

## Invitation for contributions

*Neohelicon*

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### *Children's Literature and Theory Today*

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edited by Vassiliki Lalagianni

The discussion concerning the end of 'Great' Theory' was sealed by the publication of Terry Eagleton's book *After Theory* in 2004. A significant number of texts and essays contributed to the discussion shaping critical thought and influencing literary scholarship.

For many of these texts, the boundaries laid by the new era are fluid. Some critics understand theory as the body of French thinkers influenced by the thought of the linguist Ferdinand de Saussure: structuralists like Claude Lévi - Strauss and Roland Barthes, poststructuralists like Jacques Lacan, Jaques Derrida, and finally Michel Foucault. Karen Winkler conceives of theory in terms of those representatives of the new 'post-theory' movement: Stephen Greenblatt, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and Judith Butler. In his book *After Theory* (1996) Thomas Docherty placed Baudrillard and Lyotard in the new territory of the After Theory era.

Given these new factors in the field of literary criticism, the present issue intends to open up the debate around this theme and to explore its implications for children's literature and childhood studies scholarship. From this perspective, we can 'read' literary works for the young in a different manner and address the thematics relative to gender in the post-modern era, questions of Identity/ties and Alterity in a post-colonial context, 'openness' but also problems that present the translation of a literary text in an intercultural educational context, etc.

*This issue will focus on the following topics (which are nonrestrictive):*

- Literary theory and *genre*
- Authors and their works
- Gender in the Postmodern Fairy Tale, Comic books....
- Transgressing Gender Norms in Children's Literature
- Questions of Identity and Otherness
- Class, Race and Culture in Novels for Children and Young People
- The Translation of Children's Literature: Theory and Practice (Problems)
- Children's Literature in Translation: National and Cultural Specificities

The editor will be pleased to consider for publication original papers, which deal with any of the above topics.

Please send your proposal of 300-400 words (hard copy or email Word attachment) by **30 April 2007** to the editor of the issue.

Articles should be submitted to the editor of this issue by **30 April 2008**. They may be written in either English or French and must remain within 4000-6000 words (counting notes, charts and bibliography). Please send the articles by electronic mail along with two printed copies, adjoined by a summary in English (250-300 words), addressed to the coordinator:

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