



The Australasian Children's Literature Association for Research

Children's Literature in a Time of Crisis

2026 ACLAR Conference

In person

Wednesday 18 November to Friday 20 November, 2026

Deakin Waterfront Campus, Geelong, Victoria

Call for papers

At a time when young people are being faced with rapid disruptive technological changes, intolerance and extremism, and environmental catastrophe, the ACLAR 2026 conference is interested in the ways in which crisis is manifested through and within children's literature and culture.

We invite submissions on topics in children's and young adult literature influenced and informed by ideas of crisis, including:

- climate change
- technology and developments in artificial intelligence
- disasters, survival, health and wellbeing
- conflict and extremism
- homelessness and displacement
- identity, including gender and sexuality, disability, race, Indigeneity
- coming of age/growing up with/in crisis
- hope and fear
- community, collective action, activism, resistance
- alternative ways to conceptualise and address crisis (e.g. as rebirth or potential)
- reading, writing and publishing in/through/from crisis
- any other themes relating to crisis.

We welcome submissions in relation to children's and young adult literature around these themes across a range of genres and formats, including picturebooks, graphic novels, comics, fiction and non-fiction, film, and tv. We also welcome panel proposals for three papers on one theme. Academics working at the intersection of Children's/YA and creative writing are warmly encouraged to submit.

Confirmed keynotes

Prof Fengia Tan. Fengia is a professor in the department of Chinese Language and Literature at Nanjing Normal University. She teaches Chinese modern literature and children's literature.

Dr Lisa Fuller. Lisa is a Wuilli Wuilli woman from Eidsvold Queensland, also descended from Wakka Wakka and Gooreng Gooreng peoples. She has lived on Ngunnawal and Ngambri lands (Canberra) since 2006, where she works at the University of Canberra as Lecturer in Indigenous Studies.

Abstract submissions

Please submit an abstract of 250 words and a short biography of 100 words to aclar2026@gmail.com. Emails should have the subject line: Submission ACLAR 2026.

Submissions should include the following:

1. Author(s)
2. Affiliation, including country
3. E-mail address
4. Title of proposed paper
5. Abstract (250 words)
6. 3-5 key words.

Key information

- All abstracts and papers must be in English.
- **Deadline for abstract submission 27 February 2026.**
- Notification of acceptance by May 2026.
- All submissions will be peer-reviewed.
- The conference will be held in person.
- Send enquiries and submissions to aclar2026@gmail.com.



Geelong Waterfront Corporate Centre, Deakin University