

## BETWEEN PUER AND FLÂNEUR. DISCOVERING THE CITY

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### ABSTRACT

In the paper, two different approaches to exploring the city will be considered: that of the child and that of the *flâneur*. These are figures that, although starting from completely different perspectives, converge in reading and interpreting the urban experience through the innocence, spontaneity and lightheartedness of the child and the search for emotions, improvisation and depth of the *flâneur*. The first is oriented toward adolescence and knowledge of the world, while the second engages in a kind of regression to childhood; in this, the child and the *flâneur* seem mysteriously to meet on one of the magic streets of our cities or on a page of a book as they live a common experience.

### KEYWORDS

children; flâneurs; city; urban studies; children's literature

### FULL TEXT:

[PDF \(ENGLISH\)](#)

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Following the flâneur: a methodological and textual critique. My take on 'writing cities' will focus on Paris in the 19th century and mediated depictions of the American urban landscape in the era around the end of World War II. I'll be doing this by using the figure of the flâneur as a guide. The flâneur is the spectator and depicter of modern life, most specifically in relation to contemporary art and the sights of the city. The flâneur moves through space and among the people with a viscosity that both enables and privileges vision...The flâneur possesses a power, it walks at will, freely and seemingly without purpose, but simultaneously with an inquisitive wonder and an infinite capacity to absorb the activities of the collective, – often formulated as 'the crowd.'<sup>1</sup>.