

London Science Fiction Research Community (LSFRC)

Call For Papers:

ORGANIC SYSTEMS: ENVIRONMENTS, BODIES AND CULTURES IN SCIENCE FICTION

Deadline for Abstracts: 31st May 2017

Keynote:
CHRIS PAK

Roundtable with:
GWYNETH JONES
PAUL MCAULEY
ADAM ROBERTS

Keynes Library
43 Gordon Square
London
WC1H 0PD

16th September 2017



Potential topics for presentation include:

Though often understood in ecological terms, the word 'environment' can also be viewed more widely as the surroundings and conditions of a specific system—whether they be mechanical, biological, social or chemical. Culture arises from and then informs these systems, becoming itself a further component of environments. Science fictional texts have explored the interactions between culture, environments and bodies on a wide spectrum of scale: from the level of a planetary biosphere or climate system (e.g. terraforming) to a single body or organ (e.g. genetic engineering).

Submit abstracts of up to 300 words for 20 minute papers by 31st May 2017 to londonfsymposium@gmail.com. Please include a brief biography of no more than 100 words. Applicants will receive a response by 1st July 2017.

- Interactions between culture, ecosystems and organisms;
- Rhetorics, stylistics and tropes common to ecological SF;
- Ecological SF's relationship to its context of production;
- Living worlds (e.g. the Gaia hypothesis);
- Analogical connections between small and large bodies;
- Environmental utopian and dystopian themes;
- The technological versus the natural in environmental systems;
- The relationship between socio-political systems and the environment;
- The impact of radically altered bodies and conceptions of the body on culture, and vice versa;
- The aesthetic and conceptual significance of modes and subcategories such as Biopunk and Ribofunk;
- Interrelations between posthuman theories and texts and different types of technological and environmental change;
- Transhumanism, both as a movement and an ideology;
- Connections between SF media and the geohumanities.

Conference Organisers:

Francis Gene-Rowe (PhD, Royal Holloway, University of London)
Rhodri Davies (PhD, Birkbeck, University of London)
Aren Roukema (PhD, Birkbeck, University of London)

This conference is supported by:

The Centre for Contemporary Literature at Birkbeck College
The Department of English, Royal Holloway



Designed by Sing Yun Lee

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Tristram Lansdowne
Hermetic Island, 2010
Watercolour on paper, 34 x 43 inches