

CALL FOR PAPERS: ADAPTATION AND CHILDHOOD

Adaptation Special Issue

Children's media culture has been the testing ground of many of the adaptation strategies that have spread throughout our mediascapes today—including merchandising, transmedia storytelling, and franchising—and yet the role that children's media content and its adaptation plays in shaping understandings of adaptation as process and product, not to mention the challenge that the child as audience poses to theories of adaptation as a process of reception, remain largely unexamined. While some of the field's most prominent scholars have turned to works of children's literature and their adaptation to rethink adaptation's relationship to key concepts, including interactivity (Meikle 2017), performance and embodiment (Krebs 2014), textual networks (Newell 2017), serialisation (Voigts Virchow 2014), and even as a means of reimagining the discourses through which the process of adaptation is conceived (Elliott 2003; 2010), scholars of adaptation have rarely, if ever, examined the texts engaged by their studies as children's texts. Better progress has been made in recent years with Robyn McCallum (2018), Casie Hermansson (2019), and Meghann Meeusen (2020) all producing scholarly monographs dedicated specifically to the study of adaptation and its intersection with children's media culture. Yet, even these studies find themselves confined to the subject of book-to-film adaptations as they forge new ground, leaving room for growth into the wider field of adaptation studies

It is towards this expansion that this special issue aspires. What modes of adaptation does the idea of the child enable? How does the invocation of the child audience force us to reconsider adaptation in ideological and affective terms? And how do adaptations make visible how our ideas of childhood, and other age-based categories for that matter, shift over time? The field of adaptation studies can offer new understandings of textuality to scholars seeking to make sense of how childhood is imagined, constructed, and consumed in and through media cultures while scholars devoted to the study of childhood can offer adaptation scholars new ways of thinking about the role that specific ideological and cultural contexts play in informing not only specific adaptations, but also how concepts of adaptation evolve across generations. This special issue thus seeks to bring such scholars together to begin an excavation of the complex and multivalent relationship that exists between adaptation and childhood.

Possible topics for this special issue may include (but are by no means limited to):

- Adaptations made for and/or by children
- Adapting across age boundaries (e.g., Bowdlerization)
- Histories of adaptation in children's media cultures
- Constructions of adaptation as process and product in children's media
- The child as a figure for adaptation
- Nostalgia and fidelity around children's literature adaptations
- Adaptation as a help and/or hindrance to media literacy
- Ideologies of childhood in adaptation
- Identity—such as race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexuality, ability, socioeconomic class, and religion—and adaptations for/by children
- Adaptations for children troubling the knowing/unknowing audience binary
- The pedagogical uses of adaptations made for young people

**DEADLINE:
MARCH 1, 2023**

We are accepting articles 4,000-8,000 words long. If interested, submit your work directly to *Adaptation* by March 1, 2023. The issue will be edited by Madeleine Hunter, Rebecca Rowe, and Kyle Meikle

For more information about *Adaptation*, including submission guidelines: <https://academic.oup.com/adaptation>