

**Mythcon 52: Call for Papers and Panels** (updated 3/25/2022)

# The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Friday, July 29 – Monday, August 1, 2022

Albuquerque, NM

(for more info, visit the [Mythcon 52 webpage](#))

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, writers dealing 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 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

## Now 2 Format Options for Presentations!

- **IN-PERSON PAPER and PANELS:** Mythcon 52's schedule will include regular, live, in-person presentations at the conference in Albuquerque with in-person audiences on Friday afternoon, all day Saturday and Sunday, and perhaps 1-2 on Monday morning.
- **VIRTUAL PAPERS and PANELS:** In addition to regular, in-person presentations, Mythcon 52's schedule will include one track of virtual presentations/panels offered through Zoom on Saturday and Sunday. The number of virtual presentations/panels will be limited and preference for those spots will be given to international speakers as well as those unable to travel for other reasons. Audiences may view and ask questions at our virtual offerings either in-person in Albuquerque or remotely.

All presenters and panelists must register for either the full conference or the virtual option; see the [Mythcon 52 Registration page](#) for information and rates.

## To Submit Proposals

- **Paper Abstracts for In-Person Presentations** (200-500 words) must be emailed by May 15, 2022, to Cami Agan (In-Person Papers Coordinator) at [papers@mythcon.org](mailto:papers@mythcon.org). Include length of presentation (long or short, see below) and any AV requests.

- **Paper Abstracts for Virtual Presentations** (200-500 words) must be emailed by May 15, 2022, to Megan Abrahamson (Co-Chair and Virtual Papers Coordinator) at [co-chair@mythcon.org](mailto:co-chair@mythcon.org). Include length of presentation (long or short, see below). Since virtual presentation spots are limited, please briefly describe reasons or considerations for requesting virtual time slots (such as international travel, time zones, accessibility challenges, etc.).
- **Panel Abstracts** (50-150 words) for both in-person and virtual presentations must be emailed by May 15, 2022, to Leslie Donovan (Co-Chair and Panels Coordinator) at [chair@mythcon.org](mailto:chair@mythcon.org). Include format (in-person or virtual) and any AV requests for in-person only. Since virtual presentation spots are limited, please briefly describe reasons or considerations for requesting virtual time slots (such as international travel, time zones, accessibility challenges, etc.).

### **AV Requests**

We will make every effort to accommodate A/V requests for in-person paper and panel presentations, but resources are limited and cannot be guaranteed.

### **Paper/Panel Time Lengths**

Time slots will be scheduled for 60 minutes (long) and 30 minutes (short). Long papers and all panels will be scheduled for 60-minute time slots, in which papers/panels are expected to last no longer than 40 minutes with at least 10 minutes for questions and discussion, followed by 10 minutes for travel time between sessions. Short papers will be scheduled for 30-minute time slots, in which papers are expected to last no longer than 10 minutes, with at least 10 minutes for questions and discussion, followed by 10 minutes for travel time between sessions.

### **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 our activities at: [www.mythsoc.org](http://www.mythsoc.org).