

# The REIYL Conference: Glasgow

## Transatlantic Conversations in Research on Inclusive Youth Literature, 8-10 August 2019 at the Scottish Youth Theatre

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### Speakers/Presenters

#### Keynote Speakers



**Melanie Ramdarshan Bold** is a Senior Lecturer/ Associate Professor at University College London, where she teaches and researches topics related to Publishing/Book Cultures. Her main research interest centres on contemporary authorship, publishing, and reading, with a focus on children's and YA books. Melanie's book *Inclusive Young Adult Fiction: Authors of Colour in the United Kingdom*, was published by Palgrave in early 2019. Cambridge University Press will publish her next book *Book Trade Activism and Anthologies: Advocating for Change in the British YA Market* in late 2019/early 2020. Dr. Ramdarshan Bold is also on the Advisory Boards for the CLPE Reflecting Realities project, the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards, and the Pop-Up Pathways project. She tweets @ILoveCopyright.



**Darren Chetty** is a Teaching Fellow at University College London. He is the co-author of *What is Masculinity? Why Does it Matter? And Other Big Questions* (with Jeffrey Boakye, Wayland 2019) and *How To Disagree* (with Adam Ferner, Quarto, 2019), and co-editor (with Judith Suissa) of *Critical Philosophy of Race and Education* (Taylor and Francis, 2019). He won the 2014 Award for Excellence by the International Council for Philosophical Inquiry with Children (ICPIC) for his paper 'The Elephant in the Room: Picturebooks, Philosophy for Children and Racism.' His essay 'You Can't Say That! Stories Have to be About White People' was included in the *The Good Immigrant* (2016), edited by Nikesh Shukla. Darren co-writes, with Karen Sands-O'Connor, *Beyond the Secret Garden*, a regular column on children's literature for *Books for Keeps*. He has worked as a judge for the YA Book Prize, The Little Rebels Award, The Blue Peter Book Award and an advisor for the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards. He is a member of the Steering Committee for Reflecting Realities, a project run by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) examining ethnic representation in children's fiction in the UK. Darren tweets @rapclassroom.



**Farrah Serroukh - Learning Programme Leader at the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE).**

Throughout her career, Farrah has always worked hard to centre marginalised voices and keenly advocated for inclusive practices both within and outside of the education sector. An experienced teacher and senior leader, Farrah taught across all phases before moving into senior management where she led on Literacy, EAL, Ethnic Minority Achievement and Inclusion. Farrah has an MA in Bilingualism in Education and coordinates CLPE's partnership and regional work. She co-leads on the research and development strand of CLPE's work and is responsible for leading on and authoring CLPE's Reflecting Realities Study. This is an Arts Council funded research project and is the first study of its kind in the history of UK publishing. The aim of the study is to

quantify and evaluate the extent and quality of ethnic representation and diversity in children's publishing in the UK. The Survey seeks to offer a benchmark and an ongoing quantifiable measure to allow all stakeholders to gauge advances made in this area and to keep the importance of inclusion and better representation at the forefront of the collective consciousness. She tweets @storyriver.

## Plenary Panels



**Dean Atta's** poems deal with themes of race, gender, identity and growing up, and have appeared on BBC One, BBC Radio 4, BBC World Service and Channel 4. Dean was named as one of the most influential LGBT people in the UK by the Independent on Sunday. He was shortlisted for the Polari First Book Prize for his debut poetry collection, *I Am Nobody's Nigger*. He regularly performs across the UK and internationally. Dean is a member of Keats House Poets Forum and Malika's Poetry Kitchen. He Has a Philosophy and English BA from the University of Sussex and a Writer/Teacher MA from Goldsmiths, University of London. Dean is a Tutor for Poetry School and a Writer in Residence for First Story. He tweets @DeanAtta.



**Parinita Shetty** is a writer and enthusiast of children's books. She has worked with young people and books in India in various ways - as a bookseller and editor in a children's bookshop, a reading programme developer, and a coordinator of a children's literature festival. Her books include *The Monster Hunters*, *When Santa Went Missing*, *The A-Z Djinn Detective Agency*, *The Pig With The Runaway Tail*, and *The Starlight Adventure*. She completed her M.Ed in Children's Literature and Literacies from the University of Glasgow in 2017. She is currently a first-year PhD candidate at the University of Leeds studying intersectionality and critical literacy in the online fan communities of Harry Potter and Doctor Who. She should currently be writing but is probably watching *Avatar: The Last Airbender*.

## Panel Presenters

*We Need Diverse Names in YA Fiction*

**Ikram Belaid**, University College London

*Speculative Worlds of Color*

**Jewel Davis**, Appalachian State University

*A (Fictional) History of Dyslexia: Creating Inclusive Literature with Narrative Prosthesis in Margarita Engle and Caroline Starr Rose's Historical Fiction for Children*

**Elizabeth Leung**, University of British Columbia

*The Visualization of the Chinese Youth Literature in the 21st Century*

**Shushu Li**, University of Glasgow

*Unbalancing Crip Tropes in Speculative Texts – Legend of Korra, The Dragon Prince, and the Social Model of Disability*

**Kit Kavanagh-Ryan**, Deakin University

*Country, ecofeminism, and more-than-human identity in Ambelin Kwaymullina's The Tribe sequence*

**Nicole Kennedy**, University of Newcastle, Australia

*Being Aromantic and the Romance Plot in Young-Adult Fiction*

**Patricia Kennon**, Maynooth University, Ireland

*Comme un million de papillons noirs by Laura Nsafou: Or the Role of Social Networks in the Emergence of a Discussion about Inclusive Children's and Youth Literature in France*

**Élodie Malanda**, Université Paris 3, Sorbonne Nouvelle

*New British Histories: The Institute of Race Relations and Anti-Racist Children's History Books*

**Karen Sands-O'Connor**, SUNY Buffalo State College

*Inclusion and Diversity in Online Fan Communities*

**Parinita Shetty**, University of Leeds

*Resisting the Obviousness of Straightness: Family Model Variation in Picturebooks*

**Rachel Skrlac Lo**, Villanova University

*The Case of the Stolen Treasure: The Museum in Contemporary British Children's Books*

**Aishwarya Subramanian**, Independent Scholar

*A Small Step for a Small Person? Scripts of Migration and "Rehoming" in Contemporary Dutch-Language Picture Books*

**Sara Van Den Bossche**, Tilburg University

*"Rise Up": #Hamilkids, Children's Rights, and the Politics of Empathy*

**Karin Westman**, Kansas State University