

End conference “Tiny Voices from the Past”, August 2017

A three-day international conference held in August, 23–25, at the University of Oslo, marked the end of the project “Tiny Voices from the Past: New Perspectives of Childhood in Early Europe”. The main purpose of the conference was to present the central results of the project, as well as some research papers related to childhood and family history. The conference gathered more than twenty scholars from various universities around the world; they were among the ca. fifty who have contributed to the project’s three anthologies on children and childhood.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to reviews of the two most recent anthologies (published at Routledge). The first, *Childhood in History: Perceptions of Children in the Ancient and Medieval World* was reviewed by professor emeritus Mark Golden from the University of Winnipeg, Canada, whereas the second, *Nordic Childhoods 1700–1960: From Folk Beliefs to Pippi Longstocking*, was reviewed by professor Hanne Haavind from the University of Oslo. Both books received very positive assessments and were acknowledged as covering a wide range of topics, sources and new approaches in the study of historical childhood.

On the second day, the three anthologies were briefly presented to a more general audience, each volume by one of its editors, followed by other popular presentations on children and childhood in time periods covered by the project. In the second part of the day, Oana Maria Cojocaru and Marijana Vuković, the two PhDs in the project, presented overviews of the findings in their theses; and Rakel Diesen, a recent PhD candidate presented her work in progress on childhood in the Nordic Middle Ages.

The last day of the conference was reserved for scholarly presentations of new sources and approaches in the study of childhood and family life, followed by a fascinating lecture by Mark Golden on myths concerning ancient Olympic games and how the modern Olympic movement sought validation through its connections with the ancient games.