

**Suggested Interview Questions for W. Scott Poole,
author of *Monsters in America* (Baylor University Press)**

Are monsters are real?

Why are Americans obsessed with monsters? Are we more so than other countries?

What do spooky folk tales and other horror legends reveal about the nation's history?

You say that American society “revels in the alien, in the horrifying and in that which allegedly disgusts.” How so?

How did the classic creature feature flicks, such as *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*, based on European literary works, influence American pop culture?

Why did stories of sea serpents and other fearsome beasts arise in frontier communities?

You write that slavery and racism were “a new doctrine of monsters.” Explain.

How did Matthew Brady's famous photographs of Civil War dead signal the beginning of gore as American entertainment?

What does the cultural fascination with maniac murders and serial killers say about us?

What about monstrous mom & scary baby movies?

How do monsters give the lie to the myth of American exceptionalism?

How has American Christianity influenced the national horror obsession?

How do slasher movies and torture porn riff on conservative messages?

Why are zombies and vampires the perfect monsters for America today?

Twilight vs. *True Blood*. Discuss.

How did your obsession with horror develop?

What's the next terror in store for America?

Why should historians study horror? Does it count as “real” history?