

## [CFP Children and Childhood in the Works of Stephen King](#)

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Call for Papers

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Location:

Missouri, United States

Subject Fields:

Film and Film History, Childhood and Education, Literature, Popular Culture Studies, Women's & Gender History / Studies

CFP: Children and Childhood in the Works of Stephen King

Stephen King is one of the twentieth centuries' most prolific and well-known American authors. King's work brought modern horror and the supernatural to mainstream audiences in 1974 with the publication of his first novel, *Carrie*, a coming-of-age story about a bullied and lonely girl who discovers she has a real and deadly power. One of the defining features of Stephen King's oeuvre is his use of children and childhood in his novels and short stories. A King childhood is often framed within the horrors of the adult world--the dangers of uninhibited technology, abusive parents, the supernatural, or other strange or frightening circumstances--or the horrors of childhood itself. In a King narrative, children are often left unprotected and vulnerable while facing unimaginable threats. King's use of child characters within the framework of horror (or of horrific childhood) raises questions about adult expectations of children, childhood, the American family, child agency, and the nature of fear and terror for (or by) children. Childhood in King's work is often set within the mythos of small town America and the idealized spaces that have become emblematic of a pastoral or "proper" Western childhood. Such myths are then challenged or shattered by events that question notions of innocence, purity, reality, and American exceptionalism. This collection's goal is to examine childhood throughout Stephen King's works, from his early novels and short stories, through film adaptations, to his most recent publications. The ways King presents, complicates, challenges, or terrorizes children and notions of childhood provide a unique lens through which to view historically, philosophically, or theoretically American cultural, familial, and adult anxieties about children and childhood.

The editor welcomes submissions that examine children and childhood from a variety of perspectives in the works of Stephen King, including his novels, novellas, short stories, and films or television adaptations of his works. Submissions are encouraged from any discipline, and from multiple theoretical, or philosophical perspectives. International submissions are also welcome. Some suggested topics may include, but are certainly not limited to:

Misfit children  
Child as monstrous  
Lost children  
Child victim/Child as victimizer  
Bullying and bullies  
Isolated/isolating children  
Childhood culture (among children)  
Adult anxieties and children  
Fear and/in/of children  
Children and the supernatural  
Child hero/anti-hero  
Child savior  
Parenting/parenthood  
Death and the Child  
Gender  
Race  
Cruelty to or by children  
The American family and the child  
The child and authority (school, government, i.e. The Shop)  
Play (dangerous and otherwise)  
Sexuality  
Pedophilia  
Freaks and the nature of Freakishness  
Sacrificial children  
Nostalgia and horror  
Nature of reality for children

Contributors please send a 300-400 word abstract, full contact information, and a brief biography (30-50 words) to Dr. Debbie Olson at [debbieo@okstate.edu](mailto:debbieo@okstate.edu) by July 1, 2018. Full essays will be due by April 1, 2019.

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