

Blood, lust and long white cloud: Shaping childhoods towards neoliberal condition

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The complexities of childhoods, its constructions and inventions have been explored in many texts. Our concern is not defining what childhood is, but how it is performed. The authors offer their own performance of childhoods produced under different conditions and ideologies. The point of entry is the search for morsels of childhoods that depict visceral muscular play and its first childhood experiences of blood and death. The presenters will excavate the ruins of European and New Zealand childhoods, and resuscitate these first experiences of deepest fear and pain through the children's characters in Kafka's work. Kafka's children characters are for example the child messenger in *The Castle*, a prophet, a teller of the future to come. In *America* then, the child takes a journey to the new land, to the potentially hopeful happy future. Through this archaeology of childhood the presenters become historians of selfhood and of lands they came from, and these first experiences of blood and death thus shape the childhood as a suitable body for the ruthless neoliberal condition.