

Manufacturing Monsters

Special issue of the journal *Nordlit*

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Deadline for submission: June 30, 2018

‘Monsters’ emerge in our collective imaginaries and memories in different forms and functions, but a shared characteristic seems to be their monolithically evil nature that commonly disallows for contact through other than directly violent means. Branding someone or something as monstrous often implies that the respective entity *can* be, and indeed often *should* be, fought under the application of all means available to assure the survival of a fragile self in inherently hostile environments. As a result, categorizing an opponent as a ‘monster’ is a precondition for the justification of war and other violent conduct. As such, the social construction, or mediated manufacture, of ‘monsters’ in and through cultural expressions matters for issues of politics and practice.

Papers submitted to the present special issue should interrogate the means through which news, film, television programmes, documentaries, video games, and other cultural expressions invite for perceptions of particular opponents as monstrous. Articles can conduct formal analyses of media representations or direct attention to the socio-economic and political contexts of production and reception. We hope to solicit strong academic papers that provide new perspectives on the apparently timeless theme of the social construction of enemies, othering, and propaganda in and through cultural expressions and medial representations.

Possible themes include, but are not limited to:

- The construction of the other in film and other cultural expressions
- The manufacture of historical and contemporary enemies in documentaries, novels, or history books
- The role of video games, social media, and online fora in processes of othering and 'enemizing'
- The 'monsterization' of opponents in news and political discourse
- The role of the political economy in the medial formation of 'monsters'
- Processes and practices of 'de-monsterization' across genre and media
- 'Media monsters' in (media-)historical perspectives
- The role of technology in the medial production of 'monsters'
- The role of 'monsters' in political and other conflicts
- 'Monsters' and everyday practices
- Borders, boundaries, and 'monsters'
- 'De-monsterization' and peace
- 'Monsters' and memory
- 'Expertise' and 'experts' as agenda setters
- The manufacture of 'worthy and unworthy victims'
- 'Mainstream media', 'monsters', and 'fake news'
- ...

We invite submissions on these or related themes of between 6,000 and 8,000 words written in Danish, English, German, Norwegian, or Swedish.

Please submit a) your fully anonymized manuscript and b) a separate title page with personal details to holger.potzsch@uit.no. **Deadline for full papers is June 30, 2018.**

Please follow the journal's author guidelines closely when preparing your manuscript for submission. The guidelines can be accessed [here](#).

We would be grateful if you could send us title/abstract of your planned submission asap. This would make it easier for us to plan the issue as a whole.

Each manuscript will be assessed in a thorough double-blind peer-review process. Planned publication is *Nordlit* issue 42 (spring 2019).

Nordlit is a peer-reviewed open-access journal in cultural and literary criticism, published by the Department of Language and Culture, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, in cooperation with Septentrio Academic Publishing. The journal is ranked as a level 1 academic publication channel in the Norwegian research database CRISTIN.