

Mythcon 52: Call for Papers and Panels

The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Friday, July 29 – Monday, August 1, 2021

Albuquerque, NM

www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/mythcon-51.htm

This year's Mythcon theme provides multiple opportunities to explore the Other in fantasy and mythopoeic literature. In "On Fairy-stories," Tolkien spoke of "the desire to visit, free as a fish, the deep sea; or the longing for the noiseless, gracious, economical flight of a bird." We invite discussion about the types of fantasy that are more likely to put us into contact with the alien, such as time portal fantasy and space travel fantasy. In addition to the Inklings, some



writers who deal particularly well with the truly alien who might be explored include Lovecraft, Gaiman, Le Guin, Tepper, and others. Other topics that might be fruitfully explored are: depictions of the alien Other in film and television (*Dune*, *Loki*, etc.); developing constructed languages that are truly different from those of Earth-based humans; fantastical Others in indigenous myths (such as Coyote and Spider Woman from Native American mythology); and American folklore about the alien (flying saucers, alien abduction, Area 51, Roswell).

Papers on our conference theme and the works and interests of our guests of honor are especially welcome, although all subjects will be considered.

GUESTS OF HONOR

David Bratman, Scholar

Rivera Sun, Author

PAPER and PANEL PROPOSALS:

Email papers abstracts of 200-500 words by April 15, 2022:

Cami Agan (Papers Coordinator), cami.agan@oc.edu

Email panels abstracts of 50-150 words by April 15, 2022:

Leslie Donovan (Panels Coordinator), leslie.a.donovan@gmail.com

Include AV requests and time slot needed. We will make every effort to accommodate A/V requests, but such equipment is limited and cannot be guaranteed. *Time slots:* Individual long papers and panels will be scheduled for 50 minutes (to allow 10 minutes for time between sessions), so plan for about 40 minutes to present your paper and 10 minutes for questions and discussion; Individual short papers are scheduled for 30 minutes, about 10 minutes for the paper and 10 minutes for discussion (with 10 minutes for time between sessions).

All presenters must register for the full conference; see the Mythcon 52 Registration page for information and rates.

See details on our Alexei Kondratiev student paper award at <http://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/alexei.htm>.

ABOUT THE MYTHOPOEIC SOCIETY

The Mythopoeic Society is an international literary and educational organization devoted to the study, discussion, and enjoyment of the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and mythopoeic literature. We believe the study of these writers can lead to greater understanding and appreciation of the literary, philosophical, and spiritual traditions which underlie their works, and can engender an interest in the study of myth, legend, and the genre of fantasy. Find out about the Society's activities at: www.mythsoc.org.