



LGBTQIA+ Fantastika Graphics: A Digital Symposium November 20th 2021

“Fantastika” – a term appropriated from a range of Slavonic languages by John Clute – embraces the genres of Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Horror, but can also include Alternate History, Gothic, Steampunk, Young Adult Dystopic Fiction, or any other radically imaginative narrative space. Our goal is to bring together academics, independent researchers, creators, and audiences who share an interest in this diverse range of fields with the aim of opening up new dialogues, productive controversies, and critical collaborations.

Following the 2020-pandemic hiatus, we are pleased to re-launch our annual conferences this year as a digital symposium. LGBTQIA+ Fantastika Graphics focuses on graphics and illustrations in its widest possible remit (comic books, manga, animes, cartoons, picture books, video games, and other such productions.) [NOTE: This is an updated remit from ‘graphic novels’; please disregard previous CFPs.] We are interested in works that contain representations of the LGBTQIA+ community, relationships, and full spectrum of identities.

We welcome abstracts for 15-minute papers or panels of 2-4 people on LGBTQIA+ Fantastika as they occur in the graphic form. Some suggested topics are:

- fantastical representations and productions of LGBTQIA+
- reception and consumption of LGBTQIA+ (including cosplay and fan fiction)
- adaptations (film, television, plays)
- intersectional approaches with race and/or disability
- historical graphic depictions of LGBTQIA+ fictional or real people, including re-imaginings or interpretations
- “coming-out” narratives, including the bildungsroman
- world-building and the place of LGBTQIA+ within these settings
- related post-human themes (alien species, cyborgs, shapeshifting, etc.)
- artistic styles and specifics of visual elements (costuming, body representations, etc.)

The panels will be pre-recorded in podcast form and released publicly in advance of the symposium. Live Q&A discussions will be streamed on the day(s) of the symposium with audience participation taking place through Discord. Please identify your location/time zone in your abstracts.

Submit abstracts of no more than 300 words to fantastikaconference@gmail.com by **8 September 2021** [NOTE: This is an extension from the previous deadline.] Please include a bio/note of 50 words maximum (we invite all proposals to include preferred pronouns.) If you are proposing a panel, please include separate abstracts and bio/notes for each presenter, along with a short (100-word max) summary of your panel topic.

We will also be looking for moderators who can promote and maintain a safe and inclusive environment. Volunteer moderators will relay questions and comments from the Q&A to panel participants and direct discussion. If you are interested in taking part (either in addition to a presentation, or in lieu of one) please indicate your interest via email.

Following the symposium, we will be releasing a special edition of Fantastika Journal. Articles deadline for submissions: **15 January 2022**.

Visit www.fantastikajournal.com for details of past issues and conferences.
#fantastika2021



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