



## Conference Program

# ***Bending the Rules: Social Radicalism, Wanderlust, and Utopianism in Children's and YA Literature***

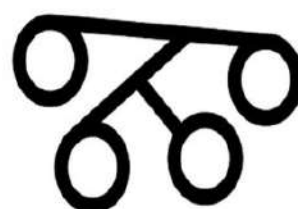
**Day 1**

Date: 9 June 2026

Location: Vijećnica, Faculty of Humanities and Social  
Sciences, University of Zagreb

17:00 – 18:30 Book Talk about *A Walk Through the Future*, the  
first SF socialist utopia in the South Slavic literatures:  
“The unpredictable past of the future: The political potential of  
utopia”

(Ivana Momčilović and Jelena Lalatović)



## Day 2

Date: 10 June 2026

Location: Vijećnica, Faculty of Humanities and  
Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

09:30 - 10:00 Opening speech

Biljana Andonovska (Institute for Literature and Art, Belgrade), the researcher who rediscovered *A Walk Through the Future*

**10:00 - 10:45 Keynote: "In Dreams Begin Possibilities: Can Children's Literature Change the World?" by Julia Mickenberg (University of Texas at Austin) and Philip Nel (Kansas State University)**

**10:45 - 11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:00 - 12:30 Round Table: "Subversive Ideas and Revolutionary Practices in Children's Literature" Chair: Jelena Lalatović (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb)**

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**Dubravka Zima (Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb), "Anarchy in Children's Literature: Mutual Aid and Radicalism of Unity in Croatian Children's Novels in the 1930s"**

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**Stanislava Barać (Institute for Literature and Art, Belgrade), "A Radical Price of Radical Literature: Mila Dimić's Anti-Capitalist Short Stories for Children and Their Parents"**

•  
**Katja Kobolt (Institute of Culture and Memory Studies, Ljubljana), "Social Reproduction and Children's Literature: Politicizing Socialist Motherhood"**

•  
**Sanja Petrović Todosijević (Institute for Recent History of Serbia, Belgrade), "Children's Self-Organization and State Educational Policy in Yugoslavia (1918-1991)"**

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**Ivana Momčilović (Laboratory of Radical Peace / Edicija Jugoslavija / El-Migrative Art, Belgium), "(Self) Education of Peace and Unlearning of War - An Example from Children's Science Fiction Literature: A Walk Through the Future, by Little Zora, Belgrade (1924/25)"**

## Day 2

Date: 10 June 2026

Location: Vijećnica, Faculty of Humanities and  
Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

**12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break**

**13:30 – 15:00 Panel: “Children’s Literature Between Political Agendas and Semiotic Reframing”** Chair: Milica Sekulović (Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade)

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**Lilijana Burcar (Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana), “Saving Socialist (Non)Utopia from Revisionism in Children’s Literature: The Other Side of Political and Social Inculturation of Child Readers”**

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**Janneke van de Stadt (Williams College, Williamstown), “Subversion as Fantasy: Disability in Hadi Mohammadi’s and Nooshin Safakhoo’s In the Meadow of Fantasies”**

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**Luca Padalino (University of Perugia), “Utopia as Explosion: A Lotmanian Reframing of Radicalism in Children’s and Young Adult Literature”**

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**Gabriella Daroczi (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest), “A Labyrinth Book — Suzy Lee: Mirror”**

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**15:00 – 15:15 Coffee Break**

**15:15–16:30 Panel: “Communities of Transgression”** Chair: Ivana Momčilović

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**Milica Marković (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade), “The Open-Air School Movement in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century: An Attempt at a School of the Future?”**

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**Milan Mašát (Faculty of Education, Palacký University Olomouc), “Wanderlust and Micro-Utopias: Boundary-Pushing Communities in Czech Children’s and YA Literature”**

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**Davor Ereš and Milica Sekulović (Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade), “Wanderlust and the Temporality of the Future in Yugoslavia: Transformative Visual Pedagogy and the Case of the Novel KETS Star (Belyaev).”**

**Closing**