

9 APRIL, 2022

Session 6: SPECIAL EVENT

Children's Biographies in the 800-Year History of the University of Padova



9.15

Welcome address

Chair: **Giuseppe Zago**, University of Padova, Italy

9.30

From Biography to Biofiction: The Contemporary Editorial Landscape of Picturebooks, Short Stories and Graphic Novels

Dalle biografie alla biofiction: l'attuale panorama editoriale fra albi, racconti e graphic novel

Marnie Campagnaro, University of Padova, Italy

In the last twenty years, biographies and collective biographies have attracted significant attention from the Italian publishing market for children and young adults. Novels, short stories, graphic novels, picturebooks and other forms of hybrid narrations have truly flourished, including fiction and nonfiction, focussing on the singularity and uniqueness of individual existence. Through narration, these books not only describe the personalities of people who have made human history but also portray lesser-known figures who have suffered because of history.

10.00

Looking for Freedom and Knowledge. *Storie Libere*, Biographies for Children by the University of Padova

Storie di sapere libero: biografie di donne e uomini nella collana Storie libere dell'Università di Padova

Chiara Malpezzi, University of Padova, Italy

Storie Libere, published by Carthusia in partnership with the University of Padova, aims to tell young readers about the lives of the great figures who have made the University's history, celebrating its eight centuries of operation (1222–2022). From the 16th century to the 20th century, biographies have given voice to people who embody the values of research: independent thinking, freedom from prejudice, courage in overcoming obstacles and solidarity in promoting an alliance between different fields of knowledge. This presentation will introduce the *Storie Libere* book series, starting from three key questions: How do biographies recount an identity? What messages do they convey? And how do they show the past to today's young readers?

10.20

Discussion

WORKSHOP 5: In-person (Italian)

10.30 & 12.00

(2 sessions; 1 hour long; max. 20 attendees in each session)

Who Is It? Strategies, Narratives and Metaphors to Recount an Identity

Chi è? Strategie, narrazioni e metafore per raccontare l'identità

By the research group on Children's Literature, University of Padova, Italy

This workshop will address the question that biographies pose about identity – who is it? – analysing the strategies developed in the *Storie Libere* book series. These approaches are both fictional and narrative (assuming other people's points of view in describing the main character or using letters and symbols) and historical and scientific (fact sheets and paratextual elements). Participants will be invited to choose one of these strategies in order to recount the biography of a person of their choice, asking: How do we shape a life story?

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The Telescope and the Shell: Divergence and Wonder in the World of Science

Il cannocchiale e la conchiglia: divergenza e meraviglia nel mondo della scienza

By the research group on Children's Literature, University of Padova, Italy

This workshop will focus on two metaphors, the telescope and the fossil shell, representing the protagonists of two biographies in the *Storie Libere* series: the scientist Galileo Galilei and the naturalist Antonio Vallisnieri. Participants will be invited to explore these objects and reflect on the meanings associated with scientific research from both a practical and material perspective (asking, can we do science with the five senses?) and an abstract and theoretical perspective (which temporal directions are involved in research, and what values should a scientist adopt?).

Visit@Beato: guided tours into the historical Beato Pellegrino Complex.

h. 10.30 - 1st tour

h. 11.00 - 2nd tour

The Beato Pellegrino Library organises an exhibition in the library, where it displays children's biographies from 1960s to the present day.

Plan your workshop and visit: <https://biografie-infanzia.eventbrite.it>

