



The British Society for LITERATURE and SCIENCE

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BSLS WINTER SYMPOSIUM 2019

EXTINCTIONS AND REBELLIONS **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL** **ORGANISERS: ANNA BURTON AND** **SALLY BLACKBURN-DANIELS**

As organisers, we felt that various conferences that we have attended in the last twelve months in particular, have continued to address issues surrounding the Climate Crisis in the literary and scientific imagination; and this reflects the broader international, cultural, and political conversations being had (or not had, as it may be) around the future of our planet. That being said, we picked the theme of 'Extinctions and Rebellions' in an attempt to address these lines of enquiry, and bring them to the forefront of the Winter Symposium. With this in mind, 'Extinctions and Rebellions' aimed to think about the varied cultural discourses of extinction, past and present. We wanted to use the day as a platform to discuss current environmental and ecological concerns

of the Anthropocene in the cultural imagination, but also offer a space to think about how previous literary and scientific forms have imagined extinction as a process or finality, and how these conversations speak to and could offer a means to think about our climate crisis. We did not want the day to be one of despair and despondency regarding the current geo-political climate in this regard, but to offer a space and time to discuss the questions it raises as it pertains to our own academic field(s), in a productive and optimistic way. At the start of the day, Greg Lynall, chair of the BSLS, brought attention to the Extinction Rebellion handbook, and the closing direction that it is 'TIME TO STOP READING'. Whilst it is undoubtedly essential to take action, we wanted to question what our 'READING(S)' might offer to the dissemination and discussion of this necessary civic step.

EXTINCTION AND DE-EXTINCTION

This panel drew together papers on the broad topic of biological (and non-human) extinction and biological resurrection. Jerome de Groot's paper on de-extinction and genetic resurrection utilised the *Jurassic Park* franchise as a case study. De Groot highlights the collapse of human definition of temporality in bringing previously extinct creatures 'back to life', as well as the resurrected animal's unsuitability for the current environment. Questioning not only the ethics of this form of revivification and the commodification of the biological object, de Groot also drew attention—via the *Indoraptor*—to the aesthetics of genetic engineering. Michael Malay discussed the grammar of extinction in the UK's moth population, bringing together lepidoptery and the poetry of S. T. Coleridge. The 'one mighty alphabet' of Coleridge is echoed in the smudges that read as signs on the wings, and, more broadly,

The BSLS promotes
interdisciplinary research into
the relationships between
science and literature in all
periods.

Winter 2020 Newsletter

Malay argues, in the genetic code of our animal neighbours. Richard Fallon's paper on the 'Palaeontological Grotesque' drew on the late nineteenth century's fascination with extinction, particularly in those animals adorned with what appeared to be counter-adaptive indications. Fallon contended that nonsense literature, in particular Carroll's Jabberwock, provided a shared language between literature and science with which to engage with evolution and extinction. Rather by coincidence, these papers suggested an anthropologically deigned aesthetic value prevalent in choices of de-extinction, ecological preservation, or extinction.

ECOLOGY IN CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURES

Each of the papers on this panel corresponded with ideas around the suitability and utility of Children's and YA literature—its environments, tropes, genres, and characters—to explore and educate readers (inside and outside) these texts about the issues (and solutions) to the Climate Crisis. Chloe Germaine Buckley used Sam Gayton's *The Last Zoo* and critical theory to consider the relationship between the Gothic, ecological thought, and eco-terror; Buckley encouraged the idea that we need the 'weird', that we need 'stories that represent things in flux'. Fran Kohlt considered the role of 'Storytelling in Environmental Crisis', focusing in particular upon Kingsley's *The Water Babies* and Carroll's *Alice* and the environmental education(s) of their main characters. Kohlt scrutinised how in projecting modern concerns onto older texts, they can illuminate and add value to 'modern science struggling to communicate these ideas'. Much like Buckley, Kohlt argued that these stories have a positive role and are more likely to inspire and encourage all generations in this context. Adding to this, Beata Gubasci presented the final paper on this panel and questioned whether some stories have 'met their expiry date' in the environmental debate. In using *The Marrow Thieves*, alternative realities, and the ideas found in indigenous writings, Gubasci put forward the idea that it is connection to our human ancestors that might allow for a form of agency when considering environmental and societal collapse. Each of the panellists queried the problems with using the child as a hero figure, especially when change needs to come from adults, but also acknowledged that this form might allow for hope and inspiration when facing the current crisis.

BIODIVERSITY AND SPECIES LOSS

This panel explored the cultural contributions and rebellions towards species loss and how we might consider (and/or reframe) the concept of extinction and annihilation. Bethan Roberts's paper on the Nightingale considered the reasons for this bird's decline and how this discussion is engaged with and shaped by poetic, scientific, and cultural representation. Notably, Roberts explored Extinction Rebellion's usage of the 'Nightingale in Berkeley square' as part of the wider civic protests and how this bird might be seen as a marker for changes to our climate. Continuing this feathered thread, Miranda Cichy explored the discovery of the 'Paradise Parrot' in creative terms and in the curatorial presentation of this species. Cichy questioned how this bird (last seen in the wild in 1927) can be a means to think about how 'extinct animals linger in a world in which they no longer exist'. Finally, Aidan Tynan's paper examined how the current crisis disrupts the concept of the '*oikos*', and, in scrutinising the thoughts of Heidegger and Deleuze, put forward a suggestion that perhaps there should be a move away from the concept of 'dwelling' in our climate. Tynan concluded by querying whether 'care' for life 'can only now take place in an abandonment of life'. As a panel, the presenters each considered how the loss of species and biodiversity is inextricably bound up with how we as humans name and define the non-human, and what this might mean for future dissemination and action.

CLI-FI AND POSSIBLE FUTURES

The 'Possible Futures' panel speculated on what may lie ahead for humanity: a forgotten apocalypse and a savage future, an ecological interconnectedness, or a posthuman technological consciousness. The first paper on this panel, by Adrian Tait, considered the post-disaster age, in Jefferies' *After London* and Harris' *The Second Sleep*. Tait suggested that whilst the threat of extinction lies at the edge of these narratives, it is barbarism—not annihilation—that lies in humanity's future. Ida Olsen's paper on 'charismatic megaflores in contemporary fiction' used literary representations of trees to think about ecological consciousness. Olsen argued for a multispecies co-becoming and stressed the importance of arboreal entanglement. Quoting from *The Overstory*, Olsen noted 'there are no individuals in the forest, no separable events.' Olly Teregulova's 'possible future' engaged with temporal slippages in H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine* and Lamarckian evolution in *The War of the Worlds*. Drawing on late nineteenth century scientific debates in physics, biology, and thermodynamics, Teregulova's paper suggested a posthuman potentiality, albeit a disembodied one.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ENVIRONMENT: IMPACT ROUNDTABLE

Panellists: Professor Jerome de Groot, Dr Greg Lynall, Dr Fran Kohlt, Mariana Roccia, and Jessica Iubini-Hampton.

Each of the panellists took a few minutes to discuss the relationship between their own work and the Impact agenda, and how the confluence of the humanities and sciences specifically might offer meaningful forms of impact in our current cultural climate. As part of this, there was also an acknowledgement that whilst the work of ECRs might not feature as part of a case study for a number of years, and the culture of fixed term contracts seems set to continue, this is an issue that needs to be addressed by the Higher Education sector more broadly. With a focus on Literature and Science, panellists encouraged ECRs and PGRs to get involved with public engagement activity early on in their research (with museums, outreach work, and festivals, for instance). It was suggested that whilst it should not determine the focus of an ECR's or PGR's research project, it can be helpful to implement these ideas into initial plans. Much more than this,

there was also a consideration of how the Impact agenda could cause extinctions to the work of ECRs and beyond, but also how it can allow (and in some cases, fund) researchers and allow them to see the effects of their work in a productive way, beyond an academic setting.

‘APOCALYPSO NOW!': EXTINCTIONS AND REBELLIONS IN LIVERPOOL'S MISANTHROPOCENE'
KEYNOTE BY SAM SOLNICK, UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Sam Solnick's keynote used the art installations, exhibits, and protests that have occurred in Liverpool as a springboard to think about the concept of the 'Misanthropocene'. Solnick considered poetic and avant garde responses to this idea, including the poetry of Juliana Spar, in particular. Solnick also queried what art in its many forms can (and can't) offer to the vocalization and distribution of Climate Crisis issues, from the corruption of oil companies, to creating a sense of community, on a regional, national, and international scale.

We were delighted with the thought-provoking papers and conversations on the day, and would just like to take this opportunity to thank all participants and attendees, as well as the BSLS and Liverpool's Literature & Science Hub for enabling this event to happen.

Anna Burton and Sally Blackburn-Daniels

BSLS GRANT REPORT

‘LABELLING THE MUSEUM' **POTTERIES MUSEUM AND GALLERY, STOKE-ON-TRENT**

‘Labelling the Museum’ (generously funded by the Keele Institute for Social Inclusion and the BSLS) brought sixth form students to the Potteries Museum and Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent to explore museum design and education. Museum labels might strike the average sixth former as a boring topic, but I wanted to draw the students’ attention to the ways in which labels affect *who* can use collections and *how* collections are understood. Students participated in activities that challenged them to think about the strategies employed by museums to present information, and the opportunities available to ‘open up’ museums to new voices and new perspectives—including their own.

The project drew on the expertise of a number of colleagues across Keele University, in order to encourage an interdisciplinary approach to the multi-disciplinary museum (the Potteries collection includes local history, natural history, ceramics, fine art, design, and archaeology). Rachel Frigot, a lecturer in the school of medicine and a trained palaeontologist, introduced students to methods of species classification and then asked them to classify fantasy animals, from Lewis Carroll's jabberwocky to Borges' squonk. Linda Anagu, a doctoral student in life sciences, asked students to redesign the natural history gallery to tell the story of the climate crisis. Students, who had considered the museum to be about the past, saw how these collections could address the present and the future. Addressing such a pressing and contentious issue also forced the students to consider how museums can mobilize emotions as well as information. Stephen Seabridge (Stoke-on-Trent's poet laureate) took this one step further in his poetry workshop. The students wrote alternate labels for the collection, which recorded how the objects made the students feel, but also how the objects themselves might feel, collected and on display. Finally, Yaar Dagan, a doctoral student in Law, confronted students with museum ethics. They put the ivory collection on trial, arguing for and against displaying these controversial objects (not currently on exhibit at the Potteries). The defence suggested that the items could be re-narrativized to tell environmental stories, while the prosecution countered that stories of poaching and human rights violations could be told through photographs, doing away with the need for the objects entirely. Beyond ethics, then, these teams debated the very nature of the museum—do we even need objects to tell stories?

Placed in this location to welcome you,
not manipulate you. This is a museum,
not a cult.

Don't let the hands guide you.
Anonymous



Jordan Kistler
University of Strathclyde

BSLS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are now invited for the BSLS Small Grants Scheme and the BSLS Postgraduate and Early Career Conference Fund, each with a deadline of **31 March 2020**.

The BSLS Small Grants Scheme offers grants of up to £400 to promote the study of literature and science. We are open to all sorts of proposals with the exception of those that request support for individual personal conference expenses. Examples of activities for which the awards might be used are expenses for a visiting speaker, a seminar series, or a symposium. Applications for support to stage special BSLS panels at appropriate conferences (other than the BSLS 2020 conference) will be considered.

The BSLS Postgraduate and Early Career Conference Fund offers bursaries of up to £200 for BSLS postgraduate student members and early career researchers who are not in permanent posts and are ineligible for institutional funding. Bursaries may be used towards the cost of presenting research papers at conferences.

For details of eligibility and how to apply for either of these funds, please see the Funding page on the website. For queries about the Small Grants Scheme please contact Rosalind Powell (rosalind.powell@bristol.ac.uk); for queries about the Postgraduate and Early Career Conference Fund, please contact Rachel Murray (R.E.Murray@lboro.ac.uk).

MEMBER ENGAGEMENTS

DAVY NOTEBOOKS PROJECT

I'm delighted to announce that the website for the AHRC-funded project to crowdsource five of Humphry Davy's notebooks is now online at <http://humphrydavy.org.uk/notebooks/>.

Sir Humphry Davy (1778-1829) was one of the most significant and famous figures in the scientific and literary culture of early nineteenth-century Britain, Europe, and America. Davy's scientific accomplishments include: conducting pioneering research into the physiological effects of nitrous oxide (often called 'laughing gas'); isolating seven chemical elements (magnesium, calcium, potassium, sodium, strontium, barium, and boron) and establishing the elemental status of chlorine and iodine; inventing a miners' safety lamp; developing the electrochemical protection of the copper sheathing of Royal Navy vessels; conserving the Herculaneum papyri; and writing an influential text on agricultural chemistry. Davy was also a poet, moving in the same literary circles as Lord Byron, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey, and William Wordsworth.

More than 500 people from around the world participated in the notebook transcriptions (using the Zooniverse platform: www.zooniverse.org). Many thanks once again to all our participants. The notebooks transcribed date from 1795-1805 and contain a mixture of Davy's thoughts, scientific experiments, poetry, geological observations, travel accounts, and personal philosophy. The website is fully searchable and the final transcriptions of all 5 notebooks can be read online.

Sharon Ruston
Principal Investigator, Davy Notebooks Project

NUCA: NEXT UNIVERSAL COMMON ANCESTOR

I delivered a paper entitled 'Encouraging Discussion of Science and Technology Futures Through Practice-Led Fiction, Production and Research' (including a related short experimental film, *NUCA: Next Universal Common Ancestor*), at the Media, Communication and Cultural Studies Association Conference: *Media Interactions and Environments* (University of Brighton, 8-10 January 2020). The paper is an approach of imaginative science and literature practice, in which I use the framework of an original speculative story ('NUCA: Beginnings *in vivo*') to deliver a rationale on the place of science and communication within



culture and creative practice through producing an audio-visual immersive commentary on *Homo sapiens* limitations—and, possibly, the curtailment of the Anthropocene. The story is about genetic manipulation, human technological endeavour, synthetic biology, and the ambition to design a non-natural gene-selecting intelligence to rival *Homo sapiens*. (An earlier published version of the story can be located on the *Holdfast Magazine* website: <http://www.holdfastmagazine.com/nuca-brexilit/4592952439>.) The short experimental film—*NUCA*—is an audio-led speculative fiction concentrated on one event in the story, as the first non-natural sentient lifeform reflects on its origins and existence. A trailer for the film can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/bl1r-QSRjXc>.

Sean A Z Fitzgerald

BSLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Two positions on the BSLS Executive Committee will be up for renewal in April: International Officer (North America) and Member at Large. Present incumbents in both positions are seeking to continue in their roles, but those roles are still open to nominations.

Any member of BSLS is eligible for these posts and can propose themselves or someone else. Each proposed candidate will also need two nominations from members of BSLS, and these proposals and nominations should be sent to the Chair Greg Lynall (gjlynall@liverpool.ac.uk) and the Secretary Rachel Crossland (R.Crossland@chi.ac.uk). Expressions of interest and proposals should be received by 6th April at the very latest.

[FROM THE CONSTITUTION]

4. OFFICERS

4.5 The membership of the Executive Committee shall be determined by elections held at the annual general meeting of the society. Members wishing to stand for election should be nominated by two members of the society before the start of the AGM. Where there is more than one candidate for any post, election shall be held by a ballot on the basis of a single transferable vote.

4.6 Members of the Executive Committee shall serve three-year terms of office.

WANTED: ASSISTANT REVIEWS EDITORS

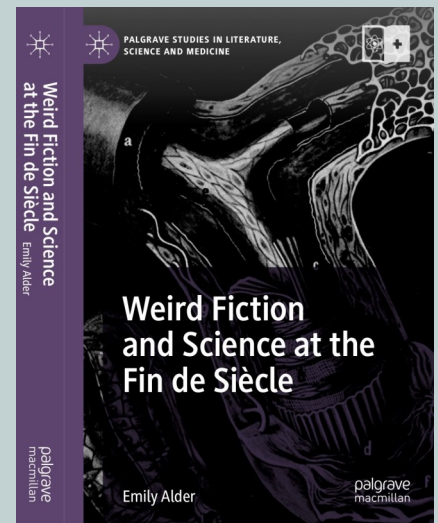
Do you like books? Great! We are looking to recruit at least two new Assistant Reviews Editors to take up their post as soon as possible, with a special responsibility for looking after North American University Presses, and non-UK European publishers, to assist the Reviews Editor with the reviews process (i.e. keeping an eye out for relevant publications, processing review enquiries and commissioning reviews, ordering and providing review copies, updating the review database online). To make this process easier the BSLS will be rolling out an automated form and dedicated email address for processing review enquiries this year. These positions are suitable for all career stages. If you have any questions at all, please contact the current reviews editor, Dr Franziska Kohlt. Please send your Expressions of Interest (c.350 words), outlining relevant experience, your career, and contact information for two academics to endorse your application, to bslsreviews@gmail.com by **29 February 2020**.

<https://www.bsls.ac.uk/2020/01/wanted-assistant-reviews-editors/>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Emily Alder. *Weird Fiction and Science at the Fin de Siècle*. (Palgrave Macmillan, January 2020).

Perceiving an intricate relationship between nineteenth century science and the emergence of the weird tale, this book examines *fin de siècle* fictions by British writers who preceded and influenced H. P. Lovecraft, the most famous author of the weird. From laboratory experiments, thermodynamics, and Darwinian evolutionary theory to psychology, Theosophy, and the 'new' physics of atoms and forces, science illuminated supernatural realms with rational theories and practices. Changing scientific philosophies and questioning of traditional positivism produced new ways of knowing the world - fertile borderlands for fictional scientists as well as real ones to explore. Reading Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886) as an inaugural weird tale, Alder goes on to analyse stories by Arthur Machen, Edith Nesbit, H. G. Wells, William Hope Hodgson, E. and H. Heron, and Algernon Blackwood. The book shows how this radical fantasy mode can be scientific, and how sciences themselves were often already weird.



Zoë Lehmann Imfeld. 'Imagination as Co-Creation: Science and theology through the lens of literature', in *Our Common Cosmos: Exploring the Future of Theology, Human Culture and Space Sciences*, (London: Bloomsbury, 2018), 125-140. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/our-common-cosmos-9780567695246/>

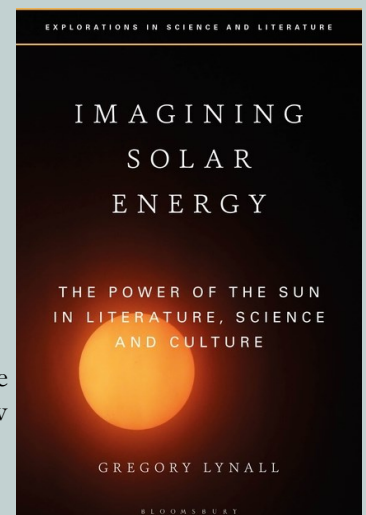
As we increasingly aggressively pursue a group of sciences which brings not only our understanding but our physical presence further outside the bounds of Earth, this perspective is crucial if we are to continue to spread the footprint of humankind beyond our own planet. Science fiction is a medium which allows us to explore the ethical and metaphysical implications of this increasing footprint. This chapter follows three science-fiction texts in order to explore how depictions of terraforming reflect the development of space sciences as ethics, through the late twentieth and early twenty-first century. The texts are not explicitly Christian or theological fictions, but each imagines a future for humankind that challenges notions of human being and becoming in the universe. As we shall see, science fiction allows us to 'entertain new values', and to explore a role for human beings as participants in a process of co-creation.

Zoë Lehmann Imfeld, "'The incalculable potency of community': The Role of Science Fiction in Religion and Science", *Philosophy, Theology and Science*, 2019, 6:2, 148-163. <https://www.mohrsiebeck.com/en/issue/philosophy-theology-and-the-sciences-2-2019-2195-9773>

This article will describe a role for science-fiction literature as a tool with which to explore the shared concerns of science and religion. Science fiction is not, however, simply a servant to theological or scientific truth claims. Science fiction demands a particular set of ontological rules, and it challenges both theology and science to carefully consider their own methods and claims. In describing a role for science fiction in science and religion studies, we will re-evaluate the terms 'fabulation' and 'myth', as described by Henri Bergson and Paul Tillich. Through this I will suggest ways in which theology as an academic discipline can participate in what I will term 'speculative empiricism', reinforcing the need for creativity. This speculative empiricism will require a hospitality towards 'fabulation' that understands it not as invention or 'making up', but as part of reconciling knowledge and understanding. I will use readings of Olaf Stapledon's *Star Maker* and *Last and First Men* as models for this endeavour.

Gregory Lynall. *Imagining Solar Energy: The Power of the Sun in Literature, Science and Culture*. (Explorations in Science and Literature: Bloomsbury Academic). <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/imagining-solar-energy-9781350010970/>

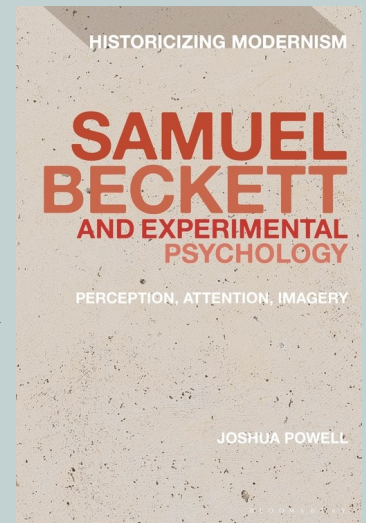
How has humanity sought to harness the power of the Sun, and what roles have literature, art and other cultural forms played in imagining, mythologizing and reflecting the possibilities of solar energy? What stories have been told about solar technologies, and how have these narratives shaped developments in science and culture? What can solar power's history tell us about its future, within a world adapting to climate crisis? Identifying the



history of capturing solar radiance as a focal point between science and the imagination, *Imagining Solar Energy* argues that the literary, artistic and mythical resonances of solar power – from the Renaissance to the present day – have not only been inspired by, but have also cultivated and sustained its scientific and technological development. Ranging from Archimedes to Isaac Asimov, John Dee to Humphry Davy, Aphra Behn to J. G. Ballard, the book argues that solar energy translates into many different kinds of power (physical, political, intellectual and cultural), and establishes for the first time the importance of solar energy to many literary and scientific endeavours.

Joshua Powell. *Samuel Beckett and Experimental Psychology*. (Historicizing Modernism: Bloomsbury).

Samuel Beckett's private writings and public work show his deep interest in the workings of the human mind. *Samuel Beckett and Experimental Psychology* is an innovative study of the author's engagement with key concepts in early experimental psychology and rapidly developing scientific ideas about perception, attention and mental imagery. Through new readings of Beckett's later dramatic and prose works, the book reveals the links between his aesthetic method and the methodologies of experimental psychology through the 20th century. Covering important later works including *Happy Days*, *Not I* and *Footfalls*, *Samuel Beckett and Psychology* sheds important new light on Beckett's depictions of the workings of the embodied mind.

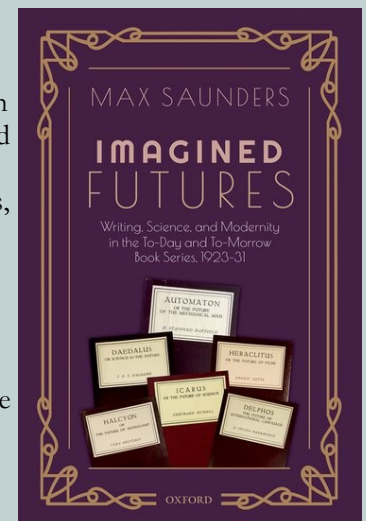


Max Saunders. *Imagined Futures: Writing, Science, and Modernity in the To-Day and To-Morrow Book Series, 1923-31*. Oxford University Press, 2019.

This study provides the first substantial history and analysis of the To-Day and To-Morrow series of 110 books, published by Kegan Paul (and Dutton in the USA), in which writers chose a topic, described its present, and predicted its future. Contributors included J. B. S. Haldane, Bertrand Russell, Vernon Lee, Robert Graves, Vera Brittain, Sylvia Pankhurst, Hugh MacDiarmid, James Jeans, J. D. Bernal, Winifred Holtby, André Maurois, and many others. The study combines a comprehensive account of its interest and range with a discussion of its key concerns, tropes, and influence.

The argument focuses on science and technology, not only as the subject of many of the volumes, but also as method—especially through the paradigm of the human sciences—applied to other disciplines, and as a source of metaphors for representing other domains. It also includes chapters on war, technology, cultural studies, and literature and the arts.

This book aims to reinstate the series as a vital contribution to the writing of modernity, and to reappraise modernism's relation to the future. It shows how, as a co-ordinated body of futurological writing, the series is also revealing about the nature and practices of modern futurology itself.



Sean Seeger and Daniel Davison-Vecchione, 'Dystopian Literature and the Sociological Imagination', *Thesis Eleven*, 2019, 155.1.

This article argues that sociologists have much to gain from a fuller engagement with dystopian literature. This is because (i) the speculation in dystopian literature tends to be more grounded in empirical social reality than is the case in utopian literature, and (ii) the literary conventions of the dystopia more readily illustrate the relationship between the inner life of the individual and the greater whole of social-historical reality. These conventional features mean dystopian literature is especially attuned to how historically-conditioned social forces shape the inner life and personal experience of the individual, and how acts of individuals can, in turn, shape the social structures in which they are situated. In other words, dystopian literature is a potent exercise of what C. Wright Mills famously termed 'the sociological imagination'.

CALLS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT BSLS CONTRIBUTION TO THE 'ENGLISH: SHARED FUTURES 2' CONFERENCE MANCHESTER, 26-28 JUNE 2020

BSLS will be presenting at the 'English: Shared Futures 2' conference in Manchester next year, following the Society's successful panel at the first 'Shared Futures' in 2017. Details regarding the conference itself can be found at <https://www.englishsharedfutures.uk/>

CALL FOR ENTRIES THE 2020 ASLE/INSPIRE PUBLIC LECTURE ON LITERATURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Winning lecture to be delivered at the 2020 Hay Festival
Hay-on-Wye, 28 May 2020

Sustainability is a matter of culture as much as politics or environmental science. The stories we tell, the poems we compose, the dramas we enact—all provide spaces for inspiration, imagination, and debate over what it means to live sustainably. This competition invites submissions that explore how literature, in any of its forms, responds to the past, present, or future environment or to environmental concerns, be it through engagements with nature, place, and landscape; with the life sciences, ecology, or environmental science; or in the context of debates around sustainability, energy use, or climate change.

Entrants should submit the text of a half-hour public lecture appropriate for a broad public audience which may include school children, interested lay-people, activists, literary critics, and sustainability practitioners. Lectures should be lively and accessible, avoid academic jargon or complex theorisation, and aim to be both thought-provoking and entertaining. Unrevised academic papers will not be considered.

The competition is jointly organised by the Institute of Sustainable Practice, Innovation and Resource Effectiveness (INSPIRE) at the University of Wales, Trinity St. David (www.uwtsd.ac.uk/inspire), and the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, UK and Ireland (ASLE-UKI; www.asle.org.uk).

The winner of the competition will be invited to deliver their submission as 'The 2020 INSPIRE Lecture on Literature and Sustainability' at the 2020 Hay Festival of Literature and the Arts (Hay-on-Wye, 21–31 May 2020). The lecture will take place on Thursday 28 May and is followed by a public discussion between the competition winner and Jane Davidson, Director of INSPIRE and former Welsh Government Minister for Sustainability, and Brycchan Carey, Vice-President of ASLE-UKI. ASLE-UKI will pay one night's accommodation and reasonable travel expenses to Hay within the UK.

Entry to the competition is free. Only one entry per person is permitted. Please submit the text of your lecture, any accompanying power point presentation, and a brief (50 words) biography as well as your contact details.

Entries should be submitted by email to the Competition Chair and Vice-President of ASLE-UKI, Professor Brycchan Carey: brycchan.carey@northumbria.ac.uk

The closing date for entries is **Friday 28 February 2020**.

The logo for ASLE-UKI, featuring the text 'asle-uki' in a bold, lowercase, green sans-serif font.

Association for the Study of Literature
and Environment
United Kingdom and Ireland

SCIENCEHUMANITIES
IN ASSOCIATION WITH FICTION MEETS SCIENCE
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

HWK INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
(HANSE-WISSENSCHAFTSKOLLEG) | DELMENHORST GERMANY

MONDAY 8 JUNE – FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2020

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: PROFESSOR HEIDI HUTNER (STONY BROOK)

Seminars by leading figures from:

Literature and Science
History of Science
History of Medicine
Philosophy of Science

Workshops on:

Publishing
Public Engagement
Academic Careers

The *Science* Humanities Summer School: Postgraduate, International, and Free
See <https://cardiffsciencehumanities.org> for further details

In 2020, the Cardiff *Science* Humanities group partners with the Fiction Meets Science Program, to host the summer school at their home base in Germany. The theme for 2020 is “Energies.”

The *Science* Humanities Summer School features a week of workshops with leading scholars who have trained in a diverse array of disciplines—literature, history, philosophy, sociology, environmental science—and are doing research at the cross-section of the humanities and sciences. Students have the opportunity to engage with experienced researchers and a select cohort of peers from around the world, attending workshops on current research topics and career issues (publishing, professional network-building, etc). Professor Heidi Hutner (Stony Brook) will give the keynote address and teach one of the workshops.

In addition, you will have the opportunity to share ideas, concepts and methods with other doctoral students and begin to build a network of global contacts. The Summer School also incorporates a cultural programme focussed on the rich heritage of Bremen and the region.

The Summer School is open only to doctoral students located in universities and research centres worldwide. There are only 12 places available.

It is free to attend, but participants must be able to meet the cost of their own transport, accommodation and part of their subsistence during their stay at the HWK Institute for Advanced Study (Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg), Delmenhorst. Advice will be given on accommodation and transport and meals will be included during the Summer School.

Two bursaries of £400 are available for students from nations with limited resources.

To express initial interest and receive an application form please email Professor Martin Willis on willism8@cardiff.ac.uk.

The closing date for expressions of interest is 19 February, 2020. Applications must be submitted by 28 February, 2020 and decisions will be communicated by 13 March, 2020. Participating doctoral students must be able to commit to the full 5 days of the Summer School.

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR LITERATURE AND SCIENCE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD, 15-17 APRIL 2020

The fifteenth annual conference of the British Society for Literature and Science will be held at the University of Sheffield from Wednesday 15 April until Friday 17 April 2020.

Keynote speakers will be Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell (Oxford), Professor Martin Willis (Cardiff), and Professor Angela Wright (Sheffield).

The conference will include a visit to the [Alfred Denny Zoological Museum](#) (pictured), and the [Turner Museum of Glass](#) will host a keynote lecture and the wine reception.

Information concerning registration fees and local hotels will be forthcoming.

Membership: conference delegates will need to register/renew as members of the BSLS (annual membership: £25 waged/ £10 unwaged).



FUTURE BSLS CONFERENCES

The Society welcomes early conversations with members interested in hosting upcoming annual conferences. Please contact the chair, Greg Lynall.

BSLS 16, EDINBURGH NAPIER, 8-10 APRIL 2021