

COMMUNITY SPECULATIONS AND TECHNOLOGICS

CoFUTURES Conference 2023

In association with

Center for Science and the Imagination, Arizona State University

June 15 – 17, 2023

VIRTUAL (WITH LIVESTREAM)

University of Oslo, Norway

Hashtags

conference: #cofutures #cofutures2023 #cofuturisms #sciencefictionality #neomonsters #communityspeculations #technopolitics

university: #unioslohf #unioslo #ikosuio

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NB! ALL TIMINGS LISTED IN CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME

THEME

CoFUTURES 2023: “Community Speculations and Technopolitics” is dedicated to ideas of community: How and why do communities come together, enact, and utilize speculative methods to rethink the world? What kinds of technologies and what kinds of politics come together to allow or necessitate the formation of communities?

In the last two decades, Future-oriented movements and communities have produced their own manifestos, organized societies, lobbying groups, artistic societies etc. These movements mix aesthetics and politics, drawing from science fiction speculations, decolonial anthropology, antifascist resistance, queer activism, disability rights and anti-ableism, neurodivergent thinking, and ethical propositions to engage in future making from the margins. These communities seek to affect the real world and build in the present the future they want to see. What are the potential opportunities and pitfalls of this approach? How do these communities interact with economies of capital, emotions, and taste?

This conference is interested in visions beyond “genres”: in activisms, community efforts, futurings that blur or even erase boundaries between artistic imaginations and politics, between individual and community efforts, between what’s imagined and what’s enacted. How can new forms of belonging recognize our entanglement with other species and agents?

Speculative strategies are part of new community-building, across cultural divides, and/or with more-than-human lifeforms and machines. How can we envision more-than-human forms of making kin? As closed futures and looming presents continue to threaten both the existence and creative potential of the earthbound, maintaining openness and spaces for imagining possibilities become acts of resistance. Technology, re-imagined, re-used, and re-purposed becomes both part of these resistances, as well as tools for continued oppression. How can the work performed by the combination of technology and poetics become more politically aware?

HOST COMMITTEE

Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay
Regina Kanyu Wang

Patrick Brock
Bergsveinn Thorsson

Sami Ahmad Khan
Marta Tveit

Merve Tabur
Joel Letkemann

Conference email:

conference@cofutures.org

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2023

TIMINGS	SESSION	MODERATOR
13:30-14:00	Welcome session	
14:00-14:50	Panel: Creating Speculative Fiction to Aid Just Water Access Faeza Meyer; Nick Wood; Amy Nelson	
15:00-15:50	Paper session 1 : Janis Caroline Boiko da Rosa; M. Elizabeth Ginway	Patrick Brock
16:00-16:50	Paper session 2 : Chiara Cigarini; Jasmine Sharma	Regina Kanyu Wang
17:00-17:50	KEYNOTE Ray Mwhaki	Marta Tveit
18:00-18:50	Paper session 3: Benjamin Ong; Chiara Ullstein, Michel Hohendanner	Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay
19:00-19:50	SPECIAL Sanita Fejzić: Peasant futurisms:from anthropocentrism to ecocentrism	
20:00-20:50	CSI Roundtable: Latin American Climate Futures Fábio Fernandes (Brazil); Gabriela Damián Miravete (Mexico); João Queiroz (Brazil)	Joey Eschrich

FRIDAY 16 JUNE 2023

TIMINGS	SESSION	MODERATOR
14:00-14:50	Paper session 4: Irish Joy G. Deocampo; Ryan-Ashleigh Boey	Marta Tveit
15:00-15:50	CoFutures Panel	
16:00-16:50	SPECIAL The Futures Protocol	
17:00-17:50	KEYNOTE Israel Neto	Patrick Brock
18:00-18:50	Panel: Political Imagination in American Science Fiction from the 1940s and 1970s Andrey S Seiffert; Frank Rudiger Lopez	
19:00-19:50	CSI Roundtable: Collaborative Approaches to Designing Personal Futures	

SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2023

TIMINGS	SESSION	MODERATOR
14:00-14:50	SPECIAL Lucia Luo Xu (吟光): Art Utopia” in a “distributed narrative” way	
15:00-15:50	Paper session 5: Ysabel Munoz Martinez; Priteegandha Naik and K. A. Geetha	Patrick Brock
16:00-16:50	Paper session 6: Taguhi Torosyan; Pauline Westerbarkey	Joel Letkemann
17:00-17:50	CSI Roundtable: Crafting Locally Situated, Culturally Responsive Climate Futures	Joey Eschrich
18:00-18:50	SPECIAL Bryndís Björnsdóttir: Contingency Sample	
19:00-19:50	Wrap up	

NB! ALL TIMINGS LISTED IN CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME

FOR FULL PROGRAM SEE PAGES 7-10

FOR ZOOM LINK SEE PAGE 11

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Ray Mwhaki is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Kenya. Writing, to her, is more than just a form of expression, it's catharsis. She writes copy for advertising when she isn't writing fiction and poetry. She has authored five books: *Breaking the Epitaph*, *Life Goes Round*, *Who Dropped the Cake?*, *Candles Along Ngunyiri St.* and *Not All Birds*. Her work has been featured on *Omenana*, *Down River Road*, *Manure Fresh*, *Us in Flux* by ASU's Centre for Science and the Imagination and *Femmolution*. When she isn't writing, she's painting or farming or daydreaming. Of all these, it's the daydreaming she enjoys the most.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Israel Neto is a writer, screenwriter, and editor in São Paulo who co-founded collective Literatura Suburbana (Suburban Literature), through which he also edits Coleção Literária Besouro (Besouro Literary Collection). He has participated in several movements of Black literature from the margins of Brazilian society between 2009 and 2015. He has written the short novels Amor Banto em Terras Brasileiras, Os Planos Secretos do Regime, Ancestral, and Não Podemos Esperar. Israel has been awarded the Jovem Brasileiro prize in 2011, the Funarte Hip Hop Prize in 2014 and the Odisseia Prize of Fantastic Literature in 2021. He was also shortlisted for the Golden Cube prize in the geek literature category in 2022. Since 2018, Israel has also been working to foster the Afrofuturist literary scene in Brazil through his own writing and by publishing other authors.

Israel Neto é escritor, roteirista e editor, cofundador do coletivo Literatura Suburbana, no qual também edita a Coleção Literária Besouro. Participou de diversas antologias literárias dos movimentos de literatura periférica e negra entre 2009 a 2015. Autor dos Livros Amor Banto em Terras Brasileiras, Os Planos Secretos do Regime, Ancestral e Não Podemos Esperar. Recebeu os prêmios Jovem Brasileiro, 2011, Prêmio Funarte Hip Hop em 2014 e Prêmio Odisseia de literatura fantástica, 2021, Finalista do prêmio Cubo de Ouro na categoria literatura geek, 2022. Israel tem desde 2018 fomentado a cena de literatura negra afrofuturista, em sua produção literária e na publicação de outras autoras e autores.

FULL PROGRAM

DAY 1

THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2023

All timings below in Central European Time

13:30-14:00 Welcome session

14:00-14:50 Panel: Creating Speculative Fiction to Aid Just Water Access

Faeza Meyer (Co-Founder and Activist, African Water Commons Collective)

Dr Nick Wood (SF Author & Consultant Clinical Psychologist/Academic (Honorary Lecturer; King's College London)

Amy Nelson (Community Activist and Psychology Trainee)

15:00-15:50 Paper session 1

Janis Caroline Boiko da Rosa
Federal University of Paraná (UFPR)

M. Elizabeth Ginway
University of Florida

The Shape of the Future: Judith Merrill's Intersecting Activism in 1970s
Toronto

Adapting the Body: Climate Crisis and Latin American Posthumanism

16:00-16:50 Paper session 2

Chiara Cigarini
Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Jasmine Sharma
Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies,
New Delhi, India

Catastrophic, Supernatural Tides: Oceanic Epistemologies in
Sinophone SF from the mainland

The Polemics of Multispecies Solidarity in Jeff VanderMeer's Borne

17:00-17:50 KEYNOTE Ray Mwhaki

18:00-18:50 Paper session 3

Benjamin Ong
University of St Andrews

Can this be eaten? A gut feeling for multispecies community in the
urban neighbourhood

Chiara Ullstein
Technical University of Munich
Michel Hohendanner
Munich Center for Digital Sciences and AI,
University of Applied Sciences Munich

Imagining AI and a prospective Metaverse: A Participatory
Speculative Design Case Study from Japan and reflections from
Germany

19:00-19:50 SPECIAL Sanita Fejzić Peasant futurisms: from anthropocentrism to ecocentrism

20:00-20:50 CSI Roundtable: Latin American Climate Futures

[Fábio Fernandes](#), writer, translator, and critic, São Paulo, Brazil

[Gabriela Damián Miravete](#), author and futures studies scholar, Mexico City, Mexico

[João Queiroz](#), illustrator and digital artist, Pindorama, Brazil

Moderator: [Joey Eschrich](#), Center for Science and the Imagination, Arizona State University

DAY 2

FRIDAY 16 JUNE 2023

All timings below in Central European Time

14:00-14:50 Paper session 4

Irish Joy G. Deocampo
University of the Philippines- Diliman

Ryan-Ashleigh Boey
National University of Singapore

Rethinking Resilience: An analysis of the online (re)presentations and (re)definitions of “community resilience and cooperation” in typhoon-related relief efforts in the Philippines
Paper Romances: A Case of the Veterum in Two Works of Diasporic Speculative Fiction

15:00-15:50 CoFUTURES PANEL

Patrick Brock (University of Oslo)
Marta Tveit (University of Oslo)
Bergsveinn Þórsson (Bifröst University)

16:00-16.50 SPECIAL The Futures Protocol

17:00-17:50 KEYNOTE Israel Neto

18:00-18:50 Panel: Political Imagination in American Science Fiction from the 1940s and 1970s

Andreya S Seiffert
Frank Rudiger Lopez

19:00-19.50 CSI Roundtable: Collaborative Approaches to Designing Personal Futures

[Laura Cechanowicz](#), Assistant Professor, Scholl of Arts, Media and Engineering, Arizona State University
[Ruth Wylie](#), Assistant Director and Associate Research Professor, Center for Science and the Imagination, Arizona State University
[Bob Beard](#), Research and Teaching Lead, Veterans Imagination Project, Arizona State University

DAY 3

SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2023

All timings below in Central European Time

14:00-14.50 SPECIAL Lucia Luo Xu (吟光)

Art Utopia” in a “distributed narrative” way

15:00-15:50 Paper Session 5

Ysabel Munoz Martinez
Norwegian University of Science and
Technology

Islands of transition. Reimagining Caribbean Futures through
ecofeminist narratives

Priteegandha Naik
Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Check 1, 2, 3: Imagining New Worlds through Dalit Futurism

K. A. Geetha
Birla Institute of Technology and Science,
Pilani Goa Campus (KAG)

16:00-16:50 Paper Session 6

Taguhi Torosyan
Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

Feminist Art Hacking Communities: imagining new forms of
belonging and resistance in technopolitics

Pauline Westerbarkey
Freie Universität Berlin / Friedrich Schlegel
Graduate School of Literary Studies

The Futures are Queer: Collective Speculations, Imaginations and
Multiplications of Queer Futurity in Contemporary Speculative
Fiction Anthologies

17:00-17:50 CSI Roundtable: Crafting Locally Situated, Culturally Responsive Climate Futures

[Libia Brenda](#), author, editor, and translator, Mexico City, Mexico

[Hannah Onoguwe](#), fiction and nonfiction author, Yenagoa, Nigeria

[Gu Shi](#), author and urban planner, Beijing, China

[Vandana Singh](#), author, physicist, and climate educator, Massachusetts, United States

Moderator: [Joey Eschrich](#), Center for Science and the Imagination, Arizona State University

18:00-18:50 SPECIAL Bryndís Björnsdóttir

Contingency Sample

19:00-19:50 CLOSING REMARKS

FINANCING



European Research Council
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The CoFUTURES 2023 conference is organized by the project CoFutures that has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No. 852190).



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