



**ContactZone**

double-blind peer-reviewed e-journal

*Journal of the Italian Association on Science Fiction and the Fantastic*

Website [www.aisff-starfiction.com](http://www.aisff-starfiction.com)

**Call for Papers**

Special Issue

***Fantastic Modes in Postcolonial Literatures***

edited by

Silvia Albertazzi and Oriana Palusci

Is Todorov's definition on "*littérature fantastique*" still valid today?"

It is very difficult to give a definition of the fantastic or of fantasy in the new millennium after that postmodernism has shred the boundaries between genres. Anyhow, fantastic modes have been appropriated and morphed by postcolonial writers, projecting a dense texture of possibilities enriched by local myths and legends. In many cases, the recurrence to the 'unreal', to the "suspension of disbelief" has become a sort of trademark of resistance to the colonial 'master texts'. Balancing between a possible representation of the 'real' and an imagined fantastic reinvention of the past/future where nationalism, ethnicity and identity are at stake, postcolonial literatures unsettle discourses of power, unhinging and decolonising hegemonic representations of the supposed 'Other'. Fantastic modes construe a map of horror and hope on which to project postcolonial visions centred upon social and cultural critique.

This issue, therefore, intends to explore the way in which writers from ex-colonies have recurred to the strategies of fantastic modes to unlock new stories, create new narratives. Under the umbrella term 'magic realism' are stored rivers of fantastic themes to be analysed in the context of the local and the global.

The editors are interested in the diverse discursive and linguistic dimensions of fantastic modes adopted by postcolonial writers (see, among others, Silvia Albertazzi e Adalinda Gasparini, *Il romanzo new global. Storie di intolleranza, fiabe di comunità*, 2003; Christopher Warnes, *Magical Realism and the Postcolonial Novel*, 2009).

**Possible areas of inquiry may include, but are not limited to:**

Magic realism as postcolonial discourse;  
The relation between the fantastic and myth;  
The fantastic as resistance;  
Invisible bodies;  
Gendering the fantastic;  
The Postcolonial Uncanny;  
The Postcolonial Gothic;  
The Rewriting of fables and fairytales in Postcolonial Literature;

Fantastic modes and the Indigenous worldview;  
The linguistics of the fantastic;  
Alternative history;  
Ecology and the fantastic.

**Abstract submissions:**

Please send a 300-word abstract and a 100-word bio-note to the following email:  
[aisff.starfiction@gmail.com](mailto:aisff.starfiction@gmail.com) and Silvia.Albertazzi@unibo.it

Language: English

**Important dates:**

Deadline for abstract submissions: 10 August 2021  
Notification of acceptance: 16 August 2021  
Submission of paper: 30 October 2021  
Publication of the issue: December 2021

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