

EFTR 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# Beyond the Magic Mirror:

IMAGINATION, POLITICS, AND MEDIA

16/17  
OCTOBER  
2025

Fondazione Nazionale Carlo Collodi,  
Via Pasquinelli 6/8, Collodi (PT)

**16/10** 9:30 am - 4:30 pm (GMT +2 - Rome Time)

**17/10** 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (GMT +2 - Rome Time)



zoom

Link 1: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86135507157>

Link 2: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84333342941>

EFTR 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# Beyond the Magic Mirror:

IMAGINATION, POLITICS, AND MEDIA

16/10 | 9:30 am - 4:30 pm  
(GMT +2 - Rome Time)

## WELCOME ADDRESS

**Marina D'Amato**

*President of the European Fairy Tale Association*

## INTRODUCTION

**Edmondo Grassi**

*Director of the Scientific Committee EFTR  
Politics of the Imaginary: The Mirror as a  
Device for the Present*

## MORNING

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

### SECTION 1: SUBVERSIVE IMAGINARIES: LOVE, FREEDOM, AND OTHER PERSPECTIVES

**Edmondo Grassi**

**San Raffaele University of Rome**

**Emanuela Ferreri**

**Sapienza Università di Roma**

*"A country without the road". Nostalgia for  
the myth, creativity and perseverance*

**Jan Benthle**

**Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main**

*The Power of Love? Disruption of  
ideological narratives in Andrew Haigh's  
'structural fairytale' "All of us Strangers"*

**Melissa Leahigh**

**Southern New Hampshire University**

*Happily Ever After?: Is the Message of the  
Tale Being Lost in the Optimism?*

**Milan Mašát**

**Palacký University Olomuc**

*LGBTQ+ Themes in Contemporary  
Fairy Tales*

**Dianne McPhelim**

**Dundalk Institute Technology**

*From Fairytales to Freedom.  
Intertextuality in Grimm's Fairytales and  
the Migrant Literature of Hassan Blasim*

**Hanane Bessami**

**University M'hamed Bougara**

*Fairy Tales as a Tool for Political  
Subversion in Leila Aboulela's Bird  
Summons*

**Sarah Jessica Darley**

**University of East Anglia**

*'You Royal, You Rebel':  
Anti-Authoritarianism and the Politics of  
Play in Mattel's Ever After High Franchise*

**Silvia Storti**

**Independent Scholar**

*Re-Tracing Villainy: Transgressive  
Storytelling in Contemporary Narratives*



# Beyond the Magic Mirror:

IMAGINATION, POLITICS, AND MEDIA

## SECTION 2: POLITICAL IMAGINARIES: FROM MEMORY TO IDENTITY

**Michal Malinowski**  
Storyteller Museum

**Geoffrey Grandjean**  
University of Liège  
*The Tale of Meritocracy*

**Hamza Azaoui**  
Ibn Tofail University  
*Myths of Return and the Architecture of  
Absence: The Amazigh House as Political  
Narrative in Contemporary Morocco*

**Safae Benfraiha**  
Hassan II University  
*National Narrative of the Green March  
Among Moroccan Youth: Myth, Memory,  
and Imagination*

**Flavia Piancazzo**  
Università di Bologna  
*Tailored Myths: Fashion, Film, and the  
Politics of Cultural Imagination*

**Rosario Palese**  
Università degli Studi della Basilicata  
*Archetypes of consensus. How myths and  
fairy tales shape european political  
identity*

**Sajal Jain**  
Agra College  
*From Panchatantra to Political Prophecy:  
The Role of Fairy Tales in Shaping  
Ideological Consciousness in India*

**Sebastiano Mosti**  
Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3  
*Political myths between nature and  
history. The building of memory in Roland  
Barthes*

**Irene Sotiropoulou**  
Independent Scholar  
*Law and Myth*

## **AFTERNOON** 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

## SECTION 3: MYTHES, SYMBOLES ET SOCIÉTÉS CONTEMPORAINES 10 AM-1 PM

**Marina D'Amato**  
President of the European Fairy Tale  
Association

**Anaïs Theviot**  
Université Catholique de l'Ouest  
*Mobiliser les mythes autour du numérique  
pour construire une expertise politique*

# Beyond the Magic Mirror:

IMAGINATION, POLITICS, AND MEDIA

**Siame El Boutakmanti**

**Université Mohammed Premier**

*Le conte amazigh au Maroc : entre transmission morale et préservation culturelle*

**Kouadio Jean-Luc Gnamien Kesse**

**Université Alassane Ouattara de**

**Bouaké**

*Mythes de la sorcellerie et images du pouvoir en contexte africain : entre culte et occultisme*

**Tombruma Medjeje**

**Université de Maroua**

*Reconfiguration du pouvoir en Afrique Centrale postcoloniale : entre imaginaire politique, légitimation symbolique et pensée politique émergente*

**Saliou Sow**

**University of Dakar (UCAD) / NGO**

*L'influence des récits mythiques sur les normes éthiques et sociales contemporaines*

**Carla Beatrice Lomi**

**Associazione "Via Europea della Fiaba"**

*L'etica della cura nelle fiabe di Andersen: tra tensione utopica e riflessione sulla realtà*

## SECTION 4:

### IMAGINARIES OF FEMININITY: TRADITION, MEDIA, AND REBELLION

**Stella Tsingou**

**European Fairy Tale Route**

**Arshi Mortuza**

**University of Toronto**

*Shapeshifting Seductresses and Cultural Shadows in Bengali Folklore*

**Silvia Princy Thiyam, Jamia Millia**

**Islamia**

*Maibis: Their possession and position in Manipuri Society*

**Maria Ruggero**

**University of Bari 'Aldo Moro'**

*Melusine, Otherness and Power: Rewriting the Female Myth between Norm and Subversion*

**Carlotta Bontà, Gabriele Caruso**

**Università degli Studi di Catania**

*Plots of Power and Disobedience: social ambivalence and symbolic negotiation in narrative rewrites of Sleeping Beauty*

**Miranda Davies**

**University of South Wales**

*The Fight to Control Women's Boxing Mythologies: Old and New Media Narratives and the Creation of Rebel Warriors*



# Beyond the Magic Mirror:

IMAGINATION, POLITICS, AND MEDIA

**Maliha Islam**

**Southeast University**

*Commodified Gender Empowerment:  
Barbie*

**Vini Prerna**

**Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi**

*Where Tradition Trends – South Asian  
Femininity and the Digital Gaze*

**Filiz Aydogan Boschele**

**University of Marmara**

*More Than the Visible: Representation of  
Women through Storytelling in “Women  
Programs” in Turkey*

**17/10 | 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
(GMT +2 - Rome Time)**

## **MORNING**

**10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

### **SECTION 5: BETWEEN SAINTS AND DEMONS: MYTHS OF AUTHORITY AND IDENTITY**

**Varduhi Baloyan**

**Hovhannes Toumanian Museum**

**Abdelghafour Ben Iahbib**

**University of Sidi Mohammed**

**Ben Abdelah**

*Saints and Sovereignty: Mobilizing Sidi  
Hmad ou Moussa's Legacy in Rural  
Power Struggles*

**Hasmik Galstyan**

**Institute of Archaeology and  
Ethnography of NAS**

*Reimagining Satan in Armenian Folk  
Mythology, Language, and Cultural  
Identity*

**Maria Sandali**

**University of Athens**

*The literary and the spectacular image of  
the Romans during the 1st and 2nd  
century AD*

**Lusine Madatyan**

**Institute of Archaeology and  
Ethnography**

*Zhuk u Zhamanak: The Personification of  
Time in Armenian Folktales and Its  
Narrative Transformation*

**Mila Maraniello**

**Independent Scholar**

*Rural Madness – A Journey Through  
Serbian Folk Tales*

**Mohsen Masoudian**

**Institute for research and development  
in the humanities (SAMT)**

*Jinns, Ghouls, and the Engineering of  
Fear: Supernatural Beings in Iranian  
Folklore and Their Media Reproduction as  
Instruments of Social Control*

# Beyond the Magic Mirror:

IMAGINATION, POLITICS, AND MEDIA

**Michelle Morolli**

**Università degli Studi Roma Tre**

*Mapping Myths: A Network Analysis of Themes in Native American Children's Literature*

**Giulia Crippa**

**Università degli Studi di Bologna**

*Deviant Tales in a Burning Brazil: Narrative devices, Ideology and Eco-Political Resistance in Cidade Insivel*

**Dariusz Rahiminia**

**Ascencia Business School Malta**

*Once upon a throne: Power archetypes in Persian fairy tales and Iranian storytelling*

**Michel Wahome**

**University College London**

*'Mirror, Mirror on the Wall': What Our Stories About Artificial Intelligence Tell Us About Human Innovation*

## **SECTION 6: REWRITING WORLDS: TECHNOLOGY, ECOLOGY, AND RESISTANCE**

**Marta Miner,**

**University of South Wales**

**Sruti Sriram**

**Shyam Lal College New Delhi**

*Platform Agonism and the Friend-Enemy Dynamic: Identity Based Governance in the Age of Predictive Politics*

**Fabio D'Andrea**

**Università degli Studi di Perugia**

*The Telltale Tale. How We Make The World We Live In*

**Leonie Sharrock**

**University of South Wales**

*Fairy Tales for the Future Forest*

**Federica Guida**

**University of Cagliari**

*The revolt of the keys: myths, power, and rituals from fairy tale to contemporary public space*

**Maria Plucińska**

**Lodz University of Technology**

*Narratives in parliamentary discourse on medical marihuana in Poland and the United Kingdom*

**Chaymae Ourarhi**

**Mohammed I University**

*From Enchanted Forests to Synthetic Landscapes: Ideological Shifts in the Representation of Nature in Snow White Adaptations*

# Beyond the Magic Mirror:

IMAGINATION, POLITICS, AND MEDIA

## **AFTERNOON**

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

### **SECTION 7: REPRESENTATION, ADAPTATION, AND THE POLITICS OF THE FANTASTIC**

**Gabriele Caruso**  
**Università degli Studi di Catania**

**Pauline Greenhill**  
**University of Winnipeg**  
**Heidi S. Kosonen**  
**University of Jyväskylä**

*Toxic Speech, Origins, and Real  
Princesses: Disney's Snow White and the  
Fairy-Tale Public Sphere*

**Polina Filatova**  
**Leiden University**  
*The Cub's Lament, or  
Metanthropomorphism: The  
Consciousness of Human/Animal Identity  
and Difference In Disney's The Lion King  
(2019)*

**Giovanna Lo Giacco**  
**Liceo Niccolini Palli (Livorno)**  
**Pietro Mannari**  
**Università Ca Foscari**  
*The donkey, the chicken, the ram*

**Nicoletta Peluffo**  
**New York University Florence**  
*The Little Mermaid: Representation of  
Pain in Hans Christian Andersen and  
Subsequent Adaptations*

**Emilia Pietropaolo**  
**Università degli studi di Bari**  
**« Aldo Moro »**  
*Missing Mirrors: The Absence of Deaf and  
Cochlear Implant Representation in Fairy  
Tales and Children's Media*

**Luca Sarti**  
**Università di Napoli L'Orientale**  
*From Stereotype to Silence: The Evolution  
of Irish Representation in Charles  
Kingsley's The Water Babies and Its  
Cinematic Adaptation*

**Marta Minier**  
**University of South Wales**  
*First Three Drops: Taking Flight's  
Access-oriented Children's Theatre  
Performance Celebrating "the Liberating  
Potential of the Fantastic*

**Eirini Koutelieri**  
**University of South Wales**  
*Becoming the Storyteller: Reimagining  
Myth with Young Learners*



# Beyond the Magic Mirror:

IMAGINATION, POLITICS, AND MEDIA

## SECTION 8: RE-ENCHANTING SOCIETY: STORYTELLING AS POLITICAL PRACTICE

**Varduhi Baloyan**  
**Hovhannes Toumanian Museum**

**Stella Tsingou**  
**Storyteller**  
*Towards a Poetics of Storytelling: Ritual, Voice, and Embodied Meaning*

**Lisa Schneidau**  
**Storyteller**  
*Old Crockern: Dartmoor folk tale or campaign icon?*

**Giulia Pellegrino**  
**Sapienza University of Rome**  
**Luigi Somma**  
**Università di Salerno**  
*Remediation of Myth. Rethinking Society through the Re-Enchantment of the World*

**Avery Benton**  
**Independent scholar**  
*The Weaponisation of the "American Dream": Global Narratives in the resurgence of white Nationalism*

**Sonia Kherif**  
**M'Hamed Bougara of Boumerdes University**  
*Fanonian Masks in Fairytales: Whiteness, Self-Erasure, and the Horrors of Beauty in Mona Awad's Rouge (2023)*

**Florinda Ndoja**  
**Independent scholar**  
*The Influence of the Values of Leadership within the Culture of Political Economy*

**Olena Leipnik**  
**Sam Houston State University**  
*Myth and Fairy Tale as Narrative Formats in Political Storytelling*

**Trinie Dalton**  
**California State University East Bay**  
*Breaking Free: Monstrous Disorientation and Abject Awe as Models for Political Resistance*

## CONCLUSION 4.30 PM-5 PM

Varduhi Baloyan  
Marina D'Amato  
Edmondo Grassi  
Marta Minier

### ***THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTED TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:***

Varduhi Baloyan  
Edmondo Grassi  
Marta Minier

### ***THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTED TO THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE:***

Varduhi Baloyan  
Gaia Carlucci  
Marina D'Amato  
Edmondo Grassi  
Michal Malinowski  
Marta Minier  
Stella Tsingou