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Imagined Weapons: War Narratives in Russian Children's and Young Adult Literature, 2014 – present

PhD Dissertation Seminar (pre-Defence)

Ekaterina Shatalova

Opponents:

Dr. Nina Frieß (Centre for East European and International Studies, Berlin)

Dr. Mateusz Świątlicki (University of Wrocław)

Time: 29 April 2026, 09:15-11:00

Venue: Aarhus University M1, build. 1427-149 (AU Conference Center, Frederik Nielsens Vej 2-4)

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, children's books have become an explicit battleground in domestic culture wars – simultaneously instrumentalised as tools of patriotic mobilisation and subjected to intensified censorship that has made even naming the conflict legally risky. This dissertation examines how war and war-caused displacement are represented in contemporary Russian children's and young adult literature published since 2014, tracing the textual and visual strategies through which authors and publishers navigate, resist, or reproduce official narratives under conditions of self-censorship and securitisation.

Supervisors: Birgitte Beck Pristed; Nina Christensen

All interested staff and students are welcome.

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