

[PAMLA 2022: Geographies of Terror \(Nov 11-13\)](#)

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Call for Papers

Date:

May 15, 2022

Location:

California, United States

Subject Fields:

Colonial and Post-Colonial History / Studies, Cultural History / Studies, Literature, Popular Culture Studies

Geographies of Terror: The Fantastic and Quotidian

Proposals invited for a special session panel at PAMLA's 2022 Conference, UCLA Luskin Conference Center and Hotel in Los Angeles, California

November 11 - 13, 2022

Panel Organizer: Amanda Lagji alagji@pitzer.edu

In connection with PAMLA's conference theme on the geographies of the fantastic and quotidian, this panel invites papers that explore the fantastic and quotidian geographies of terror in literature. Papers are encouraged to embrace an expansive notion of geographies, including the spatial and the affective, in their examination of terrorism and literature.

The reach of terror and counter-terror networks alike is fantastic, and vast; we might contrast the global, deterritorialized networks not just of terror, but also counter-terror surveillance and security apparatuses with fiction's depiction of the quotidian, everyday experiences of grief, paranoia, anxiety, and fear. Fiction's exploration of these affective geographies, however, might also mobilize the "fantastic" mode, from irrealist scenes in Karan Mahajan's *The Association of Small Bombs* to Viken Berberian's strange novel *The Cyclist*.

This panel aims to address the following questions: how do 'terror texts' balance the quotidian and the fantastic in their exploration of post-9/11 security logics? To what end might 'terror texts' mobilize elements of the fantastic or strange to comment on domestic or global terror? The geographies of terror interact with post-Cold War geopolitics, as well as the persistence of imperial formations in the present; how might these "fantastic" histories impinge on the quotidian narration of terror in contemporary fiction? Is fiction especially good (or especially bad) at mediating the relationship between the fantastic spectacle of terror and the quotidian experiences of aftermath? Do these distinctions even hold under analysis?

Papers might address questions of genre and representation, as well as depictions of terror “sites” and the affective geographies of terror. The panel aims to be inclusive of all national/comparative literatures and time periods in its efforts to chart a long and expansive history of terror, the fantastic, and the quotidian.

Please submit proposals (max. 300 words) and a brief biography (max. 100 words) for 15 minute papers to PAMLA’s online submission system <https://pamla.ballastacademic.com/> (login or create an account first) by May 15, 2022.

More details on the conference can be found here: <https://www.pamla.org/pamla2022/>

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