

Electricdreams – Between Fiction and Society III

*Conflicts and Margins:
Imagining Otherness, Ecocatastrophes, Perpetual War, Technological
Imbalance, and Systemic Injustice Through Speculative Fiction*

International Conference

9-11 October 2024
Sala dei 146
IULM Building 6 (Open Space)
IULM University
Via Carlo Bo 7
20143 Milan (Italy)

WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2024 – Day #1 (9:00-17:30)

9:00 - 9:30

Welcome

9:30 - 10:45

Panel #1: AFTER THE APOCALYPSE

Chair: Ondrej Vasa

* Giulia Magro (Sapienza University of Rome), *Desert Dystopias: Liminal Spaces and Times in Medievalist Post-Apocalyptic Works*

* Monika Riedmann (University of Innsbruck), *Resilient Youth: Navigating the Aftermath of Catastrophe in Contemporary Italian and Spanish Post-apocalyptic Science Fiction*

* Laurie B. Huggett (University of Exeter), *Agency, Ecology and the Apocalypse. Rural Visions of Mid-century Anxiety in Daphne du Maurier's "The Birds" and "Monte Verita" and Ray Bradbury's "The Scythe" and "The Wind"*

10:45 - 11:15

Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:15

KEYNOTE SPEECH #1

Chair: Federico Selvini

* Gaia Giuliani (CES - University of Coimbra), *The Coloniality of Our Present: Migrants' Alien-ing in Anthropocenic Times*

12:15 - 13:30

Panel #2: RETHINKING SPECULATIVE FICTION THROUGH VISUAL ARTS

Chair: Evy Varsamopoulou

* Annalisa Pellino (IULM University), *Decolonial Perspectives of Speculative Documentaries by Riar Rizaldi*

* Linnéa Saaranen (Stockholm University), *Imagining Peace and Wholeness Through Spirituality, Reality, and Technology: The Case of Mariko Mori's Exhibition "Kojiki" (2024)*

* Silvia Lorica (Independent Scholar), *More Human than Human: A Visual Exploration in the Blade Runner Universe. Scenography as a Narrative of Conflict, Margins and Ecocatastrophe*

13:30 - 14:30

Light Lunch

14:30 - 15:45

Panel #3: AUTHORS IN SPECULATIVE WEIRD CINEMA

Chair: Annalisa Pellino

* Giorgio Bottini (Urbino University Carlo Bo), *Reminiscences, Insurgences and Resurgences. A Dystopic Imaginary in the Films of Bertrand Bonello*

* Valentin Via (Rovira i Virgili University), *Exploring Post Apocalyptic, Queer, and Viscosity Aesthetics in the Filmography of Bertrand Mandico*

* Angela Pietrafesa (University of Basilicata), *Worlds of Possibilities. Centering Margins and Marginal Identities in Ana Lily Amirpour's Cinema*

15:45 - 16:15

Break

16:15 - 17:30

Panel #4: PLAYING THE CONFLICT

Chair: Alessandro Dividus

* Tonguc Sezen (University for the Creative Arts) and Digdem Sezen (University for the Creative Arts), *Cyberpunk Class Conflict on a Space Station: "Hard Wired Island"*

* Max Dossier (Vanderbilt University), *Liberty for Androids! If They Behave: The Narrative Punishment of Violent Revolution in "Detroit: Become Human"*

* Matteo Quinto (University of Bergamo), *The Transmedia Universe of "Dragon Age": Caring for Others, Solidarity and Hybridisations among Control, Systemic Injustice and Perpetual War*

THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2024 – Day #2 (9:00-18:15)

9:00 - 10:15

Panel #5: SOCIETIES IN DISARRAY

Chair: Valerio Moccia

* Giulia Iannuzzi (University of Trieste), *Anticipating War: Speculation and Satire in 1778 London*

* Cecilia De Martino (University of Milan), *Technological Disparity and Ecocatastrophes in Fantastika: Reflections of Contemporary Societal Concerns*

* Javier Álvarez (Maynooth University), *Narratives of Conflict and Coexistence in the Posthuman Era: A Transmedia Analysis*

10:15 - 11:15

KEYNOTE SPEECH #2

Chair: Elisabetta Di Minico

* Scott Jordan (Illinois State University), *“Welcome to Otherland!” Speculative Fiction, Dystopia, and the Energy-Entropy Dynamics of Othering*

11:15 - 11:45

Coffee Break

11:45 - 13:00

Panel #6: ENVIRONMENTAL WARS

Chair: Megen de Bruin-Molé

* Laura García Soria (University of Zaragoza), *The War for the Earth: Ecoterrorism and Environmentalism in Speculative Fiction*

* Sonali Agarwal (Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi University), *The Climate Crisis and Social Injustice in the Dystopian SF Novel “Leila”*

* Paola Lamberti (University of Salerno), *Breaking the “Fourth Wall”: Cinematic Environmental Cataclysms and Their Impact on Eco-anxiety in the Young Generation*

13:00 - 14:00

Light Lunch

14:00 - 15:15

Panel #7: SCI-FI BETWEEN CONFLICT AND STASIS

Chair: Javier Alvarez

* Matteo Berardini (University of Rome Tor Vergata), *Beyond a Scanner Darkly: The “Three Californias Trilogy” by Kim Stanley Robinson as a Study on Futuristic Conflicts and Speculative Possibilities of the Sci-fi Imagination*

* Dario Altobelli (University “G. d’Annunzio” at Chieti & Pescara), *Beyond the Chromium Fence. The Sense of Conflict and Critique in the Time of Globalist Capitalism*

* Ondřej Váša (Charles University in Prague), *Waiting for the Impossible: The Strugatsky Brothers’ Zone and the Contemporary Philosophy of the “Event”*

15:15 - 16:30

Panel #8: RIOTS, RESILIENCE & OPPRESSION

Chair: Maria Raffa

* Sieglinde Lemke (University of Freiburg), *Visual Narratives of Environmental [In]Security: A Structuralist Analysis*

* Lorenzo Denicolai (University of Turin) and Valentina Domenici (Roma Tre University), *From Conflict to Relationship: Environment and Human-Technology Interaction in Animated Films*

* Vladimir Rizov (University of Sussex), *A Riotous Monstrosity. Riot Horror and the Mob in “The Callisto Protocol”*

16:30 - 17:00

Break

17:00 - 18:15

Panel #9: SPECULATIVE AFRICA

Chair: Anna Calise

* Iginio Gagliardone (University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg), *Between Conflict and Inclusion: Africanfuturism's Critique of the Western Canon and the Advancement of Cosmopolitan Pluriversalism*

* Can Çakır (University of Münster), *Raging Against the Corporate Machine in Nnedi Okorafor's "Noor"*

* Anna Pasolini (University of Milan), *From Othering to Harmony: Re-visioning Margins and Conflicts in Nnedi Okorafor's "Binti" Trilogy*

FRIDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2024 – Day #3 (9:00-15:45)

9:00 - 10:15

Panel #10: RESISTANCE, AGENCY & PERFORMATIVITY

Chair: Anna Pasolini

* Andres Ayala-Patlan (University of Washington), *Agency Reimagined: The Complexities of Kinship, Biopolitics, and Power as Seen in Octavia Butler's "Wild Seed"*

* Marta Espiridião (Liverpool John Moores University), *Androgyny and Gender Performativity: Ursula K. LeGuin's Non-binary "Left Hand of Darkness"*

* Raffaele Chiarulli (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan), *Free from the Algorithm. The Book as an Object of Resistance between Dystopia, Technocracy and Capitalism. Bradbury, Wolf and "The Handmaid's Tale"*

10:15 - 10:45

Coffee Break

10:45 - 11:45

KEYNOTE SPEECH #3

Chair: Stefano Locati

* Megen De Bruin-Molé (University of Southampton), *Salvaging the Future: Speculative Exercises in World(un)building*

11:45 - 13:00

Panel #11: EMPATHY, REVELATIONS, MADNESS BETWEEN FILM AND TELEVISION

Chair: Scott Jordan

* Eleni Varmazi (Bahçeşehir University), *Empathy and Humanity in a Fungus Infected World: "The Last of Us" (TV series, 2023-)*

* Mimmo Gianneri (University of Turin), *Revelations and Revolutions: Science and Utopian Visions in RAI Sci-Fi Dramas of the Seventies*

* Michele Varini (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan), *In the Shuffling Madness of the Locomotive Breath. "Snowpiercer" through the Lens of "Capitalist Realism"*

13:00 - 14:00

Light Lunch

14:00 - 15:15

Panel #12: POST-HUMANITIES & INTERSPECIES ALLIANCES

Chair: Gaia Giuliani

* Alessandro Dividus (University of Turin), *Humans, Transhumans and Posthumans: New Ideas of Humanity in Dystopian Literature*

* Pierandrea Villa (University of Urbino), *Super-animals and the Problem of Domestication in Speculative Fiction. From Interspecies Alliances to Power Struggles*

* Evy Varsamopoulou (University of Cyprus), *Contested Spaces: On Not Living with the Other in the Alien Prequels*

15:15-15:45

Closing remarks (...and round of drinks)

Scientific and Organising Committee

Prof. Gianni Canova (IULM University)

Prof. Manuela Ceretta (University of Turin)

Dr. Elisabetta Di Minico (Complutense University of Madrid, UNA4CAREER **)

Dr. Ester Fuoco (IULM University)

Dr. Stefano Locati (IULM University)

Prof. Francisco José Martínez Mesa (Complutense University of Madrid, HISTOPIA)

Dr. Anna Pasolini (University of Milan)

Prof. Juan Pro Ruiz (CSIC - Hispanic American Studies School of Sevilla, HISTOPIA)

Dr. Federico Selvini (IULM University)

Prof. Nicoletta Vallorani (University of Milan)

The international conference is organised by:

IULM University – Milan



In collaboration with:

Complutense University of Madrid – Faculty of Political Sciences and Sociology, Department of Political History, Theories & Geography



** The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 847635.



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