

# Another thing for BBP Manuscript

Black Planet, Brown Planet x



Isiah Lavender <lavender@uca.edu>

May 1

to matthewg, psharp, gerrycanavan, softmachine, dkilgore, lisa.yaszek, knowles3, me, barrm, Robin.Reid, edward.james, eginway

Hi everyone:

I've now got all of the written permission release forms. I think I only need one more thing from each of you--a brief bio, less than a hundred words if possible.

I have a new email address that is active: [isiahl@lsu.edu](mailto:isiahl@lsu.edu)

However, I am still using my uca address until 8/15.

I hope finals are coming to an end for all of you. I only have one left on Friday.

best,

isiah 3

>>> Isiah Lavender 03/18/13 9:27 PM >>>

Hi everyone:

I need your personal or work addresses in order to get these written permission release forms on the way. I can send each personalized letter through the mail or as a PDF attachment that you can sign and PDF back to me. That might be quickest. I'm going to send the manuscript off April 1st.

best,

isiah 3

>>> Isiah Lavender 03/06/13 8:58 PM >>>

Hi everyone:

It looks like the second time is the charm! The University Press of Mississippi has offered a contract for the collection! Thank you for trusting me with your work. Mississippi may seem like an unusual choice, but they are making strides in the SF genre with recent volumes published and monographs forthcoming. This collection is going to make an impact. The reader report is dynamite. I've attached it so you can see for yourselves, you leading lights and future stars of SF criticism!

Everyone should celebrate with a drink of choice this week-end.

I'll keep you updated as things continue to develop!

best,

isiah 3

>>> Walter Biggins <[wbiggins@ihl.state.ms.us](mailto:wbiggins@ihl.state.ms.us)> 03/06/13 4:32 PM >>>

Dear Professor Lavender,

I've had an opportunity to read your proposal for "Black and Brown Planets," and to send the material out for a peer review. The reader's report (below) is quite positive, and recommends that we pursue the project. Based on the report and our internal evaluation, we would like to commit to the collection on the basis of a contract. After you've had a chance to review the report, please be in touch with me regarding a timeframe for completion and your preferred mailing address. We look forward to hearing from you and to working with you on this project.

Best regards,

Walter Biggins

Walter Biggins, Acquisitions Editor

University Press of Mississippi

Email: [wbiggins@mississippi.edu](mailto:wbiggins@mississippi.edu)

Visit our website: [www.upress.state.ms.us](http://www.upress.state.ms.us)

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**REPORT ON ISIAH LAVENDER, ED., *BLACK AND BROWN PLANETS: THE POLITICS OF RACE IN SCIENCE FICTION***

The study of science fiction by African-American authors—and, more broadly, by Third World people and people of color—has become, over the past decade or so, one of the most exciting and intellectually vibrant areas of literary and cultural studies. Closely related has been

the enhanced attention given to race in science fiction by authors of various backgrounds. Among literary critics, few (if any) names in this upsurge of scholarly activity have been more prominent than that of Isiah Lavender, perhaps mostly notably for his 2011 book, *Race in American Science Fiction*. The MS. under review here promises to be an at least equally, if somewhat differently, significant scholarly achievement. That press is to be congratulated which is fortunate enough to publish it.

As the title implies, *Black and Brown Planets* goes beyond the main focus of Lavender's earlier work by focusing not only on African-American but also Hispanic and indigenous SF. It does so quite impressively in a number of ways. It is solidly grounded in the pertinent work already done—the literature survey offered is extraordinarily broad and thorough, and the bibliography is remarkable—and makes clear how the proposed volume will offer something new. Lavender offers a stimulating introduction that I found especially interesting in the scholarly use he makes of some autobiographical material. The roster of contributors recruited contains some of the top names in the field of SF studies—e.g., Marleen Barr, Edward James, De Witt Douglas Kilgore, Robin Reid, and Lisa Yaszek, not to mention Lavender himself—plus some younger scholars who may well be among the leading lights of tomorrow. The two sample chapters offered—one by Yaszek, which contains one of the most innovative treatments I have seen of the venerable SF theme of the mad scientist, and the other by Lysa Rivera on an instance of what might be called the science-fictionalization of premodern indigenous myth—are both top-notch and promise that, assuming the other chapters match these two in quality, the work as a whole be a major achievement.

I recommend for publication without hesitation.