

**** CFP ****

GOTHIC NATURE II: NEW DIRECTIONS IN ECOHORROR AND THE EcoGOTHIC

Symposium and Journal Launch

The University of Roehampton, London, September 14th 2019

DEADLINE: July 20th, 2019

Conference organisers: Dr Rachele Dini, Dr Elizabeth Parker, and Michelle Poland



Keynote Speaker:

Professor Andrew Smith, The University of Sheffield

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Co-director of the Centre for the History of the Gothic; co-editor of such titles as *Ecogothic* (2013) and *The Encyclopaedia of the Gothic* (2012); and author of such titles as *Gothic Death 1740-1914: A Literary History* (2016), *The Ghost Story 1840-1920: A Cultural History* (2011), and *Gothic Literature* (2013).

In the age of the Anthropocene, the interrogative study of the relationship between the human and nonhuman is vital. Our representations of the more-than-human in literature, film, mythologies, histories, and popular culture—our endless stories about Nature—are hugely important because they not only reflect but *inform* how we think and feel about the world around us, and impact how we subsequently treat it. The new journal, *Gothic Nature: New Directions in Ecohorror and the EcoGothic*, is a timely publication which focuses specifically on Nature's dark, nasty, eerie, and unsettling undersides, both real and imagined. Peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary, the journal features the latest exciting research in ecohorror and the ecoGothic from both renowned and new scholars, seeking to question and expand our existing ideas and definitions in these areas. To celebrate the release of the inaugural issue of *Gothic Nature*, we are holding a one-day symposium—generously hosted by the English and Creative Writing Department at The University of Roehampton—to bring together academics, artists, filmmakers, and enthusiasts working in various ways with the subject of Gothic Nature.

We invite proposals for 20-minute scholarly papers and 10-minute creative readings. We also welcome proposals for alternative or more unconventional modes and formats (critical or creative dialogues/conversations, performances, screenings, or presentations) by scholars, artists, and activists.

Topics might include, but are by no means limited to:

- Definitions and delineations: 'Gothic Nature', 'ecohorror', and 'ecoGothic'.
- 'Ecophilia' vs. 'ecophobia'.
- Ecocritical theory and the Gothic.
- Gothic and the 'cenes': Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Necrocene, Sustainocene, Cosmocene, Econocene, Plantationocene, etc.
- Gothic ecology, Gothic geology, Gothic and climate change.
- Landscapes of fear: icescapes, forests, mountains, caves, oceans, etc.
- Nature monsters: wolves, trolls, wendigos, witches, huldra, Pan, etc.
- Ghosts in the landscape.

- Heritage noire (historically haunted landscapes).
- Religion and dark Nature.
- Animal horror, plant horror.
- Gothic writers and environmental activism.
- Gothic nature and representations of class/race/gender/sexuality, etc.

Please send abstracts of 350 words, along with a brief bio of 150 words to gothicnaturejournal@gmail.com by **July 20th 2019** (or feel free to contact us informally should you wish to talk through ideas or have any queries). Proposals for panels are also welcome: please send a 200-word summary of the rationale for the panel, in addition to individual abstracts.

About this Journal

Gothic Nature is a new interdisciplinary and peer-reviewed open-access academic journal seeking to explore the latest evolutions of thought in the areas of ecohorror and the ecoGothic. It welcomes articles, reviews, interviews, and original creative pieces from researchers and artists interrogating the darker sides of our relationship with the nonhuman.

Founding editor: Dr Elizabeth Parker

Co-editors: Dr Elizabeth Parker and Michelle Poland

Book Review Editor: Professor Jennifer Schell

TV and Film Review Editor: Professor Sara L. Crosby

Editorial Board: Professor Stacy Alaimo, Professor Eric G. Anderson, Dr Rachele Dini, Professor Simon C. Estok, Professor Dawn Keetley, Professor Matthew Wynn Sivils, Professor Andrew Smith



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