Veranstalter..	**Melanie Hauser**
Thema..	**Among the grown-ups: Child characters in adult fiction** [AA-A3, ENG-7/a, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-A2, ENG-6/a, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung..	**Sem. II / Sem. Ib**
Veranstaltungsnummer......................................	**53-561**
Zeit...	**Di 10-12**
Raum...	**Phil 1269**
Beginn..	**13. Oktober 2015**

Course description

On both sides of the Atlantic, child characters in literature have proliferated over the last two centuries. Children are cast into various roles with a range of functions. The child is described for example as innocent, as savage, and as enigmatic outsider. As a text's narrator or focalizer, the child can provide a privileged viewpoint and thus expose the corruption of the adult world. In this seminar, we will take a closer look at these characters and trace changes and consistencies in the literary representation of children.

We will consider American and British literature, focusing on texts aimed at an adult audience from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century, and we will explore how different notions of childhood are created, maintained, and questioned in literary texts. The concept of 'childhood' varies historically and culturally. Today, it is constructed in many different ways by disciplines such as pedagogy, psychology, and law as well as in literature and art. We will therefore relate literary children to their historical and cultural contexts. This will take into account how the child is conceived in other discourses, e.g. by philosophers, medical and psychological writers, and in other media such as film and photography.

Course requirements

Active participation, presentation, term paper

Texts:

Henry James, *What Maisie Knew*
Jerzy Kosinski, *The Painted Bird*
Rachel Seiffert, *The Dark Room*

We will start our discussion of Henry James' *What Maisie Knew* at the end of October. Please buy the Penguin Classics edition, which is available at the Heine Buchhandlung.

Sprechstunde in der Vorlesungszeit:	**appointments via email**
Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	**appointments via email**