

# Deakin University



## Children's Literature and Culture Seminar Series

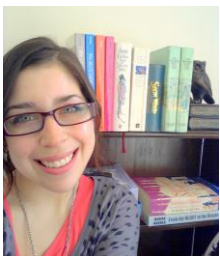
Meeting Room 1  
Deakin University Melbourne City Centre  
Level 3, 550 Bourke St  
Melbourne 3000

Thurs 24 March 2016  
3–5 pm  
RSVP: [sue.chen@deakin.edu.au](mailto:sue.chen@deakin.edu.au)  
Monday 21 March

### “Blood, Bellies, Birth: Censoring Maternity in the Fairy-Tale Genre”

**Dr Belinda Calderone**

Many literary fairy tales have been freely rewritten time and time again throughout history. The same tales often appear across different sociohistorical contexts – and each time they are infused with a new flavour. In this paper, I will examine how representations of motherhood in the fairy-tale genre have changed over time by following certain tales as they make their journey through different sociohistorical contexts. In particular, I argue that, as fairy tales transitioned from adult literature to children's literature, the details of conception, pregnancy, and childbirth were censored from the genre, eventually obscuring the experience of maternity.



Dr Belinda Calderone recently completed her PhD in Literary Studies at Monash University. Her thesis is entitled *Mothers, Monsters, and Midwives: The Evolution of Motherhood in European Fairy Tales*. She has published and given conference papers on various aspects of the fairy-tale genre and has published a book chapter: “The Monster Inside Me: Unnatural Births in Early Modern Italian and French Fairy Tales” in *Beyond the Monstrous: Reading from the Cultural Imaginary*. She has taught fantasy and children's literature at university, and is also the current President of the Australian Fairy Tale Society.