

Spookley the Square Pumpkin



Photo source: <https://www.parentmap.com/calendar/spookley-square-pumpkin-musical>

Current Social Problems in Children's Literature and Film

Thursday, Feb 1, 2024

14:00 – 16:00

Philo II, room 02.102

Jakob-Welder-Weg 20

Can children's literature address serious or controversial topics? Are such topics simply inappropriate for children? Or is it rather a matter of the narrative strategy that is being used?

Based on the Advanced Research Seminar 532 "Current Social Problems Expressed in Children's Literature and Film," this exhibition shows how creative, diplomatic, and inspiring children's books can be in addressing topics that are difficult to grasp or cope with, even for adults.

The posters and presentations in this exhibition are the results of students' projects from the American Studies Advanced Research Seminar 532 "Current Social Problems Expressed in Children's Literature," which was taught by Prof. Dr. Mita Banerjee (mita.banerjee@uni-mainz.de) in the winter term of 2023/24.

14:00 Opening | Introduction

Prof. Dr. Mita Banerjee (Course Leader)

followed by

Poster Presentations | Food & Drinks

Selected topics:

Loneliness as a Universal Childhood Issue in the Anime series *Naruto* and *Naruto Shippuden*

Life and Death in "The Fall of Freddie the Leaf" by Leo Buscaglia

Spookley, the Square Pumpkin

"Superstars in History": **The Civil Rights Movement**

Everyone welcome!