

2023 UBC Grad Conference on Children's Lit & Media

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The conference is specifically about "topics surrounding the future and its representation in youth literature and media,:" and the name of the conference emphasizes exactly this: "(Re)Imagining Tomorrow." That means, among other things, that my previous idea of writing about the three subway narratives will not work, since none of them are dealing with the future. Right now, therefore, it is not worth spending too much time on this. The CFP deadline is not until March 25th, so I have some time to think about it./

2023 ASEES CONVENTION: Decolonization

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The theme of decolonization is a great opportunity to read up on the idea and then finally get an opportunity to perhaps present at the virtual conference in late October, even if going to Philadelphia for the in-person conference is out of the question. Not that I would want to be in NE smack in the middle of winter anyway. The central idea I am thinking about right now has to do with following up on Yomi's suggestion in the Fall about strategically positioning myself in relation to Taiwan-Ukraine comparison. This would also be a good chance to write up some of my thinking about sovereignty, indigeneity, and land. In particular, I am still struggling with parsing out indigenous sovereignty claims' relation to nationalism and even German "blood and soil." Is the primary difference merely in that whom we call "indigenous" are BIPOC? Can there be such a thing as white indigeneity? Are Irish people considered indigenous in Ireland? How does that track with decolonization? Taiwan's embrace of its indigenous peoples went hand-in-hand with attempts by the DPP to build up national identity. To what extent has that been the case in Ukraine, I wonder.