

Speculative Fiction Across Media Conference
Artificial Intelligence: Fantasies, Realities, Futures
September 25-27, 2025
Courtyard by Marriott Monterey Park Hotel

Thursday September 25, 2025
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Registration Open: 2nd floor

Thursday September 25, 2025
1:30 – 3:00 pm
Concurrent Sessions

SATURN

Session 1: We Need New Metaphors for AI

Stina Attebery
Cal State Poly San Luis Obispo
Technological Goop: Metaphors for Generative AI in *SOMA*

Joshua Pearson
CSU Los Angeles
Appropriation, imitation, and inhumanity in *The Thing*: GenAI as ravenous and glitchy archive

MARS

Session 2: Uncanny Valleys & Silicon Alleys: Posthumanism Beyond Techno-Solutionism

Jonathan Lewis
Troy University
Misreading Stephenson: ChatGPT, the Metaverse, and Bogus Information in *Snow Crash*

Shane Shukis
UC Riverside
Desiring-Machines of the Recent Future: AI Realities Prefigured in Jarett Kobek's *I Hate the Internet*

Jerome Winter
UC Riverside
“I Wish to Report an Error in the Way Everything Works”: Adrian Tchaikovsky’s Vision of AI-Dominated Futures

MERCURY/VENUS

Session 3: Discussion Panel on *Severance*

Moderator: David Agranoff
Sherryl Vint
Sharon Sharp
Tom Scholte

Thursday September 25, 2025

3:00 – 3:30 pm

Coffee Break

Thursday September 25, 2025

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Plenary Session in Mercury/Venus:

RUR/Shakespeare Company:

Introduced by Patrick Sharp

In anticipation of the new production of Karel Čapek's *Rossum's Universal Robots* by the Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, two scholars who have worked with the production will present on AI, ethics, and humanity in Čapek's works.

Dr. Zdeněk Vacek, Director of the Karel Čapek Museum in the Stará Huť, will discuss how Čapek used SF to create dystopian worlds that show his worries about ethics and the future of technology.

Daniel Hrbek, Artistic Director of Prague's prestigious international Svanda Theater will talk about Čapek's importance for SF and the dystopian imagination. He will also talk about his experiences directing a play written by AI.

Thursday September 25, 2025

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Informal Meet & Greet, Hotel Bar, first floor

Friday September 26, 2025

8:00 – 10:00 am

Continental Breakfast on 2nd Floor Outdoor Patio

Friday September 26, 2025

8:00 – 10:00 am

Registration Open: 2nd floor

Friday September 26, 2025

8:30 – 10:00 am

Concurrent Sessions

SATURN

Session 4: AI in the Public Sphere

Johann Pibert

University of Bonn, Free University of Berlin

The Impact of AI Fantasies in Social Media from a Film-Psychological Perspective

John Rieder

University of Hawai'i

N. K. Jemisin's *The Stone Sky* and the MAGA Mandate for "Patriotic Education"

David K. Seitz

Harvey Mudd College

"Zinda, His Face Black, His Eyes Red": Deadly Entanglements of Race and AI in Paul Winfield's SF Performances

MARS

Session 5: Environmental Perspectives

Zhiwen Hu

Colgate University

AI and Solarpunk Utopia: Biocomputing in "Wan Li in the Peng Cheng City"

Patrick Sharp

CSU Los Angeles

Extraterrestrial Utopias and Speculative Nature in the Seventeenth Century

Sheyda Safaeyan

University of Arizona

"A set of freshly sprouted eyes": Vegetative Eruption and Rewriting the Rite of Spring in Larissa Lai's *The Tiger Flu*

MERCURY/VENUS

Session 6: New Media Experiments

Paula Burleigh

Allegheny College

Potentials and Pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence as Visual Arts Medium: Artist Lynn Hershman Leeson as Case Study

Christina Shiea

University of Washington

The AI Aquarium as Speculative Ecomedia

Andrea Kim

USC

Minoritarian Language Models for Multi-Agent Fabulation

Friday September 26, 2025

10:00 – 10:30 am

Coffee Break

Friday September 26, 2025

10:30 am – noon

Concurrent Sessions

SATURN

Session 7: Identity and Surveillance

Erica Quinones

University of Delaware

Transing the Black-Box: AI Safety Systems as Insidious Concern in Robot Fiction

Phoenix Alexander

UC Riverside

The AI lady isn't going to f*ck you: sexbots, chatbots, and other science fictions

John Bruni

Grand Valley State University

“Solitary Man”: *Mannix* against the Computer Age

MARS

Session 8: AI and Labor

Ksenia Fir

UC Santa Cruz

“Taking Time Off Like Real People”: Artificial Consciousness and Laboring Bodies in Greg Daniels’s *Upload*

Talia Parker

University of Queensland

“Little People”: The Theme of Work in *Blade Runner*

David Agranoff

Independent Scholar

Artificial Empathy, Animal Rights, Robots and the Fake Humans of Philip K. Dick

MERCURY/VENUS

Session 9: Cognition and AI

Jovana Iseviski

UC Riverside

Arresting Subjectivity: Memory, Confabulation, and the Dream of Permanence in Ted Chiang’s “The Truth of Fact, the Truth of Feeling”

Marjut Puhakka

University of Oulu

Becoming Sentient: Narratives of AI Consciousness in *Blade Runner* and *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

Steven Shaviro

Wayne State University

Modes of Sentience, or, Ways of Thinking Otherwise

Friday September 26, 2025

Noon – 1:00 pm

Lunch on 2nd Floor Outdoor Patio

Friday September 26, 2025

1:00-2:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

SATURN

Session 10: Speculative Unspectacularity—The Banality of Technological Miracles

Ripley Baker

UC Santa Barbara

"I am tired of the whole concept of humans right now": Martha Wells *Murderbot* as Neuroqueer Resistance to Media-Saturated Normativity

Owen Leonard

UC Santa Barbara

I am not a Robot: CAPTCHA as Speculative Fiction

Henry Coburn

UC Santa Barbara

Woolf Amongst the Herd: AI Reading Literature and the Problem of Inherited Cowardice

MARS

No Programming

MERCURY/VENUS

Session 11: AI Portrayals vs. Real-Life AI Effects on Storytelling

Moderator: Ed Zitron

David Slack

Joe Henderson

Kim Shumway

Friday September 26, 2025

2:30 – 3:00 pm

Break

Friday September 26, 2025

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Plenary Session in Mercury/Venus:

Brit Marling in Conversation with Sherryl Vint

Friday September 26, 2025

4:30-5:00 pm

Break

Friday September 26, 2025

5:00-6:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

SATURN

Session 12: Posthuman Perspectives

Jennifer Baker

University of Washington

“Perfect Immortal Machine”: Gender, Capacity, and the Nature of AI (Re)made in *System Shock*

Stephen Dougherty

University of Agder

Between Genome and Code: The Interplay of Genetic Engineering and AI in Speculative Fiction

Morgan Blake Llewellyn

University of Colorado Boulder

“Complementary Composition to My Circuitry”: Robot-Alien Cyborgs and the Disruption of Human-Centric AI in *Scavengers Reign*

MARS

Session 13: SF in the Material World

Matthew Snyder

UC Riverside

Translating Cory Doctorow's *Walkaway* to the Desert Shadowlands of the Inland Empire

Benjamin J. Robertson

Colorado University

Salvaging *STAR WARS*: AI, Valorization, and a Galaxy Far, Far Away

Jaroslav Olša

Czech Embassy

Miles aka Miloslav J. Breuer: Czech-American at the Birth of Science Fiction

MERCURY/VENUS

Session 14: Ethnic Studies Perspectives on AI

Ayana Jamieson

Cal State Poly Pomona

Progenitrix propels the Machine: Recasting the Computer in the *Star Trek* Multiverse

Curtis Marez

UC San Diego

Streaming Poor Places: AI in TV Distribution and Production

Shelley Streeby

UC San Diego

Teaching Ted Chiang on AI in the Ethnic Studies Classroom

Saturday September 27, 2025

8:00 – 10:00 am

Continental Breakfast on 2nd Floor Outdoor Patio

Saturday September 27, 2025

8:30 – 10:00 am

Concurrent Sessions

SATURN

Session 15: Human/AI Entanglements

Tom Scholte

University of British Columbia

Perceptual Control Theory and Asimov's Law of Robotics

Jeri Zulli

Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY

Hawthorne's Feathertop as Artificial Intelligence

MARS

Session 16: AI and the Anthropocene

Sujin Kang

Kyungpook National University

Edible Algorithms: Metabolic Computation in Larissa Lai's *The Tiger Flu*

Sayeong Kim

UC Riverside

Exploring AI Consciousness Beyond Anthropocentrism in Catherynne M. Valente's *Silent and Very Fast* and Kim Bo-Young's *How Alike We Are*

Serafina Paladino

UC Riverside

Navigating The Wired: Autistic-coded Neurodiversity in *Serial Experiments Lain*

MERCURY/VENUS

Session 17: AI Art

Dánae Arteaga Hernández

Independent Scholar

Is Beauty in the Eye of the Machine? Art, Artificial Intelligence, and Hermeneutics in "Cloud of Poems" by Cixin Liu

Qiufan Chen

Hong Kong Metropolitan University

Iris Long

Goldsmiths

From Apophenia to Logic: Paradigm Shifts in Creative AI from GPT-2 to GPT-4o

Mihaela Mihailova

San Francisco State University

Deep Unlearning: Decolonial and Feminist Interventions in AI-Generated Media

Saturday September 27, 2025

10:00 – 10:30 am

Coffee Break

Saturday September 27, 2025

10:30 am – noon

Concurrent Sessions

SATURN

Session 18: Techno-Orientalism

Rachel S. Anderson

Grand Valley State University

“There is no Something without Nothing”: Grievable Lives in “Saying Goodbye to Yang” and *After Yang*

Leslie Fernandez

Harvard University

Robot or Asian? Techno-Orientalism and the early AI Imaginary in Pulp Science Fiction

Haerin Shin

Korea University

The Algorithmic Persistence of Ancillary Intelligence: False Alignment as Techno-Orientalist Agency in Science Fiction and AI Systems

MARS

Session 19: Conceptualizing AI

Zea Miller

University of Florida

Intelligences Artificial and Alien

Mia Clapp

UC Riverside

Palimpsests and Algorithms: Spanish Literature and Theoretical Computation in “The Turing Machines of Babel”

Alessandro Fornazzari

UC Riverside

Surplus Value/Surplus Enjoyment in Latin American Science Fiction: Collective Memories of Resistance in *El eternauta* and *La invasión*

MERCURY/VENUS

Session 20: Adapting Ted Chiang’s *The Lifecycle of Software Objects* to the Screen: A Speculative Roundtable on What It Takes

Ida Yoshinaga

Shelley Streeby

Mihaela Mihaelova

Ted Chiang
Eric Heisserer
Georgia Lee

Saturday September 27, 2025
Noon – 1:00 pm
Lunch on 2nd Floor Outdoor Patio

Saturday September 27, 2025
1:00-2:30 pm
Concurrent Sessions

SATURN

Session 21: Global Imaginaries

Muhammad Aurangzeb Ahmad
University of Washington
Islam and Artificial Intelligence in Science Fiction

Kelsey Chen
Stanford University
Weaving this field of dreams: Silkpunk, AI, and the Oneirofox in Ken Liu's *All That We See or Seem*

Ida Yoshinaga
Georgia Institute of Technology
AI Meets Human Regional and Spiritual Memory in Cambodia's First Cyberpunk Cinema, *Karmalink*

MARS

No programming

MERCURY/VENUS

Session 22: Experiencing AI

Jewon Lee
Korea University
Knowledge Without Power: The Paradox of Accessibility in the Age of AI

Angela Becerra Vidergar
Stanford University
Split Fiction: Buddy Adventure or Metaphor Against AI Theft?

Zach Horton
University of Pittsburgh
Playing Games with The Father of AI: The Great Chess Match of 1961

Saturday September 27, 2025

2:30-3:00 pm

Break

Saturday September 27, 2025

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Plenary Session in Mercury/Venus:

Ted Chiang Plenary Session

Introduced by Sherryl Vint

Saturday September 27, 2025

4:30 – 7:00 pm

Closing Reception on 2nd Floor Outdoor Patio

