

## **Mythcon 51: Call for Papers and Panels**

# **The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien**

Friday, July 31 - Monday, August 3, 2020

Ramada Plaza Hotel by Wyndham

<http://www.mythcon.org>

This year's Mythcon theme provides multiple opportunities to explore the Other in fantasy and mythopoeic literature. Tolkien spoke in "On Fairy-stories" 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 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 (*Contact*, *Arrival*, HBO's *Watchmen*, 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

### **PAPERS and PANELS PROPOSALS:**

Email papers abstracts of 200-500 words by May 15, 2020:

Cami Agan (Papers Coordinator), [cami.agan@oc.edu](mailto:cami.agan@oc.edu)

Email panels abstracts of 50-150 words by May 15, 2020:

Leslie Donovan (Panels Coordinator), [leslie.a.donovan@gmail.com](mailto: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 are one hour, about 45 minutes for the paper and 15 minutes for discussion; Individual short papers or 1/2 hour, about 20 minutes for the paper and 10 minutes for discussion; Panels are 90 minutes, about 60 minutes for the panel and 30 minutes for discussion.

You will be notified after the deadline if your paper proposal has been accepted.

All presenters must register for the full conference; see the Mythcon 51 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](http://www.mythsoc.org).