Growing up is a perennial feature of human societies. While anxieties surrounding childhood are universal, the manifestations of these concerns vary between cultures. This series of sessions proposes to shed light upon the nexus of ambiguity surrounding the medieval child, as depicted in contemporaneous literature. We invite abstracts for papers that will explore the representation of childhood in texts of any language, genre, and period within the Middle Ages. Topic may include, but are not limited to:

- Historical notions of education, child-rearing, and ‘good behaviour’.
- Non-human and/or monstrous children.
- Infantilised adults and inescapable childhood.
- Environments and spaces that are (un)suitable for children.
- Theological and medical approaches to conception, pregnancy, birth, and infancy.
- Pedagogy and didacticism in texts for and about children.
- The abject and uncanny child.
- Engagement with sensory experiences of growing up.
- Interactions between children and non-human animals.
- Depictions of the divine and demonic child.
- Children with adult roles: kings, saints, knights, etc.
- Crimes against and committed by children.

We welcome submissions from scholars of any level and particularly encourage applications from PGRs, ECRs, and independent scholars. Papers should be 15-20 minutes long. Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words and a short biography of around 100 words to A.V.C.Claridge@liverpool.ac.uk. Please also include the following information in your submission:

- Full Name
- Institution/Affiliation (if any)
- Email address
- Postal address
- Any specific requirements for your presentation

The deadline for abstracts is Friday 20th September. We look forward to hearing from you.