

science fiction studies journal

Science Fiction Studies Journal: Exploring the Depths of Speculative Fiction Scholarship

science fiction studies journal represents a vital cornerstone for enthusiasts, academics, and writers who delve into the rich and imaginative world of speculative fiction. This specialized academic publication is more than just a repository of articles; it is a dynamic platform that nurtures critical discourse, theoretical exploration, and historical analysis of science fiction as a literary and cultural phenomenon. Whether you are a seasoned scholar, a curious reader, or someone interested in the evolving relationship between technology, society, and storytelling, understanding the role and impact of a science fiction studies journal can offer profound insights.

What Is a Science Fiction Studies Journal?

At its core, a science fiction studies journal is an academic periodical dedicated to the rigorous examination of science fiction literature, media, and culture. These journals publish peer-reviewed essays, reviews, interviews, and theoretical discussions that cover a wide spectrum of topics—from classic sci-fi texts and authors to contemporary trends and interdisciplinary approaches.

Unlike general literary journals, science fiction studies journals focus specifically on speculative narratives that imagine alternative realities, future technologies, and complex social dynamics. They serve as a scholarly hub where critical methodologies intersect with imaginative worlds, enriching our understanding of how science fiction reflects and shapes human experience.

The Role of Peer Review and Academic Rigor

One defining characteristic of a reputable science fiction studies journal is its commitment to peer review. This process ensures that each article meets high standards of scholarship, originality, and analytical depth. Peer-reviewed articles often engage with existing theories in literary criticism, cultural studies, gender studies, and philosophy, applying these lenses to science fiction texts and media.

This rigorous scrutiny not only validates the quality of research but also fosters ongoing dialogue among academics, encouraging diverse perspectives and innovative interpretations within the field.

Why Science Fiction Studies Journals Matter

Science fiction is more than entertainment; it serves as a mirror reflecting societal hopes, fears, and ethical dilemmas. Science fiction studies journals play a crucial role in unpacking

these narratives, helping readers appreciate the genre's complexity beyond mere escapism.

Preserving and Analyzing Sci-Fi History

These journals document the evolution of science fiction, tracing its roots from early speculative tales to contemporary cyberpunk and beyond. Articles often explore the historical context behind influential works, shedding light on how social, political, and technological changes have shaped the genre.

For example, examining the Cold War's impact on dystopian fiction or the rise of feminist science fiction in response to gender politics offers valuable perspectives on how science fiction engages with real-world issues.

Encouraging Interdisciplinary Approaches

Science fiction studies journals frequently encourage contributions from various academic disciplines. This interdisciplinarity enriches the field, allowing scholars to analyze speculative fiction through the prisms of sociology, anthropology, media studies, and even cognitive science.

Such cross-pollination broadens the scope of inquiry and reveals how science fiction intersects with multiple facets of human knowledge and culture. It also helps uncover how the genre influences and is influenced by advancements in science and technology.

Popular Science Fiction Studies Journals to Know

If you're interested in diving into science fiction scholarship, several journals stand out as essential reading. Each offers its unique editorial focus and style, catering to different facets of the field.

- **Science Fiction Studies:** One of the most established and respected journals, known for its scholarly rigor and broad coverage of global science fiction.
- **Extrapolation:** This journal balances academic articles with critical reviews and creative writing, offering a well-rounded perspective on speculative fiction.
- **Foundation: The International Review of Science Fiction:** Focuses on literary and cultural criticism, often featuring essays that explore theoretical frameworks.
- **Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts:** Covers science fiction alongside fantasy and horror, emphasizing interdisciplinary research.

Exploring these journals can deepen your understanding of speculative fiction's evolving landscape and introduce you to a community of engaged scholars and fans.

How to Engage with a Science Fiction Studies Journal

Whether you're a researcher, student, or avid reader, there are many ways to interact with science fiction studies journals beyond passive reading.

Submitting Your Own Research

For aspiring scholars or writers interested in contributing to the field, submitting articles to these journals is a rewarding challenge. Most journals provide submission guidelines on their websites, outlining expectations for style, length, and formatting.

Before submitting, it's helpful to thoroughly read recent issues to understand the journal's focus and tone. Crafting a well-researched, original essay that engages with existing scholarship will increase your chances of acceptance.

Using Journals for Academic Research

Students and educators can rely on science fiction studies journals as credible sources for term papers, theses, or course materials. Many universities provide access to these journals through online databases, making it easier to explore contemporary debates and foundational texts in science fiction criticism.

Engaging critically with these articles can sharpen analytical skills and enrich classroom discussions around narrative theory, cultural studies, and media analysis.

The Future of Science Fiction Studies Journals

As science fiction continues to evolve—influenced by emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and space exploration—science fiction studies journals are poised to expand their scope.

Increasingly, these publications are embracing digital formats, multimedia essays, and open-access models to reach broader audiences. This shift promises greater inclusivity, allowing diverse voices and perspectives to contribute to the ongoing conversation about the genre's meaning and impact.

Moreover, the integration of fan studies and participatory culture into academic discourse reflects how science fiction fandom itself becomes a subject worthy of scholarly attention.

Exploring a science fiction studies journal opens doors to a fascinating realm where imagination meets intellectual inquiry. Whether you are analyzing the social implications of a sci-fi novel, investigating futuristic technologies, or simply curious about the genre's cultural significance, these journals offer a treasure trove of knowledge and inspiration. The study of speculative fiction is a continually expanding field, inviting us all to ponder not just what is, but what could be.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Science Fiction Studies journal?

Science Fiction Studies is a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to the critical analysis and scholarly study of science fiction literature, film, and media.

Who publishes the Science Fiction Studies journal?

Science Fiction Studies is published by the SF-TH Inc., an independent non-profit organization dedicated to the study of science fiction.

How often is Science Fiction Studies published?

Science Fiction Studies is published triannually, with three issues released each year.

What types of content does Science Fiction Studies include?

The journal includes scholarly articles, essays, book reviews, and interviews related to science fiction in literature, film, television, and other media.

How can I access articles from Science Fiction Studies?

Articles can be accessed through academic databases such as JSTOR, Project MUSE, or directly via the journal's official website, often requiring a subscription or institutional access.

Is Science Fiction Studies a peer-reviewed journal?

Yes, Science Fiction Studies is a peer-reviewed journal, ensuring the quality and academic rigor of its published content.

Can I submit my research to Science Fiction Studies?

Yes, researchers can submit original scholarly articles to Science Fiction Studies for consideration. Submission guidelines are available on their website.

What is the impact factor of Science Fiction Studies?

Science Fiction Studies is a highly respected journal within its field, but specific impact factor metrics may vary and are not always publicly listed due to its niche academic focus.

Are there special themed issues in Science Fiction Studies?

Yes, Science Fiction Studies often publishes special themed issues focusing on specific topics, authors, or trends within science fiction studies.

How long has Science Fiction Studies been in publication?

Science Fiction Studies was established in 1973 and has been continuously published since, making it one of the longest-running journals dedicated to science fiction scholarship.

Additional Resources

Science Fiction Studies Journal: A Critical Examination of its Role and Impact in Speculative Fiction Scholarship

science fiction studies journal stands as a pivotal academic publication dedicated to the rigorous analysis and scholarly exploration of science fiction as a literary and cultural phenomenon. Since its inception, this journal has carved out a significant niche within the interdisciplinary fields of literature, media studies, cultural studies, and speculative fiction research. Through its peer-reviewed articles, critical essays, and theoretical discussions, the science fiction studies journal contributes crucially to understanding the evolving dimensions of science fiction, its socio-political implications, and its narrative innovations.

The Emergence and Evolution of the Science Fiction Studies Journal

The science fiction studies journal emerged during the late 20th century as academic interest in speculative fiction intensified. Initially, science fiction was often marginalized in literary criticism, regarded as mere popular entertainment rather than a serious subject of study. However, as cultural perspectives shifted and genre boundaries blurred, the need for specialized scholarship became apparent. The science fiction studies journal responded to this gap by providing a dedicated platform for critical inquiry into science fiction texts, authors, and fandom.

Over the decades, the journal has evolved to encompass a broad spectrum of themes, ranging from classic science fiction literature and film to emerging media such as video games and digital narratives. Its scope now includes gender studies, postcolonial theory, techno-cultural analyses, and ecological concerns, reflecting the genre's multifaceted

nature. This evolution mirrors the broader academic trend towards interdisciplinary approaches in humanities research.

Editorial Approach and Peer Review Standards

One of the defining features of the science fiction studies journal is its rigorous peer review process, which ensures that published articles meet high scholarly standards. Submissions undergo evaluation by experts in various subfields of science fiction scholarship, guaranteeing a diversity of perspectives and methodological approaches. This editorial rigor not only enhances the academic credibility of the journal but also fosters innovative research that challenges conventional interpretations.

The editorial board typically comprises renowned scholars with extensive expertise in science fiction and related disciplines. Their collective guidance maintains the journal's focus on both theoretical depth and accessibility, enabling it to serve as a valuable resource for academics, students, and science fiction enthusiasts alike.

Content and Thematic Coverage

The content of the science fiction studies journal spans a wide array of topics, reflecting the genre's rich diversity and the complexity of its cultural implications. Articles often engage with canonical authors such as Isaac Asimov, Philip K. Dick, Ursula K. Le Guin, and Octavia E. Butler, while also spotlighting emerging voices in the field. The journal balances historical retrospectives with contemporary analyses, thereby providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of science fiction's trajectory.

Interdisciplinary Perspectives

The journal's interdisciplinary nature is one of its core strengths. It integrates insights from literary theory, science and technology studies, philosophy, and sociology to examine how science fiction narratives shape and are shaped by societal contexts. For example, essays may explore how cyberpunk literature interrogates the relationship between humanity and technology, or how dystopian narratives reflect anxieties about political authoritarianism.

This interdisciplinary lens allows the science fiction studies journal to contribute meaningfully to ongoing debates about the role of speculative fiction in imagining alternative futures and critiquing present realities.

Special Issues and Thematic Collections

Periodically, the journal publishes special issues dedicated to specific themes or anniversaries. These collections often focus on pressing topics such as artificial intelligence, climate fiction (cli-fi), or the representation of marginalized groups in science fiction.

Special issues provide concentrated scholarship that advances collective understanding and stimulates further research.

For instance, a recent special issue might examine the intersection of race and technology in Afrofuturism, highlighting how the genre challenges dominant narratives and envisions liberatory futures. Such thematic foci underscore the journal's commitment to both scholarly rigor and cultural relevance.

Comparative Advantages and Challenges

In comparison to other science fiction academic journals, the science fiction studies journal is noted for its longevity, scholarly reputation, and broad disciplinary appeal. It often ranks highly in humanities indexes and is frequently cited in other academic works, reflecting its influence in shaping the discourse around speculative fiction.

However, like many specialized academic journals, it faces challenges related to accessibility and audience engagement. Subscription costs and paywalls can limit readership to institutional subscribers, potentially excluding independent researchers and general enthusiasts. Additionally, the dense theoretical language used in some articles may pose barriers for readers new to academic discourse.

Digital Presence and Accessibility

In recent years, the science fiction studies journal has made strides toward increasing digital accessibility. Many issues are now available online through university databases and platforms dedicated to academic publishing. Some articles may be offered as open access, broadening the journal's reach.

Moreover, the journal's online presence often includes calls for papers, editorial announcements, and links to related conferences or symposia, facilitating community engagement and scholarly networking. These digital initiatives are crucial for adapting to changing consumption patterns and enhancing the journal's impact.

Implications for Science Fiction Scholarship and Beyond

The science fiction studies journal plays a critical role not only in consolidating academic knowledge but also in legitimizing science fiction as a serious field of study. Its contribution extends to shaping curricula in higher education, influencing how speculative fiction is taught and understood across disciplines.

Furthermore, the journal's interdisciplinary approach encourages cross-pollination between literary studies and other fields such as history, philosophy, and cultural studies. This synthesis enriches both scholarship and creative practice, inspiring new ways of thinking

about technology, society, and the future.

By fostering a community of scholars dedicated to speculative fiction, the science fiction studies journal also supports emerging research areas and diverse perspectives. Its commitment to inclusivity and innovation reflects the dynamic nature of the genre itself, which continually redefines boundaries and challenges assumptions.

The ongoing relevance of the science fiction studies journal underscores the importance of critical academic inquiry into speculative narratives. As science fiction continues to evolve alongside technological and social transformations, the journal remains an indispensable resource for understanding the complexities and possibilities embedded within this vibrant genre.

Science Fiction Studies Journal

science fiction studies journal: *Indian Journal of Science Fiction Studies* , 2000

science fiction studies journal: Global Science Fiction Gary Westfahl, 2025-06-09 Science fiction represents a diverse community of writers and readers that spans the entire world. This collection provides a global tour of the genre, with essays about Latin American, European, African, Arabic, Indian, Japanese, and Chinese science fiction providing insights about how writers around the world have explored and reinvigorated the genre. Essays by prominent critics from five continents inform about particular cultures and analyze representative texts by authors such as Tobias S. Buckell, Lourenco Mutarelli, Stanislaw Lem, Masande Ntshanga, Tawfiq Al-Hakim, Anil Menon, and Cixin Liu. The contributing scholars examine how national experiences have shaped these narratives, which often differ strikingly from Anglo-American science fiction. An introductory survey of foreign-language science fiction in the United States endeavors to explain why so many of these texts have remained unknown to Anglophone readers. An extensive bibliography lists numerous resources for further study of science fiction from various parts of the world.

science fiction studies journal: Teaching Science Fiction A. Sawyer, P. Wright, 2011-03-24 Teaching Science Fiction is the first text in thirty years to explore the pedagogic potential of that most intellectually stimulating and provocative form of popular literature: science fiction. Innovative and academically lively, it offers valuable insights into how SF can be taught historically, culturally and practically at university level.

science fiction studies journal: *Science-fiction Studies* , 2006

science fiction studies journal: The Oxford Handbook of Science Fiction Rob Latham, 2014-09-01 The excitement of possible futures found in science fiction has long fired the human imagination, but the genre's acceptance by academe is relatively recent. No longer marginalized and fighting for respectability, science-fictional works are now studied alongside more traditional art forms. Tracing the capacious genre's birth, evolution, and impact across nations, time periods, subgenres, and media, The Oxford Handbook of Science Fiction offers an in-depth, comprehensive assessment of this robust area of scholarly inquiry and considers the future directions that will dictate the terms of the scholarly discourse. The Handbook begins with a focus on questions of genre, covering topics such as critical history, keywords, narrative, the fantastic, and fandom. A subsequent section on media engages with film, television, comics, architecture, music, video games, and more. The genre's role in the convergence of art and everyday life animates a third section, which addresses topics such as UFOs,

science fiction studies journal: The Routledge Companion to Cyberpunk Culture Anna McFarlane, Lars Schmeink, Graham Murphy, 2019-11-28 In this companion, an international range

of contributors examine the cultural formation of cyberpunk from micro-level analyses of example texts to macro-level debates of movements, providing readers with snapshots of cyberpunk culture and also cyberpunk as culture. With technology seamlessly integrated into our lives and our selves, and social systems veering towards globalization and corporatization, cyberpunk has become a ubiquitous cultural formation that dominates our twenty-first century techno-digital landscapes. The Routledge Companion to Cyberpunk Culture traces cyberpunk through its historical developments as a literary science fiction form to its spread into other media such as comics, film, television, and video games. Moreover, seeing cyberpunk as a general cultural practice, the Companion provides insights into photography, music, fashion, and activism. Cyberpunk, as the chapters presented here argue, is integrated with other critical theoretical tenets of our times, such as posthumanism, the Anthropocene, animality, and empire. And lastly, cyberpunk is a vehicle that lends itself to the rise of new futurisms, occupying a variety of positions in our regionally diverse reality and thus linking, as much as differentiating, our perspectives on a globalized technoscientific world. With original entries that engage cyberpunk's diverse 'angles' and its proliferation in our life worlds, this critical reference will be of significant interest to humanities students and scholars of media, cultural studies, literature, and beyond.

science fiction studies journal: A Research Guide to Gothic Literature in English Sherri L. Brown, Carol Senf, Ellen J. Stockstill, 2018-03-15 The Gothic began as a designation for barbarian tribes, was associated with the cathedrals of the High Middle Ages, was used to describe a marginalized literature in the late eighteenth century, and continues today in a variety of forms (literature, film, graphic novel, video games, and other narrative and artistic forms). Unlike other recent books in the field that focus on certain aspects of the Gothic, this work directs researchers to seminal and significant resources on all of its aspects. Annotations will help researchers determine what materials best suit their needs. A Research Guide to Gothic Literature in English covers Gothic cultural artifacts such as literature, film, graphic novels, and videogames. This authoritative guide equips researchers with valuable recent information about noteworthy resources that they can use to study the Gothic effectively and thoroughly.

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science fiction studies journal: The Routledge Handbook of CoFuturisms Taryne Jade Taylor, Isiah Lavender III, Grace L. Dillon, Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay, 2023-10-30 The Routledge Handbook of CoFuturisms delivers a new, inclusive examination of science fiction, from close analyses of single texts to large-scale movements, providing readers with decolonized models of the future, including print, media, race, gender and social justice. This comprehensive overview of the field explores representations of possible futures arising from non-Western cultures and ethnic histories that disrupt the "imperial gaze". In four parts, The Routledge Handbook of CoFuturisms considers the look of futures from the margins, foregrounding the issues of Indigenous groups, racial, ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities, and any people whose stakes in the global order of envisioning futures are generally constrained due to the mechanics of our contemporary world. The book extends current discussions in the area, looking at cutting-edge developments in the discipline of science fiction and diverse futurisms as a whole. Offering a dynamic mix of approaches and expansive perspectives, this volume will appeal to academics and researchers seeking to orient their own interventions into broader contexts. The Open Access version of this book, available at <http://www.taylorfrancis.com>, has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non

Commercial-No Derivatives (CC BY-NC-ND) 4.0 license.

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science fiction studies journal: *Edinburgh Companion to Science Fiction and the Medical Humanities* Donna McCormack, Anna McFarlane, Gavin Miller, 2025-03-31 The medical humanities are becoming increasingly important as their first wave is interrogated by a critical approach that aims to uncover the wider possibilities of the field. In conversation with this debate, this volume explores the ways in which science fiction studies can contribute to such discussions. Science fiction challenges techno-optimism and offers a non-realist avenue for the expression of illness experience. Science fiction also estranges its readers from their societies and the medical possibilities inherent in those societies, inviting consideration of how medicine may be complicit with, or opposed to, other structures of power. By engaging these concerns, this Companion volume offers a unique viewpoint on the power of the future to shape the present.

science fiction studies journal: *Ash of stars* , A critical appreciation of the acclaimed science-fiction writer and his works

science fiction studies journal: *William Gibson* Tom Henthorne, 2011-07-29 William Gibson, author of the cyberpunk classic, *Neuromancer* (1984), is one today's most widely read science fiction writers. This companion is meant both for general readers and for scholars interested in Gibson's oeuvre. In addition to providing a literary and cultural context for works ranging from Gibson's first short story, *Fragments of a Hologram Rose* (1977), to his recent, bestselling novel, *Zero History* (2010), the companion offers commentary on Gibson's subjects, themes, and approaches. It also surveys existing scholarship on Gibson's work in an accessible way and provides an extensive bibliography to facilitate further study of William Gibson's writing, influence, and place in the history of science fiction and in literature as a whole.

science fiction studies journal: *The A to Z of Fantasy Literature* Brian Stableford, 2009-08-13 Once upon a time all literature was fantasy, set in a mythical past when magic existed, animals talked, and the gods took an active hand in earthly affairs. As the mythical past was displaced in Western estimation by the historical past and novelists became increasingly preoccupied with the present, fantasy was temporarily marginalized until the late 20th century, when it enjoyed a spectacular resurgence in every stratum of the literary marketplace. Stableford provides an invaluable guide to this sequence of events and to the current state of the field. The chronology tracks the evolution of fantasy from the origins of literature to the 21st century. The introduction explains the nature of the impulses creating and shaping fantasy literature, the problems of its definition and the reasons for its changing historical fortunes. The dictionary includes cross-referenced entries on more than 700 authors, ranging across the entire historical spectrum, while more than 200 other entries describe the fantasy subgenres, key images in fantasy literature, technical terms used in fantasy criticism, and the intimately convoluted relationship between literary fantasies, scholarly fantasies, and lifestyle fantasies. The book concludes with an extensive bibliography that ranges from general textbooks and specialized accounts of the history and scholarship of fantasy literature, through bibliographies and accounts of the fantasy literature of different nations, to individual author studies and useful websites.

science fiction studies journal: *Science Fiction and Indian Women Writers* Urvashi Kuhad, 2021-07-29 Science fiction, as a literature of fantasy, goes beyond the mundane to ask the question: what if the world were different from the way it is? It often challenges the real, builds on imagination, places no limits on human capacities, and encourages readers to think outside their social and cultural conditioning. This book presents a systematic study of Indian women's science fiction. It offers a critical analysis of the works of four female Indian writers of science fiction: Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, Manjula Padmanabhan, Priya Sarukkai Chabria and Vandana Singh. The

author considers not only the evolution of science fiction writing in India, but also discusses the use of innovations and unique themes including science fiction in different Indian languages; the literary, political, and educational activism of the women writers; and eco-feminism and the idea of cloning in writing, to argue that this genre could be viewed as a vibrant representation of freedom of expression and radical literature. This ground-breaking volume will be useful for scholars and researchers of English literature. It will also prove a very useful source for further studies into Indian literature, science and technology studies, women's and gender studies, comparative literature and cultural studies.

science fiction studies journal: Possible Worlds Theory and Contemporary Narratology

Alice Bell, Marie-Laure Ryan, 2019 The notion of possible worlds has played a decisive role in postclassical narratology by awakening interest in the nature of fictionality and in emphasizing the notion of world as a source of aesthetic experience in narrative texts. As a theory concerned with the opposition between the actual world that we belong to and possible worlds created by the imagination, possible worlds theory has made significant contributions to narratology. Possible Worlds Theory and Contemporary Narratology updates the field of possible worlds theory and postclassical narratology by developing this theoretical framework further and applying it to a range of contemporary literary narratives. This volume systematically outlines the theoretical underpinnings of the possible worlds approach, provides updated methods for analyzing fictional narrative, and profiles those methods via the analysis of a range of different texts, including contemporary fiction, digital fiction, video games, graphic novels, historical narratives, and dramatic texts. Through the variety of its contributions, including those by three originators of the subject area--Lubomír Doležal, Thomas Pavel, and Marie-Laure Ryan--Possible Worlds Theory and Contemporary Narratology demonstrates the vitality and versatility of one of the most vibrant strands of contemporary narrative theory.

science fiction studies journal: The American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies for 1994 Patt Leonard, Rebecca Routh, 1997-05-31 This text provides a source of citations to North American scholarships relating specifically to the area of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. It indexes fields of scholarship such as the humanities, arts, technology and life sciences and all kinds of scholarship such as PhDs.

science fiction studies journal: Conversations with William Gibson Patrick A. Smith, 2014-04-14 "After reading Neuromancer for the first time," literary scholar Larry McCaffery wrote, "I knew I had seen the future of [science fiction] (and maybe of literature in general), and its name was William Gibson." McCaffery was right. Gibson's 1984 debut is one of the most celebrated SF novels of the last half century, and in a career spanning more than three decades, the American-Canadian science fiction writer and reluctant futurist responsible for introducing "cyberspace" into the lexicon has published nine other novels. Editor Patrick A. Smith draws the twenty-three interviews in this collection from a variety of media and sources—print and online journals and fanzines, academic journals, newspapers, blogs, and podcasts. Myriad topics include Gibson's childhood in the American South and his early adulthood in Canada, with travel in Europe; his chafing against the traditional SF mold, the origins of "cyberspace," and the unintended consequences (for both the author and society) of changing the way we think about technology; the writing process and the reader's role in a new kind of fiction. Gibson (b. 1948) takes on branding and fashion, celebrity culture, social networking, the post-9/11 world, future uses of technology, and the isolation and alienation engendered by new ways of solving old problems. The conversations also provide overviews of his novels, short fiction, and nonfiction.

science fiction studies journal: Alien Zone II Annette Kuhn, 1999-12-17 Alien Zone II presents some of the exciting new voices in the current debates. It continues to pursue the critical and theoretical issues opened up in the earlier book and energetically explores fresh territory.

science fiction studies journal: Soviet Science Fiction Cinema and the Space Age Natalija Majsova, 2021-04-28 This book interrogates the relations between nostalgias of today and past utopias in the context of the space age of the 20th century and its cinematic representations in the

USSR and in post-Soviet Russia. Once an enthusiastic projection, then a promising and uncanny present, and eventually an assemblage of nostalgic signifiers, in the history of world cinema, this space age has been linked primarily to the genre of science fiction. Here, aspects of the space age such as humanity's imminent expansion to space, interplanetary travel, contact with extraterrestrial intelligence, and intergalactic governance and economy were both celebrated and critically interrogated as cosmopolitan ideals and nation-branding strategies. This book presents the contemporary relevance of this genre as heritage and legacy, archive and canon, and a nest of forgotten ideals and warnings, as well as nostalgic anchoring points. The author analyzes over 30 Soviet science fiction films, foregrounding their structures of utopia and their evolution over time, in order to trace both their transnational positionalities, transmedial resonance, and impact on post-Soviet Russian films about the space age. Concepts, crucial to the understanding of space futures of the past, such as utopianism, otherness, liminality, and no(w)stalgia are activated to draw out the fictional tenants of the memory of the Soviet space age, and to establish the limits and potentialities of Soviet (extra)terraformative ambitions.

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