

Elizabeth Hale (University of New England)

Proposal for the panel at the international conference “Children and Youth on the Move” organised by the Children’s History Society on June 21-23, 2018, at the University of Greenwich, London, UK

Moving Myths: Classical Mythology in Animation for Young Audiences

This panel focuses on how children encounter classical myth, how it is mobilised by writers and artists, and how it moves around the world in texts aimed at young people. It reports findings from the panellists’ involvement in the Our Mythical Childhood project, which is an international research project exploring the transmission of classical antiquity through children’s literature and culture. (The project is funded for five years from the European Research Council’s Horizon 20/20 program (grant agreement No. 681202).)

In this panel, we will talk about how myths move, in verbal and visual storytelling for children. Sonya Nevin (co-director of the Panoply Vase Animation Project) will show how she moves myths for young people, through the animation of images on Greek vases. Elizabeth Hale will talk about how the Australian-Canadian animated show *The Deep* uses classical myths of the sea to appeal to a globalised idea of childhood. Anna Mik will explore how Walt Disney’s 1932 *Silly Symphonies* draw on girlishness and womanly sexuality in depicting the movement of mermaids for ‘King Neptune.’ Hanna Paulouskaya will discuss how Soviet animators adapted Greek myths for young audiences from across the USSR’s many cultures.

Our approaches are diverse, and we come from different countries, brought together by a shared interest in the way that myths move through, are mobilised within, and contribute to moving ideas about children’s culture around the world.

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