

Call for papers for the conference:

***Literature, Culture and the Fantastic:
Challenges of the Fin de Siècle(s)***

An International Interdisciplinary Conference

**17th & 18th February 2012
Rijeka, Croatia**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Philip Healy

University of Oxford, UK

Dr Thomas Hubbard

honorary fellow of Glasgow University (2004-2011)
visiting professor at Université Stendhal (Grenoble 3), France

Dr Tatjana Jukić

University of Zagreb, Croatia

Hosting institutions:

**Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Rijeka
English Department, Section for Literature**

Conference Organizing Committee:

Irena Grubica, University of Rijeka, Croatia, president
Dr Zdenek Beran, Charles University Prague, Czech Republic, vice-president
Dr Claire Basin, University of Paris Ouest Nanterre la Défense, France
Dr Francesca Saggini, Tuscia University, Italy
Dr Tamás Bényei, University of Debrecen, Hungary
Dr Željka Švrljuga, University of Bergen, Norway

For further information contact the conference organizer:

Irena Grubica, University of Rijeka, e-mail: <igrubica@gmail.com>

Fantastic literature has been receiving increasing scholarly attention, often in relation to various cultural and discursive practices. This conference invites scholars who orient in their work at exploring the fantastic and related issues and who are interested in various discourses the term itself generates. Although broader inputs are also welcome, we would particularly like to delineate various relations between the fantastic and the fin de siècle(s) and to contextualize their historical and cultural significance. We would, therefore, appreciate discussions on the fantastic in the light of the development of the idea, challenging traditional historical contexts and offering new ones. In this respect we are especially interested in the fantastic and its relation to the genesis of aesthetic ideas, the concept of terror/horror, the

sublime, to Gothic and sensation fiction, to the Aesthetic Movement and Decadence, etc.: in what way does fantastic literature (as well as art) of various fin de siècles reflect the dynamic and all too often controversial development of these concepts? At the same time, it seems to be of the equal importance to investigate a broader context of specific social, political and economic conditions along with the development of science and scientific discourses, including psychology and sexology. The fantastic is also a realm of what Stephen Arata calls “the pathology of everyday life” (in *Fictions of Loss in the Victorian Fin de Siècle*), which addresses more private issues such as personal identity, body or sanity.

In view of the above mentioned the topics may include but are not limited to the following:

- **The fantastic and various aspects of the fin-de-siècle(s) aesthetics**
- **The fantastic and the canon; genres and sub-genres, popular literature, intertextuality, influences**
- **The fantastic and gender, body, corporeality**
- **The fantastic and identity, dualism, doppelganger, grotesque**
- **The philosophy of the fantastic**
- **The fantastic and memory, cultural memory**
- **The fantastic and narrative manipulations, supernatural, temporality, scientific development and progress, cultural anxiety and social crisis, cultural subversion**
- **The fantastic and visual; literary in relation to other modes of representation, visual and performance, film**
- **A single author/text: e.g. O.Wilde, R. L. Stevenson, Vernon Lee, Grant Allan, George Egerton, etc., comparative analyses and cultural studies approaches**
- **the fin-de-siècle fantastic as reflected cross-culturally in Scottish, Welsh, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, American, Caribbean etc. writing, emphasising specific predominant cultural or generic aspect, the genesis of the fin-de-siècle fantastic in these cultures and literatures and their relations to wider historical and cultural framework, possible relation to the issue of postcolonialism**
- **The fantastic and its relation to (post)colonialism, imperialism, nationalism**

We also invite papers, exploring the legacy of the term in various fin de siècles and beyond, especially its application to literature and culture of the end of the 20th century, raising or challenging parallels and questioning the very idea of end (*fin*).

Proposals of 400 words and a short biographical note should be submitted by 20 December 2011 to: <igrubica@gmail.com>

During the conference the editorial meeting for the book *The Fantastic in the Fin de Siècle*, ed. by I. Grubica & Z. Beran, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, will take place. A few selected papers from the conference not included in the book will be published in a special journal issue of *Literaria Pragensia*.