

# Call for Papers

***Messengers from the Stars:  
On Science Fiction and Fantasy***

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*Messengers from the Stars* is an international, peer-reviewed journal, offering academic articles, reviews, and providing an outlet for a wide range of creative work inspired by science fiction and fantasy. The 2020 issue will be dedicated to the following theme:

## **Utopias, Dystopias, Ecotopias and Heterotopias**

For the 2020 *Messengers from the Stars* issue we will focus on representations of utopia and dystopia in Science-Fiction and Fantasy. The idea of conceptualizing a hypothetical social order as a way to think about the present has a rich literary and philosophical tradition, preceding Thomas More's celebrated work itself. As Bloch describes, "the *word* utopia emerged here coined by Thomas More, though not the philosophically far more comprehensive *concept* of utopia." (Bloch, *The Principle of Hope*, Vol. 1 14). In this sense, we can clearly see many iterations of the concept of utopia today, particularly those related to the idea of the current systems coming to an end. Given our current ecological, sociological and political circumstances, are we at the brink of collapse? What will come after that? In this issue we will address these and other questions related to the appeal of the utopian/dystopian in its many forms.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Alternate realities and histories
- Apocalyptic visions and their aftermath.
- Ecotopia and ecology in the humanities
- Manifestations of the utopian/dystopian across the arts, contemporary thought and society in general
- Preppers
- Retrofuturism and steampunk

- Speculative fiction
- Utopian communities and projects

Submissions, between 4000 and 6000 words in English, must be sent to [mfts.journal@gmail.com](mailto:mfts.journal@gmail.com) by **May 22, 2020**. The authors will be notified by the end of July.

In addition, you can propose a book or film review. We welcome book and film reviews on current science fiction and fantasy research and PhD dissertations. Reviews should be between 500 to 1,000 words. Longer reviews, e.g. dealing with more than one book, should be agreed upon with the Editorial Board. The guideline for book/film reviews is available [here](#).

All submissions must follow the journal's guidelines available

at: <http://messengersfromthestars.letras.ulisboa.pt/journal/submission-guidelines>