

Electricdreams – Between Fiction and Society II

The (Post)human Condition in Times of Crisis: The Interplay between Artificial Intelligence, Otherness, and Environmentalism

International Conference

October 18-20 2023

Sala dei 146
IULM Open Space
IULM University
Via Carlo Bo 7
20143 Milan (Italy)

WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2023 – Day #1 (9:00-18:00)

9:00 - 9:30

Welcome

9:30 - 11:15

Panel #1: MIMICKING HUMANITY: CINEMATIC AI & ROBOTS

Chair: **Pierandrea Villa**

* **Paulina Kędzia-Wiśniewska** (University of Silesia) *The Perception of Artificial Intelligence in the Cinema of the 80s and the Latest Movies*

* **Francisco Jose Martinez Mesa** (Complutense University of Madrid) *Do Clones Dream of Being Humans? Cinematic Fictions around Transhumanist Dehumanisation*

* **Julia A. Empey** (University of Cambridge) *Robotic Labour and Marginalization in Ex Machina and After Yang*

* **Evy Varsamopoulou** (University of Cyprus) *All Too Human Post-human Futures: The Two Versions of AI in Ridley Scott's Alien Covenant*

11:15 - 11:45

Coffee Break

11:45 - 12:45

Keynote #1

Chair: **Stefano Locati**

* **Monika Bakke** (Adam Mickiewicz University) *Unexpected Diversities in the Making: When Abiotic and Biotic Communities Coevolve*

12:45 - 13:45

Light Lunch

13:45 - 15:00

Panel #2: BETWEEN AUTOMATIZATION AND ECOLOGY: ECOCRITICISM
REFLECTING POSTHUMANISM

Chair: **Alice Giuliani**

- * **Maria Raffa** (IULM University) *AI for (Un)sustainability*
- * **Javier Alvarez** (University of Salamanca) *Posthuman Perspectives: Identity, Environmentalism, and Biology in Atwood's MaddAddam Trilogy*
- * **Giulia Iannuzzi** (University of Trieste) *Automata Like Us. Exhibitions of Otherness, Mastering of Time, and the Emergence of Science Fiction as a Mindset*

15:00 - 16:15

Panel #3: NON-BINARISM: BOUNDARIES BETWEEN GENDERS AND THE
HUMAN/MACHINE DIVIDE

Chair: **Manuela Ceretta**

- * **Caroline Bailey** (Stanford University) *Ursula K Le Guin's The Left Hand of Darkness and Its Posthuman Imagination of a Society without Gender*
- * **Trevor Westmoreland** (Autonomous University of Madrid) *Deconstructing Binaries and the Utopian Impulse in Becky Chambers' A Closed and Common Orbit*
- * **Anwasha Maiti** (Bankura University) *The Mother, the Other and the Posthuman: Speculating Motherhood as a Posthuman Condition through Jessamine Chan's The School for Good Mothers*

16:15 - 16:45

Break

16:45 - 18:00

Panel #4: POSTHUMAN VISUALITY

Chair: **Valerio Moccia**

- * **Marco Favaro** (University of Europe for Applied Sciences, Berlin) *Virtual Post-apocalypses between Flame-hair Saviors and Useless Heroes: The Future of Humanity and Nature in the Video Game Series of Horizon and The Last of Us*
- * **Jacob McElroy** (Independent scholar) *The Many Batmen of Tomorrow*
- * **Sara Feio** (Independent scholar) *Adam Fiasco: An Immersive Experience within Illustration*

THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2023 – Day #2 (9:00-17:45)

9:00 - 10:00

JUNIOR PANEL #1

Chair: **Eleonora Federici**

- * **Angela Cilenti and Renata Keller** (Academy of Fine Arts, Naples) *Echoes: A Magazine of Multimedial Perspectives for Cyber Awareness*
- * **Elvira Del Guercio** (Roma Tre University) *LA in the Belly of "Others": An Analysis of Dead Ringers by Alice Birch*
- * **Silvia Storti** (Kingston University London) *Tales of Times to Come: The Contribution of Fairy Tales in the Transglossic Hour*

10:00 - 11:45

Panel #5: METAMORPHOSIS AND THE EVER-SHIFTING HUMANITY BOUNDARIES

Chair: **Valentina Romanzi**

* **Monika Riedmann** (University of Innsbruck) *Underwater Dreams: Posthuman Metamorphosis and the Fascination of the 'Medusa' in Contemporary Science Fiction Literature*

* **Hiroko Inose** (Dalarna University) *Human, This Ever-changing Creature: Oshiko's Default Standard* by Yukiko Motoya

* **Paola Dalla Torre** (LUMSA University) *Neill Blomkamp's Science Fiction: Bioethical Transhuman Dystopias*

* **Anne Schmalstig** (Texas A&M University at Qatar) *Posthuman Entanglements: Fear and Loathing and Hope in Jeff VanderMeer's Borne*

11:45 - 12:15

Coffee Break

12:15 - 13:30

Panel #6: DEATH, IMMORTALITY AND BEYOND

Chair: **Javier Alvarez**

* **Ana Peraica** (Danube University) *AI Doppelgangers: Prolongation or Pollution of Life*

* **Valentina Romanzi** (University of Turin) *Death of an Immortal Robot: Living and Dying in the Posthuman Age*

* **Ondřej Váša** (Charles University) *Aligned with the Cosmic Crime: Black Holes as the Metonymic Objects of Speculative Realism (and its Reassessment of Planetary Life)*

13:30 - 14:30

Light Lunch

14:30 - 16:00

Panel #7: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE: REPRESENTING TECHNOLOGIES

Chair: **Monika Bakke**

* **Lilith Acadia** (National Taiwan University) *Power On: the Actually Inhospitable Smart Homes of SF*

* **Simona Adinolfi** (Ghent University) *#GOBACKWHEREYOUCAMEFROM: Technological Space-time Compression in Contemporary Novels of Migration*

* **Ciarán Kavanagh** (Ghent University) *Cultivating Seriousness: SF, the News, and the Rise of 'AI'*

* **Teuvo Peltoniemi** (Independent scholar) *Virtuality and Utopian Communities*

16:00 - 16:30

Break

16:30 - 17:45

Panel #8: THE HUMAN/MACHINE RELATIONSHIPS DILEMMA

Chair: **Riccardo Retez**

* **Iren Boyarkina** (University of Tuscia) *Posthumanism and AI in The Last and First Men* by Olaf Stapledon

* **Ljudmila Djukic** (Independent Scholar) *Human/AI Interactions in The Lifecycle of Software Objects* by Ted Chiang

* **Davide Persico** (University of Naples Federico II) *Human/machine Relationships in Her (2013)* by Spike Jonze

FRIDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2023 – Day #3 (9:00-17:15)

9:00 - 10:15

Panel #10: INTANGIBLE DOPPELGANGERS

Chair: **Dario Boemia**

* **Alice Giuliani** (University of West London) *PHIL/ip: Re-animated Actors as Posthuman Simulacra*

* **Gi Taek Ryoo** (Chungbuk National University) *Cybernetics and Posthuman Embodiment*

* **Liam Rogers** (University of Warwick) *Screening Holography: Materialised Transparency, Intangible Love and Posthumanism*

10:15 - 11:30

Panel #11: POSTHUMANS AS OTHERS: TALES OF INCLUSION AND REJECTION IN SERIALITY

Chair: **Marco Favaro**

* **Karma Waltonen** (University of California, Davis) *“Rule 334: Don’t Discriminate against Cyborgs”:
The Trans/Post Human in Doctor Who*

* **Valerio Moccia** (IULM University) *Exploring Post- and Transhumanism in Tales From the Loop*

* **Lorenzo Denicolai** (University of Turin) *From Metropolis to Humans and Reality: Human-robotics
Relation and Daily Solidarity*

11:30 - 12:00

Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:00

Keynote #2

Chair: **Elisabetta Di Minico**

* **Eleonora Federici** (University of Ferrara) *Beyond Apocalypse: Ecofeminist Visions and the Redefinition
of Humanity*

13:00 - 14:00

Light Lunch

14:00 - 15:30

Panel #12: TRANSOCEANIC SPECULATIVE FICTION: POSTHUMANISM IN CHILE AND ITALY

Chair: **Maria Raffa**

* **Francisco Pizarro Obaid** (Diego Portales University) *Presence and Functions of the Sciences and Psi
Knowledge in 20th-century Chilean Utopian and Dystopian Science Fiction Narratives*

* **Dario Boemia** (IULM University) *Italian Literature and the Nuclear Weapon. The Case of Carlo
Cassola’s Atomic Trilogy (1978-1982)*

* **Federica Moscatelli** (University of Bologna) *Tecnoutopias and Tecnocolonization in Ygdrasil by Jorge
Baradit*

* **Stefano Pifferi** (University of Tuscia) *At the Origin of the New Human: Umberto Simonetta’s I
viaggiatori della sera between Premonition and Newness*

15:30 - 16:45

Panel #13: TRANSCENDING BODIES IN ART AND CINEMA

Chair: **Evy Varsamopoulou**

* **Laura Blázquez Cruz** (University of Jaén) *Beating Body Obsolescence: When Art Transcends Death.
From Cronenberg’s Fiction in Crimes of the Future to the Reality in Stelarc’s and Orlan’s Art Performance*

* **Dario Altobelli** (D'Annunzio University of Chieti–Pescara) *Crimes of the Present Future: From Transhumanism to the Post of Humanity and Society*

* **Pierandrea Villa** (IULM University) *Artbreeder and the Non-human: Understanding Fear and Promethean Gap in Human/ AI Interaction through Media and Fiction*

16:45 - 17:15

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. Gemma Fantacci (IULM University)

Dr. Stefano Locati (IULM University)

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

Dr. Riccardo Retez (IULM University)

Prof. Juan Pro Ruiz (Autonomous University of Madrid)

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IULM University



In collaboration with:

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