

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.

This year's conference will feature

**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). His work is most widely associated with the New Weird and explores the monstrous in a variety of political and genre guises.

**Guest of Honor**

## **Kelly Link**

Kelly Link is the author of three collections of short stories: *Stranger Things Happen* (2001), *Magic for Beginners* (2005), and *Pretty Monsters* (2008/2010). Her short stories have won three Nebulas, a Hugo, and a World Fantasy Award. She is also the editor of the anthology *Trampoline*. She and her husband, Gavin J. Grant, run Small Beer Press. In 1996 they started the occasional zine *Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet*. Together, along with Ellen Datlow, they edited *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror*, 2004-2008, and have recently finished editing *Steampunk! An Anthology of Fantastically Rich and Strange Stories* (forthcoming in October 2011).

**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*. More info is here: <http://www.jeffreyjeromecohen.com>.

# **Submission Guidelines**

We welcome paper proposals on all aspects of the fantastic, and especially encourage papers on the work of our special guests and attending authors. Please see our website at [www.iafa.org](http://www.iafa.org) for information about how to propose panel sessions or participate in creative programming at the conference.

Paper proposals must consist of a 300-word abstract accompanied by an appropriate bibliography to the appropriate Division Head below. The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2011. Participants will be notified by November 15, 2011, if they are accepted to the conference. Attendees may present only one paper at the conference and should not submit to multiple divisions. If you are uncertain as to which Division you should submit your proposal, please contact Sherryl Vint ([sherryl.vint@gmail.com](mailto:sherryl.vint@gmail.com)).

## **DIVISIONS**

### **Children's and Young Adult Literature and Art (CYA):**

**Alaine Martaus** <[acmartaus@gmail.com](mailto:acmartaus@gmail.com)>

For papers on all aspects of the fantastic in literature aimed at younger readers, including picture books, middle-grade and young adult texts, and graphic novels.

### **Fantasy Literature (F):**

**Stefan Ekman** <[stefan.ekman@englund.lu.se](mailto:stefan.ekman@englund.lu.se)>

For papers on all aspects of fantasy literature (broadly defined to mean anything from genre fantasy to magic realism and folk tales).

### **Film and Television (FTV):**

**Jeffrey Weinstock** <[Jeffrey.Weinstock@cmich.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.Weinstock@cmich.edu)>

For papers on all aspects of the fantastic in cinema and television.

### **Horror Literature (H):**

**Rhonda Brock-Servais** <[brockservaisrl@longwood.edu](mailto:brockservaisrl@longwood.edu)>

For papers on any aspect of horror literature including the gothic, physical horror, psychological horror, archetypes, and the supernatural.

### **International Fantastic (IF):**

**Rachel Haywood Ferreira** <[rachelhf@iastate.edu](mailto:rachelhf@iastate.edu)>

For papers on all aspects of the international fantastic in all media.

In this context "international" means either non-anglophone or originating in a culture considered/considering itself as foreign within the anglophone world; this may include minority literatures within an anglophone country.

### **Participatory and Convergence Studies (PCS):**

**Barb Lucas** <[barbedwriting@yahoo.com](mailto:barbedwriting@yahoo.com)>

For papers on all aspects of fan culture, transformative works (both fan and professional), audience/reception studies, and convergence (multi-media, often interactive/participatory) "texts."

### **Science Fiction Literature (SF):**

**David M. Higgins** <[dmhiggin@gmail.com](mailto:dmhiggin@gmail.com)>

For papers on topics related to science fiction novels, short stories, and poems, and on critical theory related to the SF genre.

### **Visual and Performing Arts (VPA):**

**Stefan Hall** <[shall@defiance.edu](mailto:shall@defiance.edu)>

For papers on visual media, both new and traditional, including video games, comic books drama, dance, music painting, photography, and digital art.