

'The Century of the Child': Children and Childhood in Kafka's Work

**The Department of German and Russian Presents:
Professor Ritchie Robertson, Oxford University**

**Monday
September 12th
5:00 p.m.
119 DeBartolo**



**Also: Workshop on selected Kafka
Short stories
Tuesday, September 13th
4:00 p.m.
209 O'Shaughnessy**

See germanandrussian.nd.edu for details

Kafka's time saw major changes in attitudes to children. In a widely-read book, Swedish feminist Ellen Key announced that the twentieth century would be 'The Century of the Child'. Kafka had strong views about how and how not to bring up children, and was deeply critical of the nuclear family, based on his own experience. Children feature in many of his works, often embodying a freedom and vitality that his adult characters have lost. The talk will lead into a discussion of the early text 'Kinder auf der Landstrasse'.

Robertson is Taylor Professor of the German Language and Literature at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of the Queen's College. He is a former Fellow and Tutor in German, and a former Germanic Editor of The Modern Language Review.