

# VISAWUS

Online Events: Spring 2025

## “CURRENT CONVERSATIONS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY CHILDREN’S LITERATURE”



In William Wordsworth’s poem “My Heart Leaps Up” (1807), he curiously remarks that “The Child is father of the Man.” The poem’s line provides an important methodological path towards better understanding the nineteenth-century:

***What can children’s literature teach us about the nineteenth-century world?***

Our round table panel will feature various threads of recent scholarship on nineteenth-century children’s literature, accepting Marah Gubar’s claim in ‘Artful Dodgers’ (2009) that authors “produced texts that presuppose the existence of socialized, literate, and sophisticated child readers” (25). We will explore how the complexities of the child and children’s literature provide useful global cultural insights into the realities and movements within the nineteenth century. Ultimately, we will return our attention towards where the “Child is father of the Man”—exploring how the nineteenth-century child’s formation via literature and experience reveals something of the adult they would become and the society they would one day join.



**Amanda Chapman**  
Glenville State University

**Patrick C. Fleming**  
Independent Scholar



**Melissa Shields Jenkins**  
Wake Forest University

**Colten Biro**  
Saint Louis University



**Friday, March 28, 2025**

**9am PT | 12pm ET | 5pm BT**

**Moderated by Kellie D. Holzer**

**Join via Zoom:**

**<https://slu.zoom.us/j/97893377073>**

**Meeting ID: 978 9337 7073**

