

## RESEARCH CLINIC

### General information

Supervisor:	Judi Mesman
Title of clinic:	Globalization of children's books: the spreading of cultural narratives
Number of students:	Max 4
Major ( <i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i> ):	Not tagged to a major, but open to students from all majors.
(Pre)requisites ( <i>if applicable</i> ):	(ideally students from different countries so as to maximize diversity in analyses)

### Research context

In the Netherlands, many popular children's books for toddlers and preschoolers are translated from English and were written by authors from the US or the UK (such as *The Gruffalo*, *the Rainbow fish*, or *Guess how much I love you*), but also some from other countries (e.g.,xx). In addition, translations of some Dutch children's books, such as the *Nijntje* series (*Miffy* in English) have spread across the globe. But what makes certain foreign children's books (i.e., those written by authors from another country, mostly translated) popular in particular countries? Do the foreign books add themes and narratives to the local children's literature that were not yet (or only minimally) there before? Or are the popular foreign books those that fit seamlessly with the local narrative so that they are acceptable to the consumers and just reproduce what was already there? Are such patterns country-specific, depending on the political and commercial context? In this project, each student will analyze these questions in their countries of origin, as the starting point for what is intended to become a large international project with data from as many countries as possible to understand the mechanisms that

### Students' tasks and activities

#### LEARNING AIMS

- Acquire skills in systematic data collection and coding of written materials
- Understand the mechanisms that determine the international spread of children's books and cultural narratives

#### ACTIVITIES:

- background reading and discussion
- selection of popular foreign and local children's books in your country of origin
- training in systematic extraction of themes and topics from the books
- analyzing the themes, and writing a report on the findings