Art by Warwick Goble

1–4 OCTOBER 2025

Troubling Wonder

Online Symposium on Fairy-Tale Studies

Special Sessions:

- **Book Presentation**: *Justice in 21ˢᵗ-Century Fairy Tales and the Power of Wonder* (2025), with **Cristina Bacchilega** (University of Hawai'i-Mānoa) and **Pauline Greenhill** (University of Winnipeg)

- **Special Issue Presentation:** "Norm and Transgression in the Fairy-Tale Tradition" (2025), *Marvels & Tales*, with **Alessandro Cabiati** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) and **Lewis Seifert** (Brown University)

- **Lecture:** *Creative and Critical Approaches to Fairy Tales and Disability Studies*, with **Beth O'Brien** (University of Birmingham), founder of *Disabled Tales* and author of *Wolf Siren* (2025)

Organisers:
Elena Sottilotta (University of Cambridge)
Alice Parrinello (University of Toronto)
Email: conferencefairytaletrouble@gmail.com

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER & VIEW THE PROGRAMME

Troubling Wonder
Online Symposium on Fairy-Tale Studies

DAY 1: Wednesday, 1 October 2025
All times refer to the UK time zone

15:00–15:10 – Opening Remarks

15:10–16:30 – Panel 1: Cultural Fluidity

Chairs: **Elena Sottilotta** (University of Cambridge) and **Alice Parrinello** (University of Toronto)

- **Ruth Bottigheimer** (Stony Brook University) – Different Strokes for Different Folks: Fairy-Tale Fluidity and Differing Cultures
- **Mariam Zia** (Lahore School of Economics / Harvard University) – Contextualizing Gender in the Indo-Persian Qissa "A Girl Named King Agar"
- **Sasha Bailyn** (Vermont College of Fine Arts) – Fairy Tales and Fluidity in Memoir

17:00–18:30 – Panel 2: Troubling Gender, Genre and Media

Chair: **Luca Viganò** (King's College London)

- **Davood Khazaie** (Hamburg-based Remote Fellow at Shiraz University Center for Children's Literature Studies) – *Alita*: A Posthuman Pinocchio in a Cyberpunk Tale
- **Danilo Petrassi** (University of Macerata) – *Shrek*: The Anti-Fairy Tale that Redefines Gender, Genre, and Cultural Narratives in Contemporary Storytelling
- **Pablo a Marca** (Brown University) – What Are We Doing?: T. Kingfisher's *Nettle & Bone* and Fairy-Tale Scholarship
- **Anna Travagliati** (Université Clermont Auvergne) – Once Upon a Time in the Lands of AO3: Fairy-Tale Elements and Rewritings in Naruto's Fanfictions

19:00–20:30 – Special Session 1: Book Presentation

Cristina Bacchilega (University of Hawai'i-Mānoa)
and **Pauline Greenhill** (University of Winnipeg)

Justice in 21st-Century Fairy Tales and the Power of Wonder (2025)

Discussants: **Pablo a Marca** (Brown University), **Michelle Anya Anjirbag** (University of Antwerp), **Elena Sottilotta** (University of Cambridge)

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DAY 2: Thursday, 2 October 2025

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09:30–11:00 – Panel 3: Women's Subversive Agency

Chair: **Rachele Bassan** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

- **Stephanie Key** (Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham) – Daphne Holds the Chase: Inversion and Agency in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- **Amy Webster** (Bishop Grosseteste University) – Once Upon a Time… in a Series Not So Far Away: The Serialisation of Fairy Tales in Contemporary British Children's Publishing
- **Liu Xiaowen** (Huazhong University of Science and Technology) – The Study of the Female Body in Victorian Fairy Tales: Crying and Laughing
- **Shiyu Wang** (Huazhong University of Science and Technology) – From Subversion to Empowerment: Exploring Gendered Power Dynamics in *Wicked* and Its Adaptations

11:30–13:00 – Panel 4: Posthuman and Ecofeminist Narratives

Chair: **Marco Ceravolo** (ILCS University of London)

- **Ghada Mostafa** (British University in Egypt) and **Nuran El Sayyad** (Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport) – Aquatic Myths and Ecofeminist Narratives: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Ahmed Khaled Tawfik's *The Name Caller* and *River Solomon's The Deep*
- **Francesca Arnavas** (University of Tartu) – Mermaids, Hybridity, Posthumanism: The Case of Laura Pugno's *Sirene*
- **Lucia della Fontana** (Sorbonne Université / Nantes Université) – The Fairy Tale as an Ecofeminist Tool in Contemporary Italian Literature
- **Maria Ruggero** (University of Bari Aldo Moro) – The Role of Femininity in the German Fairy Tale *Melusina*

Troubling Wonder

Online Symposium on Fairy-Tale Studies

DAY 2: Thursday, 2 October 2025

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14:00–15:30 – Panel 5: Gendered Retellings

Chair: **Carolina Celeste Granini** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

- **Britta Kallin** (Georgia Institute of Technology) – Cornelia Funke's Young Adult Fairy-Tale Fantasy *Reckless: The Petrified Flesh*: Genre, Graphics, and Gender
- **Magdalena Grycan** (University of Warsaw) – A Tale of Fear and Power: Socio-Critical and Socio-Cultural Readings of The Bluebeard's Tale in Selected YA novels
- **Weronika Kostecka** (University of Warsaw) – Fairy-Tale Retellings in the Context of Postfeminism: A Case of YA Literature
- **India Lawton** (Solent University) – Algorithmic Eden

16:00–17:30 – Panel 6: Fantasies of Girlhood, Womanhood, Motherhood

Chair: **Dalila Forni** (University of L'Aquila)

- **Elisabetta Orlandi** (Independent Scholar) – Female Bodies and Nature in Veronese Folktales: A Storyteller's Perspective
- **Jennifer Duggan** and **Erika Kvistad** (University of South–Eastern Norway) – Blood as Medium in E.M. Carroll's Queer Feminine Graphic Fairy Tales
- **Camila Andonaegui, Jéssica Andrade Tolentino** and **Angela Patricia Melo Arévalo** (Colectivo La Lucila) – Blurring the Lines: Latin American Hybridity in *La madre y la muerte/La partida*
- **Charli Brown** (University of British Columbia) – Cycles of Violence and Queer Fluidity: An Analysis of Temporality in *Cinderella is Dead*

DAY 3: Friday, 3 October 2025

All times refer to the UK time zone

09:30–11:00 – Panel 7: Myths, Dreams, Prophecies
Chair: **Edmondo Grassi** (San Raffaele University of Rome)
• **Giulia Gelmi** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) – Reimagining the Sirin: Gender, Myth, and the Evolution of Russian Fairy Tale Iconography
• **Larysa Taranenko** (National Technical University of Ukraine / Cambridge Regional College) – The Fairy Tale's Subliminal Manipulative Potential
• **Anna Lazareva** (Independent Researcher) – Marrying a Beast: Transformations of Folkloric Gendered Metaphors in Women's Prophetic Dream Stories

11:30–13:00 – Panel 8: Transcultural and Transmedial Transformations
Chair: **Pablo a Marca** (Brown University)
• **Mingyue Li** (Falmouth University) – Radicalising the Madwoman, or How Voice Mobilises: Sciarrino's Sonic Rewriting of Elsa's after Laforgue
• **Zahra Grieve** (University of Cambridge) – From the Outside Looking In: Reading Anthony Browne's Reworked Fairy Tales with a Class Critical Lens
• **Dubravka Zima** (University of Zagreb) – Feminine Strength and Masculine Weakness? On Gender Performances in the Fairy-Tale Collection *Croatian Tales of Long Ago* by Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić

16:00–17:30 – Panel 9: Radical Revisions

Chair: **Eli Dolliver** (University of Cambridge)

• **Ganna Kolesnyk** (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University / University of Roehampton) – Old Tales, New Horizons: Reimagining Traditional Fairy Tales in Marissa Meyer's *Lunar Chronicles*

• **Luca Sarti** (University of Naples "L'Orientale") – From Peril to Liberation: The Transformative Role of Water in Deirdre Sullivan's "Sister Fair"

• **Abigail Heiniger** (Lincoln Memorial University) – The All-Woman Sister-Lover: Sovranty Hag's Afterlife as Hairy Rucky *(The Irish Cinderella You Never Knew)*

• **Marzia D'Amico** (Centre for Comparative Studies, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa) – A Fairy-Tale Detention: Patrizia Vicinelli's Feminist Cinderella in Rebibbia (Rome)

18:00–19:30 – Special Session 2: Presentation of the Special Issue of *Marvels & Tales* 39.1

Chair: **Pablo a Marca** (Brown University)

Alessandro Cabiati (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

and **Lewis Seifert** (Brown University)

"Norm and Transgression in the Fairy-Tale Tradition" (2025)

14:00–15:30 – Panel 10: Grimmian Variations

Chair: **Malini Roy** (Fitzwilliam Museum)

- **Luca Baruffa** and **Chiara Maciocci** (University of Rome "La Sapienza" and Charles University in Prague) – Subversive Storytellers: Women, Fairy Tales, and the Feminist Reclamation of Grimmian Narratives
- **Richard Grange** (University of Cambridge) – The Fluid Narrator in Pullman's Adapted and Original Fairy Tales
- **Jante Borremans** (University of Antwerp / KU Leuven) – Gender and Age in "Hansel and Gretel": Adult Responses to the Characters in the Grimm's Fairy Tale
- **Joanna Hnatów** (University of Warsaw) – Into the Postmodern Woods: The Art of Remaking Fairy Tales in Walter Moers' *Ensel und Krete*

16:00-17:30 Panel 11: Queering Traditional Tales

Chair: **Anna Finozzi** (Stockholm University)

- **Biagio Mazzella** (Brown University) – A Fabulous Detail: Queer Ecology and Desire in Aldo Busi's *Guancia di Tulipano*
- **Rose Wagner** (University of Guelph) – Paranoid Kisses, Reparative Layers: Queer Reading Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen" and "The Little Mermaid"
- **Jennifer Taylor** (Independent Scholar) – Aesthetic Gender Subversion in Charles Perrault's Iconography
- **Elizabeth Howard** (University of Oregon) – Queering Gender Through the Motif of the Magical Skin in *Peau d'Homme*

18:00–19:30 – Special Session 3: *Creative and Critical Approaches to Fairy Tales and Disability Studies*

Beth O'Brien (University of Birmingham)

Founder of *Disabled Tales* and author of *Wolf Siren* (2025)

Discussant: **Anna Kérchy** (University of Szeged)

19:30-19:40 Closing Remarks