

**Imagining the Impossible:
International Journal for the Fantastic in Contemporary Media**

CFP for Vol. 1, 2 and 3. To be published Spring/Summer 2022 and Summer/Fall 2022

This international, peer-reviewed journal is dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of the fantastic in today's entertainment media. The aim is to offer new and cutting-edge theories in response to the field of the fantastic. The fantastic is widely understood as stories and genres that break with natural laws. We use the fantastic as a supergenre and an umbrella term for all genres that use fantastic elements - science fiction, horror, fantasy, supernatural and more. The focus is on fantastic fiction in entertainment media, including film, television, games, comic books, and animated films. Media forms such as haunted houses, theme parks, and online forums also fall within this scope. The journal aims to offer a forum for multiple theoretical approaches to the fantastic that respond to their diverse media forms. Approaches include: genre theory and aesthetic analysis; theories of world-building, design and production studies; transmedia developments; storytelling and narrative theory; and cognitive, biocultural and evolutionary theories. The journal is double blind peer-reviewed and will have 1-3 issues per year. Articles will be available online when they have been peer-reviewed and edited.

Volume 1, Spring 2022/Summer 2022

Theories & Audiences

Topics include:

- New theories and new approaches within and beyond existing theories, e.g. play theory; narrative theory; biocultural, evolutionary and cognitive theories; philosophy, gender; diversity; etc.
- New genre developments, e.g. aesthetic, narrative, local, national, etc.
- Development in audience engagements, e.g. fans and fantasy, fan tourism, social media engagements, independent games, live entertainment such as haunted houses, zombie runs and escape rooms, etc.
- New media forms, e.g. memes, Instagram, and more social media forms

Volume 2, Spring 2022/Summer 2022

World-building & Design

Topics include:

- New technical possibilities, e.g. software, hardware, production systems
- Visual effects advances
- New online developments, e.g. new platforms, delivery systems, streaming services
- New approaches relating to design and world-building
- New developments in teaching methods

Volume 3, Summer 2022/Fall 2022

Utopia & Dystopia

Topics include:

- Additions to subgenres of the fantastic, e.g. Solarpunk, Cli-Fi, portal fantasy, steampunk, dark fantasy, wuxia, etc
- Close analysis of single texts dealing with utopias or dystopias

- Specific themes such as pandemics and apocalypses
- Specific elements such as imaginary animals
- Approaches to utopia and dystopia with a focus on minorities - for example gender, LGBT, disability, ethnicity, indigenous people, etc

The first two volumes are dedicated to new approaches to the fantastic in contemporary entertainment media. The third volume is dedicated to utopias and dystopias and this issue welcomes work presented at the conference *Utopia & Dystopia*, May 27-28, 2021, The Royal Danish Academy. The aim is to highlight original research within the fantastic in media entertainment. We welcome articles that take a case-based approach thus using a case study to develop the article's argument whether the focus is theoretical, historical, or something else. Thus, we hope theoretical and analytical approaches can merge to produce more accessible articles.

Length 5000-8000 words, Chicago style (in text), please keep notes to a minimum. Illustrations are welcome, 300 dpi at print size, .jpg. Authors are responsible for all illustration copyrights.

Deadline for Volume 1 and 2: A 150-300 word synopsis on March 1, 2021. A first draft article December 1, 2021. Published Spring 2022/Summer 2022. Articles will be double blind peer-reviewed, edited and published online as they are submitted to the journal.

Deadline for Volume 3: A 150-300 word synopsis on August 1, 2021. A first draft article December 1, 2021. Published Summer 2022/Fall 2022. Articles will be double blind peer-reviewed, edited and published online as they are submitted to the journal.

Please send proposals and questions to

Cecilie Kirstine Thoke Knudsen, SDU: cek@sdu.dk

Or

Rikke Schubart, SDU: schubart@sdu.dk

Editorial team: Rikke Schubart, SDU, Angela Ndalianis, SUT, Jakob Ion Wille, The Royal Danish Academy, Cecilie Kirstine Thoke Knudsen, SDU, Lotte Andkjær, SDU.