

Call for Papers for a volume on

Subcreation: Worldbuilding in the Fantastic

Imaginary worlds have always been at the center of many pieces of fantastic literature. Many readers seem to enjoy the immersion into these so-called secondary worlds. Rules as well as similarities and differences between these new worlds and our own reality (realities?), the Primary World, wait to be discovered. Many authors admit to taking first steps in building these worlds in childhood and adding to them in the course of their professional career, probably because building worlds is – in many ways – a fundamental human activity. It is something innate, which serves an evolutionary purpose, as many researchers suggest.

J.R.R. Tolkien called "subcreation" the making of a secondary world, a creative task in which human beings are more or less limited to using and combining the concepts already existing in the respective Primary World. According to Mark J.P. Wolf, changes in the secondary world fall into four distinct realms: the nominal (new names, new language), the cultural (new objects, technologies, customs, ideas), the natural (new landmasses, plants, animals, species and races of creatures) and the ontological (the materiality and laws of physics, time, space, etc.) ones.

Fastitocalon invites contributions that investigate world-building in works of the fantastic. Possible topics to be covered are the different forms which fictional worlds can take and how they experience a transmedial expansion in films, games, comics, fanfiction, etc. Articles could also discuss the psychological basis which explains the development of these worlds or theoretical aspects in relation to the possibilities of subcreation. A literary or cultural approach can focus on the analysis of concrete imaginary worlds or their different aspects and realizations: language, mythology, maps, nature, etc.

Thus contributions may study individual works, discuss specific transformations, or explore theoretical aspects connected with the topic. Even though the language of the publication is English, we encourage the inclusion and discussion of works in other languages, especially in contemporary ones.

Abstracts ca. (300 words) accompanied by a brief biographical note (100-150 words) should be sent in to the editors electronically by 31 October 2016 to:

natalia.llana@ifaar.rwth-aachen.de

Patrick.Schmitz1@rwth-aachen.de

mail.davidgraziano@gmail.com

Essays accepted for inclusion in the volume must range between 6000 and 8000 words and will be due on March 31, 2017. *Fastitocalon: Studies in Fantasticism Ancient to Modern* is a peer-reviewed journal. Abstracts and/or full papers submitted will be reviewed by the editors and members of the advisory board.