



Multilingual Children's Bookshop

Rainbow Caterpillar Multilingual Kid Lit Award 2014 Judges Biographies

FINALIST JURY

Patricia Aldana

Patricia Aldana was born and brought up in Guatemala. She came to Canada in 1971. Groundwood Books was founded by her in 1978. Groundwood's mandate was and has remained the publication of the highest quality Canadian children's books for all ages. Increasingly this has meant finding and developing authors from all of Canada's peoples from the first people to the latest arrivals. Aldana is President of the IBBY Foundation (2010-) and Co-Chair of the National Reading Campaign in Canada (2009-). Aldana was named to the Order of Canada in 2010.

Theo Heras

Theo Heras is a children's librarian, author and singer living in Toronto. She is active in CANSCAIP and IBBY Canada. She currently chairs the Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award and edits Music Time, the newsletter of the Early Childhood Music Association. Theo's book *What Will We Do with the Baby-o?* is a collection of rhymes and songs. As well, Theo has released two CDs of rhymes and songs for children.

Ruth Ohi

Ruth is the illustrator of over 50 children's books, 16 of which she also wrote. Ruth's books have been nominated for awards such as the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award, Shining Willow, Rainforest of Reading and Blue Spruce. Her "Kenta and the Big Wave" (Annick Press) is a Kirkus Reviews Best Book and The Centre for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature Best Book Selection. Ruth's latest book is "Shhh! My Brother's Napping" (Scholastic Canada).
www.RuthOhi.com.

LANGUAGE EXPERTS

Elettra Bedon – Writer – Italian

Elettra Bedon was born in Padova, Italy, and has been living in Montreal since 1983. She holds a Ph.D. in Italian Literature from McGill University. She has published collections of poetry and essays as well as short stories and children's novels. Her writing appears in numerous publications, including *Viceversa*, *Moebius*, *XYZ*, *Arcade*, *Arts cinema letters*, *Imagine*, *Accenti* and *Descant*.

Sofia Guedes Bilbao – Teacher – Portuguese

Sofia Guedes Bilbao is a Primary Teacher who graduated from the Escola Superior de Educação João de Deus in Lisbon, Portugal. She lives in Toronto.



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Inês Cardoso – Assistant Professor – Portuguese

Inês Cardoso is Sessional Assistant Professor, from Camões, I. P., at York University. She holds a Ph.D. in Didactics (University of Aveiro) – focused in the philosophy and practice of Portuguese language teaching, she has experience both in teaching and in conducting teacher training in Portugal. Her research centers on students' relationship with language, particularly developing and publishing course materials and activities so that language learners can communicate meaningfully in Portuguese. At YU, she teaches Portuguese language courses at all levels.

Ildiko Csermely – Puppeteer and Translator – Hungarian

Ildiko Csermely was born in Toronto and has lived here all her life. Ildiko is an active member of the Hungarian community in Toronto, she is presently involved with the Hungarian Scouts and the Rakoczi Foundation which works with Hungarian Youth living in the Diaspora. As part of her work with the Rakoczi Foundation she travels to Hungary every summer. Ildiko is a puppeteer doing work for both adults and children in Hungarian and English. Her interests lie in theatre, literature and working with children and teens.

Luca Marchetti – Teacher – Italian

A graduate of UOIT Oshawa, Luca Marchetti is a Certified Teacher specializing in JK to Grade 6. Luca teaches Italian to children in Grades 6 to 12 at Lyceé Français de Toronto as well as the Italian Cultural Institute of Toronto where he teaches both adults, this in addition to tutoring and running his own independent children's program. Luca is also an official Italian Language Examiner for the French Baccalaureat Program.

Julia Mikhailova – Senior Lecturer – Russian

Julia Mikhailova is a Senior Lecturer in Russian, Co-Director of the Intensive Summer Study in Siberia in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Toronto. She received her Ph.D. from the Ohio State University in 2005, her M.A. from Syracuse University in 1999 and her B.A. from Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University, Russia in 1997. She is a Certified Oral Proficiency Tester in Russian, ACTFL. Her main academic interests are language pedagogy, acquisition of Russian, language assessment tools, discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, Slavic formal syntax, and history of the Russian language.

Antonio Nicaso – Journalist and Writer – Italian

Antonio Nicaso is an award-winning journalist, a bestselling author and an internationally recognized expert on organized crime. He has written several books on the subject and is best known for having published, for the first time, the "Mafia's Code." Antonio is also a lecturer in history of organized crime at Middlebury College in Vermont, as well as being a member of various councils and bodies and a consultant to international police forces. He also wrote two books for teenagers "La mafia spiegata ai ragazzi" and "L'Italia spiegata ai ragazzi".

Edda Onesti – Teacher – Italian

Edda Onesti is the Director of the Italian School at the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver. Edda studied at the Scuola Magistrale in Leghorn and the University of Pisa, followed by one-year practicum with Prof.



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Loris Malaguzzi, an inspirational figure who became the force behind the "Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Childhood Education". In Italy, Edda taught for eight years at both preschool and elementary school levels. Later Edda continued her studies at the Teacher's College of Columbia University. She has been teaching Italian for over twenty years in the United States and in Vancouver.

Yecid Ortega – Language specialist - Spanish

Yecid Ortega is a specialist in Language and Literacy with a focus on third language teaching, training, curriculum design and research. He specializes in designing training programs, curriculum, tools and strategies for teachers of languages. He is also conducting research into home and third language acquisition in young children. His mission is to foster a new generation of multilingual world citizens who will be able to understand and appreciate different cultures and languages by bringing the best foreign language learning experience.

Yuka Shimada – Children's Writer - Japanese

Yuka Shimada was born in Tokyo. She studied graphic design at Tokyo Design Academy. She has been an author and illustrator of children's books for 20 years. She has published 9 children's books in Japan. Most of them were translated into Korean and Chinese, and some of them are going to be translated into English and French this autumn. She has lived in suburb of Toronto with her husband since 2001.

Anna Shternshis – Associate Professor – Russian

Anna Shternshis, AI and Malka Green Associate Professor of Yiddish, received her doctoral degree (D.Phil) in Modern Languages and Literatures from Oxford University in 2001. She has held a post-doctoral position at the University of Pennsylvania in 2001. She joined the University of Toronto in 2001. Since 2007, she is cross-appointed between the German Department and the Center for Diaspora and Transnational Studies at the University. Shternshis works in the field of Soviet Jewish history and culture, Yiddish popular culture, and post-Soviet Jewish Diaspora.

Noriko Suzuki – Certified Librarian – Japanese

Noriko Suzuki is a Certified Japanese Librarian from Tokyo, Japan since 2007. Currently she is the Administrative and Program Officer at the Japan Foundation in Toronto from 2011, where she also held the position at the Headquarters in Japan as well. She has been a Vice-Director of the Parents Council at Ninoue-Daini Elementary School, Edogawa, Tokyo. As President of the Library Support and Story Telling club she has extensive knowledge of Japan's children's literature. Noriko is the mother of three sons.

Magdolna Velki – Teacher, Writer, Researcher – Hungarian

Teacher of Hungarian and Russian languages (M.Sc.), doctor of Arts and Literature (Ph.D.); received both degrees from Eötvös Loránd University of Arts and Sciences (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary. Organized and promoted in Canada the Hungarian as second language exams, officially recognized by Hungarian authorities. Acting examiner in Canada, certified by the ELTE Centre for Advanced Language. Conducts research on teaching Hungarian in a foreign language environment. Regularly publishes articles and lectures in Hungary, Canada and USA.



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Asako Yoshida – Academic Librarian – Japanese

Asako Yoshida, a native of Japan, currently works at Elizabeth Dafoe Library, the Humanities and Social Sciences Library of the University of Manitoba, as a liaison librarian for a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs including Asian Studies. An avid reader of travelling essays written by Murakami Haruki and his selected stories, Asako is fascinated with how modern Japanese self-identities have been constructed and evolved since the time of Natsume Soseki and his contemporaries.