

33RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FANTASTIC IN THE ARTS

The Monstrous Fantastic

March 21-25, 2012
Marriott Orlando Airport Hotel

In his seminal article on *Beowulf*, J.R.R. Tolkien describes the three monsters of the poem as “essential, fundamentally allied to the underlying ideas of the poem.” The Fantastic has many similarly integral monsters and monstrosities. But what do these monsters mean? How does the monstrous signify? The Monstrous Fantastic will explore the many creative and cultural constructions of monstrosity in the arts from monsters of ancient times to monsters of the present and future. Conference participants may propose papers, propose and organize panel discussions, give readings, or participate in other ways. We encourage papers on our honored guests.

Guest of Honor China Miéville

China Miéville is the author of the novels *King Rat* (1998), *Perdido Street Station* (2000; winner of the Arthur C. Clarke and British Fantasy Awards), *The Scar* (2002; winner of the British Fantasy and *Locus* Best Fantasy Awards), *Iron Council* (2004; winner of the Arthur C. Clarke, British Fantasy and *Locus* Best Fantasy Awards), *Un Lun Dun* (2007; winner of the *Locus* Award for Best YA Book), *The City and the City* (2009; winner of the Arthur C. Clarke, Hugo, and World Fantasy Awards), *Kraken* (2010) and *Embassytown* (2011); of the short story collection *Looking for Jake* (2005); and of the Marxist academic book on international law *Between Equal Rights* (2006).

Guest Scholar Jeffrey J. Cohen

Jeffrey J. Cohen is Professor of English and Director of the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute at the George Washington University. His work examines the intersections of the posthuman, the queer, the monstrous, and other challenges to stable identities. His books and edited collections include *Monster Theory; Of Giants: Sex, Monsters and the Middle Ages; Medieval Identity Machines; The Postcolonial Middle Ages; Hybridity, Identity, and Monstrosity in Medieval Britain; Becoming Male in the Middle Ages; and Thinking the Limits of the Body.*

As always, we welcome proposals for individual papers and for academic sessions and panels on any aspect of the fantastic in any media.

The deadline is October 31, 2011.

For questions about academic proposals or panels, contact **Sherryl Vint** at sherryl.vint@gmail.com.
For creative sessions of any kind, contact **Sydney Duncan** at sduncan@frostburg.edu.

We encourage work from institutionally-affiliated scholars, independent scholars, international scholars who work in languages other than English, graduate students, and undergraduate students.

Look for additional information and updates at www.iafa.org