



The Centre for Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature
at the University of Wrocław has the honor to invite you to the 32nd lecture
in the series "International Voices in Children's Literature Studies"

Prof. Jörg Meibauer

**Let's look at East German Picturebooks Depicting Architecture,
Traffic, and Design of Childhood!**



DATE: 9 December 2025

TIME: 18.30 (CET)

VENUE: MS

Teams

If you are interested in taking
part in the lecture, please
register [here](#)



This lecture attempts to show what is interesting about picturebooks from the Soviet Occupation Zone and the German Democratic Republic (1945–1990). It is based on my recent book "The Visual Culture of East German Picturebooks 1945–1990: Architecture, Traffic, and Design of Childhood" (2025), but adds a few additional aspects. In this study, I analyze these picturebooks in the context of contemporary history, social and cultural developments and through a precise analysis of selected images and their context. By focusing on areas such as architecture and housing, consumer culture, traffic and transportation, including the iconic role of the Trabant, and the design of childhood, as seen in pioneer uniforms and institutions, the study identifies the unique blend of information about reality and socialist ideology typical of children's visual culture during this period. This specific combination was aimed at shaping children to become socialist personalities. The study thus demonstrates that pictorial representation and its textual integration are crucial for understanding childhood in the immediate post-war period and the German Democratic Republic.

Jörg Meibauer is a Professor Emeritus in the German Department of the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. He specializes in picturebook research and children's literature of the German Democratic Republic. He is the author of *The Visual Culture of East German Picturebooks 1945–1990. Architecture, Traffic, and Design of Childhood* (De Gruyter Brill 2025) as well as the co-editor of *Learning from Picturebooks. Perspectives from Child Development and Literacy Studies* (Routledge 2015) and *Marie Neurath and Isotype Picturebooks: Transforming Knowledge for Children* (De Gruyter Brill 2025).