

ANS Dutch Studies Award 2021 to students at Sheffield University

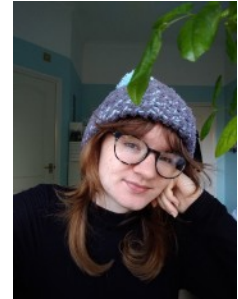
'Coursework' was submitted either as an essay, or as a podcast.

The 2021 award winning essay, by **Rebecca Nelsey**, examines the question:

"Zwarte Piet : Racism or An Innocent Tradition?"

The text of the essay as submitted can be downloaded from the Anglo-Netherlands Society's website, at

<http://andocs.anglo-netherlands.org.uk/freedocs/ansAward2021Nelsey.pdf> .



In their podcast **Daniel Corcoran, Catherine Newell and Liam Stoddard** discuss the relevance of

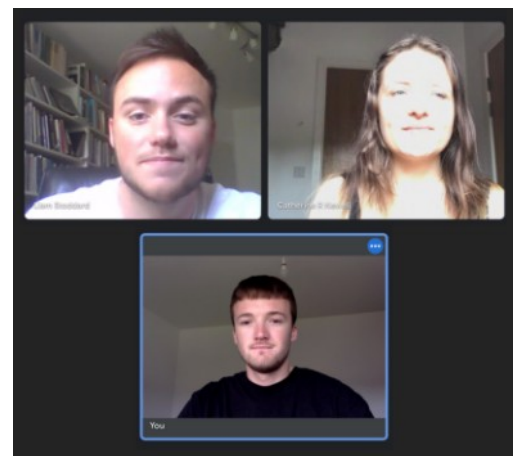
"A Modern Childhood – Rosie and Moussa"

Rosie and Moussa, written by Michael De Cock and with illustrations by Judith Vanistendael, is a Dutch children's book which tells the story of two children living in an imposing tower block in a vast, sprawling city, who grapple with the challenges that the city environment places on their childhood.

They examine the book's relevance within the wider analysis of pastoral children's literature – how is the modern urban environment presented, compared with the more traditional rural setting of many other Dutch children's books? What do the child protagonists of the story think and say about their environment? Is the representation of the city in this book a positive or negative one? And can children ever truly be at home in an urban space such as the one presented in the book?

All these questions are discussed in this podcast, alongside the exploration of literary concepts such as urbanature, a 'return to nature' and the cathartic nature of the rural environment. Comparisons to other Dutch children's books show innovations in De Cock's writing, but also similarities and continuations of long-established tropes. The podcast discussion culminates in the final question - what message will children reading this book, especially within the original target audience of the heavily urbanized Dutch speaking low countries, take away from it?

We had great fun producing this podcast, and gained an invaluable insight into the representation of Dutch childhood and rural idealization within traditional Dutch literature, whilst thinking about the role children's books have to play in the modern urban and industrialized low countries, where issues such as climate change will shape the future of the children reading this and other books. We hope our podcast gives an entertaining introductory glimpse into some of these issues!



The podcast can be accessed via: <https://anchor.fm/dutchandflemish-sheffield/episodes/A-Modern-Childhood---Rosie-en-Moussa-e12gn7t> .