Children's and youth literature presents analytical challenges that have traditionally been neglected when approaching its study with the “universal” criteria applied for reviewing adult literature. Casals will discuss a fourth genre to the repertoire of conventional literary genres: that of the picture book, as a conquered literary space that carries its own interpretational challenges given the double coding of textual and visual languages. Within that genre, she will address Chilean eco-narratives for children in the new millennium, highlighting how some contemporary authors, in moving beyond simplistic ecological narratives, see young readers as readers with agency towards a bio-centric culture and a treatment of Nature, or the more-than-human world, as an independent agent itself.

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