

Proposals are invited for **The Beasts of the Forest: Denizens of the Dark Woods** Conference, St Mary's University, Twickenham, London, UK, July 2017 (date tbc).

Topics for presentations might address, but are not limited to:

- Ecocriticism: deforestation and extinction as textual themes
- Forest fears and found footage films: *The Blair Witch* and beyond
- Fairylands: malevolent spirits, sprites and fairyfolk in popular culture
- New England Gothic and forbidden woods: H.P. Lovecraft, Stephen King and the legacy of the Puritans
- Hunting Bigfoot, evolution of the 'squatchers'
- Representations of the forest as monstrous entity
- Forests and the full moon: wolves, lycanthropy and madness,
- Forests as horror context and lair in creature features
- Forests and jungles in popular music
- Witches and warlocks of the forest
- Tolkien's forests in film, games and animation
- Forests in Disney
- Forest creatures in PSB: BBC natural history as emblem of cultural value
- Social Class and hillbilly horror

Interested parties should submit a 500-word abstract by **Thursday 14th April 2017** to: Dr Jon Hackett: jon.hackett@stmarys.ac.uk; Dr Sean Harrington: sean.harrington@stmarys.ac.uk