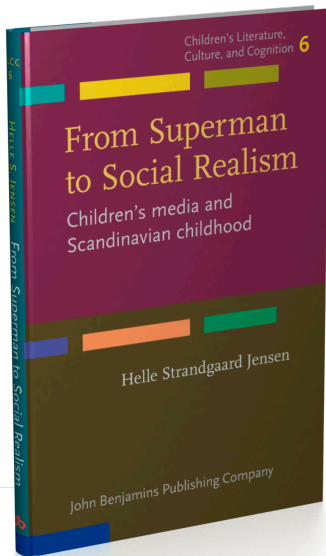


# NEW BOOK INFORMATION

Theoretical literature & literary studies



## From Superman to Social Realism

Children's media and Scandinavian childhood

Helle Strandgaard Jensen

Aarhus University

Can children's media be a source of education and empowerment? Or is the commercial media market a threat to their sense of social and democratic values? Such questions about the appropriateness of children's media consumption have recurred in public debates throughout the twentieth century. *From Superman to Social Realism* provides an exciting new approach to the study of children's media and childhood history, drawing on theories of cross-media consumption and transnational history. Based on extensive Scandinavian source material, it explores public debates about children's media between 1945 and 1985. Readers are taken on a fascinating journey through debates about superheroes in the 1950s, politicization of children's media in the 1960s, and about television and social realism in the 1980s. Arguments are firmly contextualized in Scandinavian childhood and welfare state history, an approach that demonstrates why professional and political groups have perceived children's media as the key to the enculturation of future generations.

[Children's Literature, Culture, and Cognition, 6] 2017. xii, 188 pp.

HB 978 90 272 0160 7 EUR 90.00  
E-BOOK 978 90 272 6574 6 EUR 90.00

"An unbiased, richly documented, and fresh analysis of how changing agents and culture shaped Scandinavian understanding of childhood and media since World War II. Going beyond scholarly disdain for moral panics and the usual Anglo-American focus and naturalist analysis, this book imaginatively compares distinct historical debates about what the child should be and experience in a media drenched age. This book will reach a global audience."

Gary Cross, *Penn State University*

"Changing historical understandings of children's media use - and claimed abuse - is the topic of this path breaking richly contextualized analysis. New light is thrown on the continuous controversies over children's media practices as well as at the history of children and childhood in the Scandinavian countries. It is meticulously researched and asks pertinent, theoretical founded, questions and give nuanced but vigorously argued answers. Helle Strandgaard Jensen's study is highly relevant to anyone with an interest in the current and universal media debates, within and far outside the borders of the Scandinavian countries."

Bengt Sandin, *University of Linköping, Sweden*

### Table of contents

Preface

*David Buckingham*

Acknowledgements

Introduction. Debating children's media, defining Scandinavian childhood

Chapter 1. The welfare state's children and their media consumption

Chapter 2. Finding the right solution: The establishment's countermoves

Chapter 3. The 1960s: A time of change and challenge

Chapter 4. Revision of the appropriate

Chapter 5. Defining children's needs and wants

Chapter 6. Turning inwards: 'Children's culture' and the support of a true childhood

Chapter 7. Navigating children through a new media landscape

Conclusion. Understanding past debates about children and media

Bibliography

Appendices

Index

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