



NIC HILTON

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I am a PhD Candidate in Education and Children's Literature at the University of Cambridge. My research interests centre around the study of maturation, philosophy of time, kinship and intergenerational relationships, and age studies. My PhD thesis is focused upon the works of author Patrick Ness and his representation of maturation. I have extensive experience working in higher education, working with postgraduates and ECRs, and project management experience.

#### Education

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- 2017 -**      **PhD in Education, University of Cambridge,**  
Thesis title: Maturation in the Works of Patrick Ness
- 2016**        **MPhil Children's Literature, Trinity College Dublin - Pass**
- 2014**        **BA (Hons) Secondary English Education, Edge Hill University – First**
- 2013**        **MA Writing for Children, University of Central Lancashire – Merit**  
Invited writer for the Publishing Masters project to Greenland.
- 2004**        **BA (Hons) International Business, Manchester Metropolitan University**  
Including a year abroad at Bridgewater State University, Massachusetts.

#### Funding Awards

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- 2020 – 2021**    FFWG Grant, trading name of the (British Federation of Women Graduates Charitable Foundation (affiliated to the International Federation of University Women))
- 2019 - 2020**    AHRC DTP Colloquia Fund (Let's talk about Sex in YA conference)
- 2019 - 2020**    Student Led Conference Award, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Cambridge
- 2018 - 2020**    Mary Hesse Scholarship Award, Wolfson College
- 2018 - 2020**    Scholarship Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge

#### Selected Talks and Conferences

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- 2022**    "Gothic, Growth and Maturations in Supernatural Young Adult Literature" panel proposal with Dr Sarah Hardstaff and Meghanne Flynn. International Gothic Association, Trinity College Dublin.
- 2022**    "Mister Orange and the Aesthetics of Age" co-written by Nic Hilton and Dr Vera Veldhuizen (online) The Child of the Future (revised paper from IRSCL2021)

- 2021** "Mister Orange and the Aesthetics of Age" co-written by Nic Hilton and Dr Vera Veldhuizen (online) IRSC2021: Aesthetic and Pedagogic Entanglements, Centre for Educational Justice (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), Santiago, Chile (Abstract Accepted)
- 2021** "I'm not finished yet: Intergenerational maturation in YA literature (online) Adulthood as a Category of Historical Analysis, Newcastle University and the Leverhulme Trust
- 2021** Lead Organiser of 'Let's talk about Sex in YA' Conference at the University of Cambridge (postponed due to COVID-19 from September 2020 to 3-7 May 2021 [www.letstalkaboutsexinya.co.uk](http://www.letstalkaboutsexinya.co.uk))
- 2020** "Female control of voice in Patrick Ness's Chaos Walking trilogy" Conceptions of Girlhood Now and Then: Girls' Literature and Beyond, Linnæus University Växjö, Sweden
- 2019** "Radical Expectations: Subverting literary tropes in Patrick Ness's *The Rest Of Us Just Live Here*" ISSCL annual conference: Radical Young People's Literature and Culture, Marino Institute of Education, Dublin
- 2019** "Control of silence and voice as agency in Patrick Ness's Chaos Walking trilogy" IRSC conference: Silence and Silencing in Children's Literature, The Institute for Children's Books, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2018** "Intergenerational solidarity as research approach: working with children as active participants in children's literature research" Intergenerational Solidarity in Children's Literature, University of Cambridge

### **Publications in progress**

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Hilton and Duckels. ['Let's Talk about Sex in YA' special section in the International Journal of Young Adult Literature](#). Published November 2022.

[Book review of Intergenerational Solidarity in Children's literature and film](#) edited by Dr Justyna Deszcz-Tryhubczak and Dr Zoe Jaques. IRCL Journal. Published October 2022.

"Mister Orange and the Aesthetics of Age" co-written by Nic Hilton and Dr Vera Veldhuizen. Adapting from IRSC conference paper. In preparation.

### **Blog Posts and Other Media**

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[Gin and Topic: What is maturation and why is YA so obsessed with it?](#) Recording 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021, publication 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

["Liberation or Burden? Debating the Childist Turn"](#) co-written by Nic Hilton and Madeleine Hunter on the Cambridge Children's Literature Blog

["Escaping the Desk: Reflections on a Walking Seminar along Hadrian's Wall"](#) co-written by Nic Hilton and Dr Vera Veldhuizen on the Cambridge Children's Literature Blog

## Teaching and Invited Lectures

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- 2021 Poetics, Aesthetics, and Criticism – University of Cambridge**  
Track specific module for the Education, English and Drama degree. Small group teaching with essays and discussions.
- 2022 Children’s Literature – University of Cambridge**  
Final Year track specific module for the Education, English and Drama degree. Small group teaching with essays and discussions.
- 2022 Literature and Culture – University of Cambridge**  
Final Year track specific module for the Education, English and Drama degree. Small group teaching with essays and discussions.
- 2021 Radical Expectations: Subverting literary tropes in Patrick Ness’s *The Rest Of Us Just Live Here***  
Guest Lecture, Children's Literature module, European Languages and Cultures, University of Groningen, Netherlands, 16th March 2021.
- 2021 Research and Investigation Undergraduate Dissertation – University of Cambridge**  
Title: Existentialism & UK Educational Policy: How can an understanding of the existential claim “existence precedes essence” be used as a critical voice in which to view UK education policy?
- 2021 Optional Undergraduate Dissertation – University of Cambridge**  
Title: Gendered presentations of ‘coming of age’ in Netflix’s *Outer Banks*.
- 2021 Children's Literature coursework – University of Cambridge**  
Title: ‘And then one day, the unthinkable happened’: Considering the (A)Temporality of Loss in Oliver Jeffers’ *The Heart in the Bottle* (2010) and Brian Lies’ *The Rough Patch* (2018).
- 2021 Literature and Culture – University of Cambridge**  
Track specific module for the Education, English and Drama degree. Small group teaching with essays and discussions.
- 2021 Poetics, Aesthetics, and Criticism – University of Cambridge**  
Track specific module for the Education, English and Drama degree. Small group teaching with essays and discussions.
- 2020 *The Knife of Never Letting Go: Boyhood in Chaos Walking* by Patrick Ness**  
Guest Lecture, Gendering Literature and Culture module, European Languages and Cultures, University of Groningen, Netherlands, 15th December 2020.
- 2020 Research and Investigation Undergraduate Dissertation – University of Cambridge**  
Title: Harry Potter and the Pedagogy of the Oppressed: Exploring Dialogue and Voice in Education (Final grade 81%)
- 2020 Children's Literature coursework – University of Cambridge**  
Title: Boarding schools, Lacrosse and the Stiff upper lip: An exploration of social class in Enid Blyton’s *Malory Towers* book series.

**2019 Children's Literature coursework – University of Cambridge**

Title: How is the maturation of children presented in Disney Studios' Alice in Wonderland and Studio Ghibli's Spirited Away?

**2019 Poetics, Aesthetics, and Criticism – University of Cambridge**

Track specific module for the Education, English and Drama degree. Small group teaching with essays and discussions.

**2018 Children's Literature coursework – University of Cambridge**

The Countdown to the Birthday: Marking Maturation through Rituals of Coming-of-Age in Patrick Ness' The Knife of Never Letting Go and Michael Grant's Gone

### Employment History

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**2022 - University of Cambridge**

Position: Part III Coordinator – *Faculty of Mathematics*

**2021 - 2022 University of Cambridge**

Position: Undergraduate administrator - *Faculty of History*

**2019 - University of Cambridge**

Position: Undergraduate supervisor (Details above)

Children's Literature Module

Poetics, Aesthetics, and Criticism Module

Research and Investigation Dissertation Module

**2019 - 2020 University of Cambridge**

Position: Exam Invigilator

**2018 - Education Faculty Library, University of Cambridge**

Position: PhD Library Invigilator

**2016 – 2017 Trinity College Dublin**

Position: Student Library Shelver

**2016 – 2016 Brook Street Temp Agency (Summer work)**

Position: Administration.

**2015 – 2015 NCS: The Challenge (Seasonal Programme)**

Position: Community Facilitator.

**2010 – 2013 Mothercare, Head Office**

Position: Assistant Buyer (Acting Junior Buyer)

**2008 – 2010 Tesco, Head Office**

Position: Trainee Merchandiser

### Professional Activities

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**2018 - 2020 Co-Chair Wolfson Education Society, University of Cambridge**



- 2018 - 2020**     **Welfare Officer FERSA (Faculty of Educational Research Student Association),**  
University of Cambridge
- 2018 - 2019**     **Centre for Research in Children’s Literature at Cambridge Blog Editor,** University of  
Cambridge
- 2018 -**           **Centre for Research in Children’s Literature at Cambridge Instagram Officer,**  
University of Cambridge
- 2017**            **Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award Nominating Committee,** University of Cambridge
- 2013 -**           **Royal British Legion Volunteer Press/PR Officer** for Lostock Hall branch committee
- 2013 - 2017**     **Class Representative –** UCLAN, Edge Hill, and Trinity College Dublin

#### **Membership of Professional Bodies**

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Irish Society for the Study of Children’s Literature (ISSCL)  
International Research Society for Children’s Literature (IRSCL)

#### **Referees**

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**References on Request**