

Call for Short Stories: Science Fiction and Fantasy from Papua New Guinea (working title)

01 October 2021

Call for short stories:

- Proposals open: 01 October 2021
- Proposals close: 01 November 2021
- Notification of acceptance: 30 November 2021
- Full chapters due: 15 January 2022
- Planned submission of manuscript: 01 March 2022

Overview:

If anthropology asks the question, “Who are we as humans?”, then speculative fiction takes this one step further by asking, “Who are we as humans if...?” This form of literature helps us to understand our societies, our politics, our cultures, our world, our identities, and ourselves. It does this by allowing us to experiment with possibilities and alternatives.

Often, speculative fiction has been devoid of Black voices, and Black characters have been relegated to background rather than lead roles. We hope to counteract this imbalance, and promote our stories alongside and within the emerging literary traditions/movements such as Black and Pacific futurism.

It is our aim to develop an anthology that brings together short stories in the field of speculative fiction, which are written by Indigenous Papua New Guineans.

We are interested in high-quality writing in the following genres: science fiction, alternate history, fantasy, magical realism, space opera, cyberpunk and steampunk. Think space travel, spaceships, time travel, robots, aliens, advanced technology (perhaps anachronistically), mutants, masalai, clones etc.

Stories should—at least partially—be set in a version of Papua New Guinea (whether real, imagined, mythological, virtual, past, present, future or stylised etc.) and/or feature a protagonist who is Papua New Guinean. Preference will be given to stories with a unique Melanesian flavour.

If you are of Indigenous Papua New Guinean descent, and if you are interested in speculative fiction, please consider submitting your short story.

Submission procedure:

At this time, we are only seeking work produced by writers with Indigenous Papua New Guinean ancestry.

Writers are invited to submit a 350-500 word synopsis of their short story, on or before 01 November 2021. Authors will be formally notified of their acceptance through to the next phase by 30 November 2021.

Full chapters will be expected before 15 January 2022. Stories should be between 3,000 and 5,000 words in length, and can be written in English or Tok Pisin. Don't be afraid to use tokpeles words/phrases/terminology where relevant.

Chapters will be edited to conform to formatting and other requirements. Please submit proposals as Word documents to k.mcgavin@uq.edu.au, using the subject line "Science Fiction and Fantasy Anthology from PNG".

Publisher:

This Anthology will be published in collaboration with Hibiscus Three under the Hibiscus Three Anthology Series, an initiative supporting Papua New Guinean-led book projects.

Enquiries:

Enquiries may be directed to either k.mcgavin@uq.edu.au or hibiscusthree@gmail.com.

Editor:

Dr Kirsten McGavin, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Queensland