

ICLS2023



Transnational Turns
in
Children's Literature

Welcome to ICLS2023!

Colleagues and friends, we are very happy that you are here in Newcastle this summer! We look forward to the many inspiring presentations and lectures that will take place over the next few days, and appreciate the time we will have to come together as a children's literature community. We hope that you will enjoy the opportunity to hear diverse viewpoints on our symposium theme, Transnational Turns in Children's Literature. With speakers representing countries that include China, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine, Australia, the United States, and many more, we are pleased to have such a wide representation of scholars from all over the world. In embracing exchanges between nations, we have worked hard to make our symposium as accessible as possible. We ask for your patience and understanding in the event of any technical issues. However, we consider the potential risk of such issues to be outweighed by the increased representation of voices from around the world. Our symposium is hybrid, and it also includes simultaneous interpretation in English and Chinese. We are grateful for the support of Newcastle University's School of Modern Languages, and especially their brilliant second-year Master's students, who are providing interpretation for our event. They have worked tirelessly to carefully consider how best to translate the technical terms in our field, and to ensure that your words will reach a wider global audience. Finally, a word on our theme. We believe that children's literature has always had transnational elements, though not always in the positive ways of mutual exchange. We hope that this symposium will bring to light new ways of interpreting the history of the field, discovery of texts unknown, and a dialogue that will last long past the symposium itself. To that end, we will be editing a special issue in *International Research in Children's Literature (IRCL)*, due out in 2025. If you would like to be involved, please read the CFP at the back of our programme.

Emily Murphy and Derong Xu
(ICLS2023 Co-organizers)

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ICLS 2023: A Brief Introduction

The International Children's Literature Symposium, launched by Ocean University of China, began in 2012 as a transnational dialogue between Chinese and American children's literature scholars. In 2016, it expanded to its current international format, inviting all colleagues in children's literature from around the world to present on their research. While the symposium continues to include simultaneous interpretation in Chinese and English, it welcomes participants to present on topics from all areas in children's and young adult literature, embracing both national and global perspectives and interdisciplinary methodologies.

Previous symposiums were organised at:

- Ocean University of China (2021)
- Princeton University (2018)
- Ocean University of China (2016)
- University of South Carolina (2014)
- Ocean University of China (2012)

This year's theme, Transnational Turns in Children's Literature, is inspired by the emerging transnational dialogue in the wider field. A number of edited volumes and special journal issues within children's literature have already noted the need to develop a broader international perspective, departing from an Anglo-American interpretation of "childhood" or "children's literature." In John Stephens's *Subjectivity in Asian Children's Literature and Film*, he calls for culturally specific studies of non-European children's literature, which acknowledge that Western conceptions of subjectivity are "not portable" and require unique theories and approaches that attend to these differences. In her study of Chinese children's literature, Shih-Wen Sue Chen adds that a transnational lens reveals the connection of people and places across time and space, drawing attention to the constructed nature of childhood across cultures. Building on the work of Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Chen underscores how these transnational flows are *multidirectional*.

We have keynote speeches and presentations from scholars from all over the world, and have invited them to engage in historical and interdisciplinary perspectives on "transnational turns" in children's literature, attending to previous attempts to encourage international exchange within the field and also to the theoretical or methodological issues raised by such comparative work. We encourage conference attendees to consider how forms of transnational exchange move in *multidirectional* ways, challenging narratives that assume a unidirectional flow of ideas and concepts about childhood and children's literature.

Programme

Thursday 27 July

8:45-9:15AM-Registration/Welcome (Old Library Building, Room 2.21 for registration; Research Beehive Area for welcome session with coffee/tea and biscuits)

9:20-9:30-Opening Speech (Old Library Building, Room 3.14)

9:30-10:45AM-Keynote 1: From Crossfire to Crosscurrents: War as a Transnationalising Driver of Western Children's Literature (Old Library Building, Room 3.14)

Kimberley Reynolds, Emeritus Professor of Children's Literature, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

11:00-12:30PM-Session 1 (Old Library Building, Rooms 2.21 and 3.14)

PANEL 1A: Childhoods Caught in a Normative Ideal: Challenging the Hegemonic Perspective of Globality (Room 3.14)

Chair: Lidong Xiang (University of Pittsburgh)

"What Zhou Zuoren's Child-oriented View and Marah Gubar's Kinship Model of Childhood Can Do for Each Other?"
Xiaofei Shi (Soochow University, China)

"Just an antiquarian 'childish' book for the West?: The complexity and construction of childhood in Japanese folklore tales"
Tian Gao (University of Cambridge)

"White Supremacy, Anti-Black Racism and Sinophobia in German Youth Colonial Novels from Nazi Germany"
Joseph Kebe-Nguema (Sorbonne University / Tübingen Universität)

PANEL 1B: Black Fantastic and Global Creative Visions (Room 2.21)

Chair: Tyler Bickford

"Transnational Becomings: Microstudy of Identity, Adolescence and Unexpected Turns in YA Speculative Fiction"
Johari Murray (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)

"Otome Means Maiden (Unless There's Melanin): Analyzing the Global Transmission of Anti-Blackness Through Romance Visual Novels"
Hebah Uddin (University of Pittsburgh)

"Black Transnational Turns: The Figure of Phillis Wheatley to American Children's Theatre of the 1970s"
Katharine Capshaw (University of Connecticut)

12:30-1:30-Lunch (Free lunch provided in Percy Building, Main Foyer)

Thursday 27 July (Cont.)

1:30-3:00PM-Session 2 (Old Library Building, Rooms 2.21 and 3.14)

<p>PANEL 2A: Youthscapes and Global Reconstructions of Girlhood (Room 3.14)</p> <p>Chair: Devika Mehra</p> <p>"From Model Wife to Modern Woman: A Cognitive Stylistic Analysis of Jo in <i>Little Women</i> in Earliest Chinese Translations" <i>Yuan Tao (Dalian University of Technology)</i></p> <p>"Shared Youthhood: Exploring Global Community in Online Fan Fiction" <i>Shiqing Zhang (Newcastle University, UK)</i></p> <p>"Everyday Girls Write and Resist: Transfigurations of Anne Frank in Latin(x) America" <i>Regan Postma-Montaño (Hope College)</i></p>	<p>PANEL 2B: Transcultural and Transnational Reading: Children's Literature as Educational Resources for Multicultural Literacy and Multimodal Literacy (Room 2.21)</p> <p>Chair: Chengcheng You</p> <p>"Cultural Knowledges in Canadian Picture Books for Newcomer and Canadian Children" <i>Yina Liu (University of Alberta)</i></p> <p>"A comparison study of picturebook shared reading in English and Chinese at Chinese family settings" <i>Ying Zou (Shanghai University, China)</i></p> <p>"Characteristics and Trends of Children's Literature Used in English-Chinese Bilingual Education in the Canadian Context" <i>Jing Jin (University of Alberta)</i></p> <p>"Chinese Primary Teachers' Transcultural and Intertextual Adventures in Suzy Lee's <i>Alice in Wonderland</i>" <i>Fuling Deng (University of Glasgow)</i></p>
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3:15-4:45PM-Session 3 (Old Library Building, Rooms 2.21 and 3.14)

<p>PANEL 3A: Historicizing Transnational Turns in Children's Literature: Early 20th-Century Folktale Collections for Young Readers (Room 3.14)</p> <p>Chair: Courtney Weikle-Mills (University of Pittsburgh)</p> <p>"Augusta Baker and the International Dimensions of Early Children's Librarianship" <i>Courtney Weikle-Mills (University of Pittsburgh)</i></p> <p>"From the Carpenters to Linda Sue Park: How Two Twentieth Century Writers Influenced the Development of Asian American Youth Literature" <i>Sarah Park Dahlen (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)</i></p> <p>"A Spectrum of Africanness in Early 20th-Century Anthologies of African Folktales for Young Readers" <i>Laura Gibbs (University of Oklahoma)</i></p>	<p>PANEL 3B: The Art of Subversion: Adapting Fairy Tales and Traditional Stories (Room 2.21)</p> <p>Chair: Katharine Capshaw</p> <p>"Off with Their Heads – Deconstruction of Fairy Tales as Political Resistance against Argentine and Brazilian Military Dictatorships" <i>Taís Xavier Carvalho (Indiana University, Bloomington)</i></p> <p>"Transnational Writing Practice in Asian American Children's Literature: A Critical Analysis of Grace Lin's Fantasy Novel <i>Mulan: Before the Sword</i>" <i>Xinyue Hu (Newcastle University, UK)</i></p> <p>"'Culling Flowers from the Mysterious Pleasure-grounds of Fancy': Translations of Lafcadio Hearn's Chinese and Japanese Tales in Early 20th-century Poland" <i>Aleksandra Wieczorkiewicz (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland)</i></p>
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4:45-5:15PM-Meet and Greet Session (light snacks and drinks provided in Percy Building, Main Foyer)

Friday 28 July

8:30-8:45-Welcome (coffee/tea provided in Old Library Building, Research Beehive Area)

8:45-10:15-Session 4 (Old Library Building, Rooms 2.21 and 3.14)

<p>PANEL 4A: Transformations in Chinese Children's Literature (Room 3.14)</p> <p>Chair: Derong Xu (Ocean University of China)</p> <p>"The Theory and Practice of Child-oriented Children's Literature in 1920s China" <i>Derong Xu (Ocean University of China)</i></p> <p>"A Comparative Study on the Concept of "Children's Literature" in China and Japan: Centered on the beginning period" <i>Ziqiang Zhu (Ocean University of China)</i></p> <p>"The Dilemma of 'Culture Transmission': The 'Rigid' Chinese Culture in Sino-Foreign Cooperation Picture Books—The 'Little DUKU Chinese Genes' Series of Picture Books as an Example" <i>Nuo Cheng (Ocean University of China)</i></p>	<p>PANEL 4B: Historical Accounts and Critical Debates on the "World" (Room 2.21)</p> <p>Chair: Etti Gordon Ginzburg</p> <p>"The Missing Nation: The Junior Literary Guild and Fiction about Northern Europe during the 1930s" <i>Anne Morey (Texas A&M University)</i></p> <p>"Shaping the Good Socialist Child: Chinese Children's Literature in the 1950s" <i>Yushu Geng (Trinity College Dublin)</i></p>
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10:30-12:00PM-Session 5 (Old Library Building, Rooms 2.21 and 3.14)

<p>PANEL 5A: Cataloguing and Creating New Narratives in International Children's Literature (Room 3.14)</p> <p>Chair: Fuling Deng</p> <p>"Geographies of Imagination: David Almond's <i>My Name is Mina</i> and <i>Paper Boat, Paper Bird</i>" <i>Emma-Louise Silva (University of Antwerp)</i></p> <p>"International initiatives in children's literature and White Ravens catalogue: curating alternative histories of contemporary children's literature" <i>Devika Mehra (Newcastle University, UK)</i></p>	<p>PANEL 5B: Glocal Narratives: Exporting Regional Children's Literature Abroad (Room 2.21)</p> <p>Chair: Sreemoyee Dasgupta</p> <p>"From Care and Candour to Complaints and Crabs: Transnational Turns in Indian Lullabies in Gujarati Language" <i>Diti Vyas (Anant National University)</i></p> <p>"Vernacular Children's Periodicals and Transnational Consciousness in Colonial North India" <i>Niyati Gangwar (University of Delhi)</i></p>
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12-1:30PM-Lunch break and optional archive handling session (30-minutes each, 12-12:30 or 1-1:30, to be held in the Philip Robinson Library on campus); Free lunch to be served in Old Library Building, Research Beehive Area

Friday 28 July (Cont.)

1:30-3:00-Session 6 (Old Library Building, Rooms 2.21 and 3.14)

<p>PANEL 6A: Transnational Challenges and Opportunities in a Routledge Companion (Room 3.14)</p> <p>Chair: Claudia Nelson (Texas A&M University)</p> <p>Roundtable Session Featuring: <i>Claudia Nelson (Texas A&M University), Elisabeth Wesseling (Maastricht University), Andrea Mei-Ying Wu (National Cheng Kung University)</i></p>	<p>PANEL 6B: Cultural Exchange in South Asian Children's Literature (Room 2.21)</p> <p>Chair: Ritwika Roy (Jadavpur University, India)</p> <p>Roundtable Session Featuring: <i>Anurima Chanda (North Bengal University), Arpita Sarker (The Pennsylvania State University), Titas Bose (University of Chicago), Ritwika Roy (Jadavpur University, India)</i></p>
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3:15-4:45-Session 7 (Old Library Building, Rooms 2.21 and 3.14)

<p>PANEL 7A: Border Crossing and Retracing National Boundaries (Room 3.14)</p> <p>Chair: Courtney Weikle-Mills</p> <p>"National or transnational (Children's) Literature?: The Case of Mira Lobe's <i>The Children's Island/ Insu Pu</i>" <i>Etti Gordon Ginzburg (Oranim College) and Anita Konrad (Universität Innsbruck, Austria)</i></p> <p>"'Desh' in <i>Sandesh</i>: Global Geographies and the Boundaries of Nationhood" <i>Sreemoyee Dasgupta (University of Pittsburgh)</i></p> <p>"'Fighting for peace': Refugee childhoods in Southeast Asian children's historical fiction" <i>Blessy Samjose (The Ohio State University)</i></p>	<p>PANEL 7B: Erasures and Resistances on the Global Market: Making Nations Present (Room 2.21)</p> <p>Chair: Emma-Louise Silva</p> <p>"The Absence of a History of Children's Literature in Turkey: Different Approaches, Recognitions and Demands" <i>Yasemin Yilmaz Yuksek (Istanbul Technical University)</i></p> <p>"How the West Shaped Chinese Childhood in the End of the Nineteenth Century" <i>Shushu Li (East China Normal University)</i></p> <p>"'Wild and Distrustful Children': Creating a Speculative Philippines through Children's Texts Written during the American Colonial Period" <i>Gabriela Lee (University of Pittsburgh)</i></p>
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5:00-6:00PM- Keynote Session 2: Special Q&A Session with David Almond (located in OLB3.14)

***Blackfriars dinner at 6:30PM**

Saturday 29 July

9:00-10:30AM-PANEL 8A: Cross-Cultural Translation and the Poetics of Global Marketing (Room 3.14)

Chair: Helen King

"Growing into the World: The Transnational Journey and Poetics of the Chinese *Bildungsroman* Genre"
Chengcheng You (University of Macau)

"Nation Building vs Colonization in Ukrainian Translations for Young Adults"
Maryna Vardanian (Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University, Ukraine and Heidelberg University, Germany)

"Global Market Trends and Children's Publishing in China and India"
Shih-Wen Sue Chen (Deakin University)

10:45-12:00PM-Keynote Session 3: Behind the Book: Making Transnational Children's Literature (Room 3.14)

Chair: Jake Hope

Keynote Speakers: Yu Rong, Qin Wenjun, and Helen Wang

12-12:15PM-Closing Speech/Goodbye (Room 3.14)

Keynote Speakers

Kimberley Reynolds

Kimberley Reynolds is Professor Emerita of Children's Literature, School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics at Newcastle University, UK. In 2013 she received the International Brothers Grimm Award for her contributions to the field of children's literature research. She conceived and was the first Director of the National Centre for Research in Children's Literature and was involved in founding the UK's Children's Laureate and setting up Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books. She is a Past President and Honorary Fellow of the International Research Society for Children's Literature and was the first Senior Honorary Fellow of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions at the University of Western Australia. Between 2016 and 2021 she was Senior Editor of *International Research in Children's Literature*, and she is on the scientific board of the Centre for Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature, University of Wroclaw. She was awarded the Children's Literature Association Book Award for both *Radical Children's Literature: Future Visions and Aesthetic Transformations in Juvenile Fiction* (2007) and *Left Out: The Forgotten Tradition of Radical Publishing for Children in Britain, 1910-1949* (2016). Her most recent book-length publication is *Reading and Rebellion: An Anthology of Radical Writing for Children, 1900-1960* (co-edited with Jane Rosen and Michael Rosen, 2018).



Yu Rong

Yu Rong is an acclaimed British-Chinese children's picture book illustrator. She obtained a BA degree in Chinese Painting and Contemporary Art Design from Nanjing Normal University's Art College and an MA degree in Communication and Design from London's Royal College of Art, where she studied under Quentin Blake. Her first picture books with Walker Books have been published in Britain, America, Italy, the Netherlands, Japan, France, Sweden, New Zealand and other countries. In recent years, she has been working with several Chinese publishers and has worked with leading Chinese authors, including the Hans Christian Andersen award winner Prof. Cao Wenxuan and Andersen award nominee Mrs Qin Wenjun. She has received several international and national, prestigious illustration awards, including being shortlisted for CILIP's 2022 Kate Greenaway award for Shu Lin's Grandpa. Yu Rong's art work combines traditional hand paper cuts with drawing, which allows the pencil drawing to bring plain two dimensional paper cuts into a vivid rich three dimensional art work. Yu Rong lives in the countryside of Cambridge with her husband, Donkey, her three children, Caterpillar, Chilli Pepper and Bean, and their German Pointer, Captain Sniff.



Qin Wenjun

Qin Wenjun is among China's most honoured writers, having published more than 70 books and attained over 70 awards in children's literature. Razor-sharp humour and empathetic understanding of the adolescent psyche are hallmarks of her works. She has given vivid accounts of youngsters' mental development and masterfully described how they struggle when cast into complex and volatile environments. Her novel series featuring the teenage twins Jia Li and Jia Mei, as well as their friends at school, have been printed in more than 30 editions, adapted into 10 television series/ films and translated into various languages--Arabic, English, Dutch, Japanese and Korean to name a few. A beloved bestseller for decades, *Jia Li in Junior High* is the only Chinese book introduced in 1001 Children's Books You Must Read Before You Grow Up. In the past decade, Qin has completed numerous prize-winning picture books and novellas. The awakening of girls, including bravery and self-discovery, has been a recurring theme in her recent works.



Helen Wang

Helen Wang is a UK-based translator bringing Chinese children's books into English. Her translations include middle-grade/YA novels - Cao Wenxuan's *Bronze and Sunflower* and *Dragonfly Eyes*, Shen Shixi's *Jackal and Wolf*, Lin Man-chiu's *The Ventriloquist's Daughter*, and Qin Wenjun's *Lessons in Happiness* – and numerous picture books. In 2017 she won the Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation (UK), and a Chen Bochui Special Award (China). She works collaboratively with Paper Republic, the Leeds Centre for New Chinese Writing, World Kid Lit, Global Literature in Libraries, and in 2016 founded Chinese Books for Young Readers with Minjie Chen (USA) and Anna Gustaffson Chen (Sweden).



David Almond

David Almond is the author of *Skellig*, *Kit's Wilderness*, *My Name is Mina*, *Joe Quinn's Poltergeist*, *The Tightrope Walkers*, *The Savage*, *A Song for Ella Grey*, *Half a Creature from the Sea*, *The Colour of the Sun*, *The Tale of Angelino Brown*, *The Dam* and many more novels, stories, picture books, plays, songs and opera libretti. His work has been translated into over 40 languages and he has won a string of major awards around the world, including the Nonino International Prize and the Hans Christian Andersen Award. In 2022 he was awarded an OBE for services to literature.



Organizing Committee and Interpretation Team

Special thanks goes to all of those involved in the organization and support for ICLS2023.

Organizing Committee

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Caroline Reed, Newcastle University Conference Team

We would also like to thank members of our Children's Literature Unit Graduate Group at Newcastle University, who volunteered their time to help in the planning of this symposium. Thank you to Devika Mehra, Luke Eavers, Alex Downing, Megan Adams, Fengjing An, and Chenfei Wang.

Finally, a very special thanks goes to Yu Rong for designing the ICLS2023 logo! 感谢 !

Special Call for Papers: Transnational Turns in Children's Literature

International Research in Children's Literature 18.3 (2025)

A number of edited volumes and special journal issues within children's literature have noted the need to develop a broader international perspective in the field, departing from an Anglo-American interpretation of "childhood" or "children's literature." In John Stephens's *Subjectivity in Asian Children's Literature and Film*, he calls for culturally specific studies of non-European children's literature, which acknowledge that Western conceptions of subjectivity are "not portable" and require unique theories and approaches that attend to these differences. In her study of Chinese children's literature, Shih-Wen Sue Chen adds that a transnational lens reveals the connection of people and places across time and space, drawing attention to the constructed nature of childhood across cultures. Building on the work of Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Chen underscores how these transnational flows are *multidirectional*.

While these calls for change within children's literature are welcome, they are also only one among many "transnational turns" within the field. In the early twentieth century, for instance, authors and illustrators, many of whom were immigrants themselves, brought Chinese views of cosmopolitanism with them upon their migration to the United States and imported these ideas and values into children's books for young Americans. Similarly, there were international movements in librarianship, which were reflected in both American and European collections, with Jella Lepman, the founder of the International Youth Library in Munich, being one key figure. Reflecting the diversity of professions within the field, these examples demonstrate early efforts to move beyond a national framework in children's literature.

At the same time, a broadening of the perspective on these global changes in the field reveal that others were hard at work reshaping understandings of children's literature and childhood. Lu Xun, author of "What Does it Mean to Be a Father Today?", was part of a larger movement to record and trace the child's unique characteristics and needs. These initiatives, while documented in studies of Chinese children's literature, such as Claudia Nelson and Rebecca Morris's *Representing Children in Chinese and U.S. Children's Literature*, still do not feature in histories of child study from the twentieth century, despite being contemporaneous with influential contributors to the movement that include Sigmund Freud and G. Stanley Hall.

We therefore invite papers that engage in historical and interdisciplinary perspectives on "transnational turns" in children's literature, attending to previous attempts to encourage international exchange within the field and also to the theoretical or methodological issues raised by such comparative work. Around the world, the global circulation of American and European texts, often imported into countries within the Global South, problematize these exchanges. We encourage proposals to consider how these forms of exchange move in *both* ways, challenging narratives that assume a unidirectional flow of ideas and concepts about childhood and children's literature. In this vein, we suggest, but are not restricted to, the following topics:

HISTOR(IES) OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE:

- Alternative histories of children's literature
- Transnational or international initiatives within the field
- Comparative historical and/or literary approaches to children's literature
- Historical constructions of childhood that crosses multiple cultural contexts. These can be period specific (e.g. 1920s).

TRANSNATIONAL ACTIVISM AMONG/FOR CHILDREN:

- Child-led activist movements that move beyond the nation
- International efforts to protect children's rights (especially those that consider alternative frameworks to well-known organizations such as the United Nations)
- Trends in children's literature that provide representations of transnational activism for the young
- Writing, art, or other creative work produced by young people as a form of transnational activism

TRANSLATION AND THE GLOBAL MARKET:

- Critical reflections on global market trends in children's publishing
- Unique case studies or new methodologies for developing a more inclusive children's literature in the global market
- The translation, variation and reception of classic children's literature across borders
- Diversified values in the market of children's literature translation

THEORIES/METHODOLOGIES FOR TRANSNATIONAL CHILDHOOD:

- Reflections on approaches to analyzing transnational childhood
- Application of critical theories that support a transnational approach to childhood and/or children's literature
- Representations of constructions of childhood in children's literature that provide models for theorizing transnational childhood
- Critical analysis of key terms (transnationalism, cosmopolitanism, global citizenship) that frame transnational approaches to children's literature

Please send full manuscripts (7000 words) for the special issue to guest editors Emily Murphy Emily.Murphy@newcastle.ac.uk, Xu David 77david@163.com, and journal editor Roxanne Harde rharde@ualberta.ca by **1 April 2024**.

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- Newcastle University's Global Academic Conference Fund, offered by the International Office
- Newcastle University's Confucius Institute
- Ocean University of China

We are deeply grateful to these institutions for their financial support, which has made this year's symposium possible.