'Islands in speculative fiction: The functions of islands in science-fiction, fantasy, and horror film and writing', a special section of *Island Studies Journal*

Guest Editors: Yuqin Jiang, Adam Grydehøj, Ping Su, Mingying Zhou

Islands are often presented as places of fear, curiosity, surprise, desire, death, and rebirth, looming dreamlike across the waters. Island utopias, dystopias, heterotopias abound in the human imagination and have played a major role in artistic production. The notion of the island is, however, culturally conditioned and encompasses a wide variety of elements, resulting in different uses of islands in different genres and contexts.

In speculative fiction (here defined as science-fiction, fantasy, horror, weird, supernatural, and alternate history film and writing), islands can be in the centre or on the margins. The technologies of science fiction carry people to distant and unknown places, to islands at the edge of the world or the edge of the universe. The container-like properties of the island allows it to serve as a geographical 'haunted house' in horror and various horror subgenres. The island can be a metaphor or container for dreams of past and future, civilisation, all that is foreign, the soul. Islands can be overwhelmingly full of experiences or can be frighteningly empty—pressure cookers for the fragile human psyche. Even speculative film and writing that does not explicitly concern islands often contains tropes inherited from earlier and other genres centred on islands or the sea.

This special section considers the numerous functions islands play in speculative fiction. The focus of the special section is on geographical islands (pieces of land surrounded by water) and potentially their roles as metaphors for something else. We do not seek papers on how something else (e.g. a building, spaceship, or planet) is a metaphor for an island, though we are open to submissions that look at connections between island and non-island fictions.

This special section will be published in May 2024 in *Island Studies Journal* (*ISJ*, https://islandstudiesjournal.org), but individual papers will be published online ahead of print as and when they complete the peer review and editorial process. *ISJ* is a web-based, freely downloadable, open access, peer reviewed journal that publishes papers advancing and critiquing the study of issues affecting or involving islands. It is listed and abstracted in Scopus and Web of Science (Social Science Citation Index).

For further information or if you are interested in submitting a paper, contact: Yuqin Jiang (shenzhenSF2022@126.com). The deadline for abstract submission is 30 September 2022. The deadline for submitting a full paper is 30 April 2023. Manuscripts

should be between 5,000 and 10,000 words and must be prepared in accordance with the *ISJ* submission guidelines: https://islandstudiesjournal.org/guidelines/. All papers will be subject to peer review. Submissions take place through *ISJ*'s ordinary online submission system (https://islandstudiesjournal.org/submissions/), and authors should make sure to enter the name of the special section 'Islands in speculative fiction' in the appropriate place in the submission form.