



Search Apollo



Advanced search

An Exploration of Nature and Human Development in Young Adult Historical Fantasy



View / Open Files

[Thesis \(PDF, 1Mb\)](#)

Authors

Chen, Jou-An

Advisors

Whitley, David

Date

2018-11-24

Awarding Institution

University of Cambridge

Author Affiliation

Faculty of Education

Qualification

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Language

English

Type

Thesis

Metadata

[Show full item record](#)

Citation

Chen, J. (2018). *An Exploration of Nature and Human Development in Young Adult Historical Fantasy*(Doctoral thesis). <https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.30240>

Abstract

Traditional historical writing focuses on the cause and effect of human action, assuming that it is the historian's responsibility to recount the ebbs and flows of human progress. In the process of laying hold of the past as a narrative of human action, historical writing has developed the tendency to marginalise nature and undermine its power to influence the

historical narrative. My investigation explores the fantastic in historical fantasy as a means of resisting historical writing's anthropocentrism. Historical fantasy uses fantastical elements to create counterfactual and alternative historical realities that have the potential to resist and undermine history's anthropocentric norm. My thesis examines four contemporary young adult historical fantasy trilogies that reimagine key turning points in history such as industrialisation, the American frontier, European imperialism, and World War I. They share the theme of retrieving and subverting anthropocentric discourses in the history of human development and thereby creating space for nature's presence and agency. My study finds that the fantastic is an effective means of subverting historical writing's anthropocentrism. But it also uncovers ambiguities and contradictions in historical fantasy's ecological revisionism, pointing to the idea that despite the fantastic's capacity for subversion, historical representations of nature cannot be separated from considerations of human identity and survival.

Keywords

nature, history, young adult fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, historical fantasy, children's literature, speculative fiction, ecocriticism

Identifiers

This record's DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.30240>

Rights

All rights reserved

Recommended or similar items

If you believe that any material held in Apollo infringes copyright please follow the guidance in our '[Notice and Take Down](#)' policy and we will remove the work from the repository and investigate your claim.

© 2020 University of Cambridge.

[Terms of Use](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Admin](#) | [Login](#)

Information provided by support@repository.cam.ac.uk

Young adult fiction. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Young adult fiction (YA) is a category of fiction written for readers from 12 to 18 years of age. [1] While the genre is targeted to teenagers, approximately half of YA readers are adults.[2]. The subject matter and genres of YA correlate with the age and experience of the protagonist. There are no distinguishable differences in genre styles between YA fiction and adult fiction. Some of the most common YA genres include contemporary fiction, fantasy, romance, and dystopian.[17] Genre-blending, which is the combination of multiple genres into one work, is also common in YA.[18]. New adult fiction. increased levels of self-confidence, personal development and self-identification. increased desire to read similar books. How is human nature explored in George Orwell's Animal Farm? Is "Lord of the Flies" considered to be a classic? Why or why not? How would William Golding's Lord of the Flies be different if the kids were a mixed group of girls and boys? : Though the novel is fictional, its exploration of the idea of human evil is at least partly based on Golding's experience with the real-life violence and brutality of World War II. Free from the rules and structures of civilization and society, the boys on the island in Lord of the Flies descend into savagery. As the boys splinter into factions, some behave peacefully and. History does not repeat exactly, however historical data gives us some vital information that can benefit investors as to how businesses cha. (Continue reading). Dimitris Smith. development, youth development, and young adult development as well as later age. considerations. It is common knowledge that it would be hard to impossible to survive without. interesting historical perspective is that in the U.S. there have been people speaking to this topic. since the 1800s (Ellen swallow). A fascinating example is Elwood Shafer's response to the. Nature appears to be necessary for healthy maturation and development in humans and. our sustained wellbeing. Nature's potential impact on human development is important because. A young adult is generally a person ranging in age from their late teens or early twenties to their thirties, although definitions and opinions, such as Erik Erikson's stages of human development, vary. The young adult stage in human development precedes middle adulthood. For a variety of reasons, timelines on young adulthood cannot be exactly defined—producing different results according to the different mix of overlapping indices (legal, maturational, occupational, sexual, emotional and the like) This review is based on a longer background paper prepared at the request of the Human Learning and Behavior Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in connection with the development of their Five Year Plan for Research. I am indebted t6 the following colleagues for their constructive criti-cism ofthe original document: Josephine Arastah, Mavis Hetherington, Richard Lerner, Jeylan T. Mortimer, Joseph H. Pleck, Lea Pulkinen, Michael Rutter, Klaus Schneewind, and Diana Slaughter. Appreciation is also expressed to Gerri Jones for typing innumerable revisions of th