sobre Migración
11. Networks as agents of change and transformation / Las redes como agentes de cambio y transformación
12. Oneiric, ephemeral, and transient spaces / Espacios oníricos, efímeros y transitorios
13. Shapeshifting, transgressions, and crossing thresholds / Transformación, transgresiones y superación de umbrales
14. Third space and other liminal dimensions / Tercer espacio y otras dimensiones liminales
15. Other topics / Otros temas

PLENARY SPEAKERS

The following plenary speakers have kindly accepted to participate: **Evelyn Arizpe** (University of Glasgow), **Sara Van den Bossche** (University of Tilburg), **Macarena García-González** (Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Glasgow), **Anita Nair** (fiction writer and High-Profile Supporter of the UNHCR), **Jesús Moya-Guijarro** (Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha), and **Len Unsworth** (Australian Catholic University).

PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

Oral paper: For participants who wish to present a paper (20 minutes) in person, followed by questions and discussion.

Virtual poster: This is the ideal option if you are unable to present your work in person. Once the proposal is accepted, the (pdf) poster and a short video recording (5' long) must be uploaded to be displayed in the congress virtual gallery from 21 to 25 June. Congress participants will be able to access posters and recordings, interact with comments or questions in a chat, and vote for the Best Poster of the Congress.

Special event: This option includes any other types of activities of relevance to the congress theme and to the IRSCL. Examples may include exhibitions, book launches, storytelling activities, art performances, roundtables, or networking activities, to name but a few.

Thematic panel: It is possible to include a thematic panel with a number of presentations (20 minutes each) around a relevant topic. In this case, the panel Convenor will send an email message to irscl2025@usal.es **before 30 June** detailing the title of the panel, a short description, and the participants' names.

SUBMISSIONS

For **paper** and **poster** submissions, it is necessary to send an abstract (250 words max.). For a **special event**, it is necessary to submit an abstract describing the activity, the required materials (and who provide them), the estimate space required, the duration of the activity, and the target audience. Abstracts must be submitted in **English** or **Spanish** via Oxford Abstracts (link here as well as in the congress website) **from 15 May to 15 September**.

RELEVANT DATES

- **15 May to 15 September 2024**: Submission period open for individual proposals, thematic panels, and special events via Oxford Abstracts (link here and also at the congress website from 15 May onwards).

- **December 2024**: Communication of acceptance/rejection of proposals

- **Congress: 21 to 25 June 2025**

INFORMATION UPDATES: Follow us in the congress website and social media for update information!

Website: https://irscl2025salamanca.usal.es/

e-mail address: irscl2025@usal.es

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN SALAMANCA 2025!

© Sayan 2023

Social media: @irscl2025_usal

THANKS FOR HELPING US DISSEMINATE THIS CALL!