

# WITH HUMOR AND CHILDLIKE NAIVETY

## Cultural Contact in the Children's Short Film JOYEUX NOËL, RACHID (Sam Gabarski, BE/FR 2000, 16')



### THE FILM IN 38 WORDS

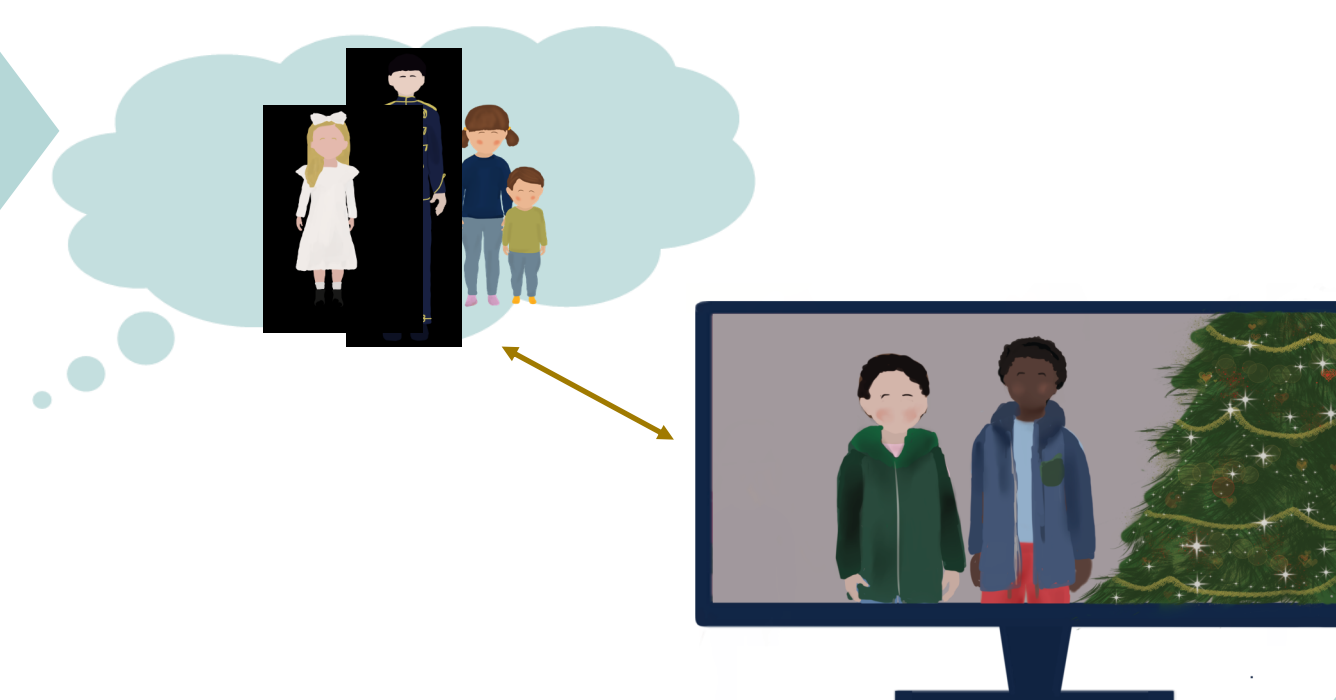
Two Muslim boys, Rachid and Ibrahim, are experiencing the Christmas season in a Belgian city. They are becoming acquainted with various traditions, assimilating rituals, and appear to be both curious and captivated by the illuminations, melodies, and customs.



SYNOPSIS

### CONTACT ZONES

Interplay between the representation of cultural contacts and childhood images



TOPIC

### RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

How are identity and difference represented in the short film?



QUESTION

### CONCEPTS OF CHILDHOOD

The film represents children as bearers of hope for peaceful coexistence. This motif traces back to Enlightenment imaginings of childhood. The short film portrays childlike, naive protagonists in a comical-ironic manner, allowing for an approach to the often controversially discussed topic of Christian-Muslim encounter.



RESULTS

### REPRESENTATION AS A FOUNDATION OF MEANING

Relationship between content and discourse, semantic references to diversity, identity and othering



METHOD

### IDENTITY, OTHERING & IMAGINED COMMUNITIES

Social relations as boundary work, rooted in processes of belonging and demarcation, thereby constructing imagined communities.



THEORY

### BROADER FRAMEWORK

This research is part of a dissertation that examines conceptions of religious diversity in German-language children's media from 1970 to 2020: *Religious Diversity in Children's Media. Representations of a Plural Society*



CONTEXT

### REFERENCES

- Anderson, Benedict, 2006, *Imagined Communities*.
- Auerchs, Bernd, 2004, *Tradition als Grundlage und kulturelle Präfiguration von Erfahrung*.
- Klinkhammer, Gritt, 2019, *Der interreligiöse Dialog als Boundary Work*.
- Pezzoli-Olgiati, Daria, 2015, *Religion in Cultural Imaginary*.
- Reinhard, Wolfgang, 2004, *Kulturkontakte*.



BIBLIOGRAPHY



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