

VICFAAAA!

2023

AI, Algorithms, Automata, and Art



VICFA 2 GUESTS OF HONOR



Steven Barnes – Guest of Honor

Alec Nevala-Lee – Distinguished Scholar



Annalee Newitz – Guest of Honor



Jennifer Rhee - Distinguished Scholar



Wole Talabi – Distinguished Scholar



Martha Wells – Guest of Honor

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

Deep Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>
Counter Space	EVENT HORIZON: Conference Launch and Board Welcome
Interstellar Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>

9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC

9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC

Counter Space	SCIAFA MEET-AND-GREET
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11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC

11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC

Deep Space	Transcending the Body through AI Moderator: Gerry Canavan Marquette University “The Business of Dying: Digital Afterlife and Body Politics in Richard K. Morgan’s <i>Altered Carbon</i> (2002)” Jagoda Tyczyńska University of Warsaw “AI and Posthuman Being in Nalo Hopkinson’s <i>Midnight Robber</i> ” Andrew Erickson University of Potsdam
Interstellar Space	Workshop: An Honest Shot - Reflection Photos with Nancy Hightower Is a photo authentic when we intensify the saturation or erase an unwanted car? Like many artists, I worry about AI replicating what I already

do, so I am beginning to revel in the mistakes that happen in a real shot--a speeding car that causes the puddle to ripple and suddenly, I have a shot of a disintegrating building. That car I didn't want at first now appears as if coming out of a building. There is magic in the real when we resist AI.

BREAK 12:00-1:00PM EST

1:00-2:00pm EST/6:00-7:00pm UTC

1:00-2:00pm EST/6:00-7:00pm UTC

Deep Space

Agency and Humanization

Moderator: Muhammad Aurangzeb Ahmad
University of Washington

“Androids, Agency and Fairy Tales: the Bluebeard Formula in Alex Garland’s Ex Machina”

Vera Benczik
Eotvos Lorand University

“Humanization of the Dehumanized Automata: Kazuo Ishiguro’s ‘Klara and The Sun’”

Gözde Ersoy
Mugla Sitki Kocman University

Counter Space

BRAVE SPACE - Roundtable: “Inclusive Editing as Award-Worthy Art”

Editors who work with writers on the margins of their societies and perhaps of global academia discuss the techniques, philosophies, and challenges of inclusive editing.

- ∞ Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki
- ∞ Tonia Ransom
- ∞ Justin Sanders
- ∞ Tedd Hawks

2:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC
2:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC

**Counter
Space**

Science Fiction as Societal Phronesis

Moderator: Stefan Kiesbye
Sonoma State University

“Cautious Hopepunk: Sentient and Subsentient AI in Martha Wells and
Becky Chambers”

David Farnell
Fukuoka University

“Using Science Fiction Literature as a Tool for Ex Ante Policy & Law-Making:
Can future social and legal problems be forecast with Science Fiction
Literature?”

Syamsuriatina Ishak
University of Maastricht

“Digital Doppelgangers: Fears and Desires Related to AI Monstrous Bodies
in Creative Works”

Patrick Ijima-Washburn
Sojo University, Japan

4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC
4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC

**Counter
Space**

Coffee with Creatives-Author Reading

- ∞ Martha Wells
- ∞ Andrea Hairston
- ∞ F. Brett Cox

BREAK 5:00-6:00PM EST

6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC
6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC

**Deep
Space**

AI Avatars and Human Experience

Moderator: Alexandria Nunn
Independent Scholar

“‘Lend Me Your Voice’: Subversive Lyricism and Technological Enchantment
in Mamoru Hosoda’s 2021 anime *Belle*”

Sophia Pinell
Independent Scholar

“Blue Beetle and the Political Distraction of Diffracted ‘Diversity’ in
Corporate SFF IP’s: Towards a Theory/Methodology”

Ida Yoshinaga
Georgia Institute of Technology

7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC
7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC

**Counter
Space**

BIPOC CAUCUS MEETING

9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC
9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC

**Deep
Space**

Proceed toward Event Horizon

**Counter
Space**

EVENT HORIZON: PLENARY SESSION
Guest of Honor Steven Barnes

**Interstellar
Space**

Proceed toward Event Horizon

MONDAY NOVEMBER 6

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

Deep Space

Technofuturism, AI, and Feminist Narratives in South Korean Science Fiction

Moderator: Sang-Keun Yoo
Marist College

“Distinctive Genre Characteristics and Contemporary Thematic Awareness in Korean Science Fiction”

Lee Ji-Yong
Chung-Ang University

"Apocalyptic Imagination in 2020s South Korean Theatre”

Jeenee Jun
Hankyong National University

“Early Korean Science Fiction: A Study of Geopolitical Sf”

Tae-Hoon Lim
Sungkyunkwan University

“Recent Feminist Science Fiction in South Korea”

Hyo Jin Kim
Independent Researcher

9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC

9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC

Counter Space

VIRTUAL GALLERY TOUR

11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC

11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC

**Deep
Space**

Philosophical Musings on AI in Film and Literature

Moderator: Manuela Mohr
University of Strasbourg

“Teaching AI and Literature in the Age of AI”

Timothy Miller
Florida Atlantic University

“He Doesn’t Like Droids: Mechanics, Sentience, and Cultural Contact in *The Mandalorian* and the *Star Wars* Universe”

Trinna S. Frever
Tenured Independent Scholar

“Rethinking Morality in the Era of Apocalyptic AI: Exploring Moral Agency and Patience in Daniel H. Wilson's *Robopocalypse*”

Ruxandra Teodorescu
Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg

BREAK 12:00-1:00PM EST

1:00-2:00pm EST/6:00-7:00pm UTC

1:00-2:00pm EST/6:00-7:00pm UTC

**Deep
Space**

Consuming and Querying Objects of Desire

Moderator:

“I’d Love to Have You for Dinner: Cannibalism as Consumptive Love in *Hannibal* and *Yellowjackets*”

Eden Lackner
Independent Scholar

“Do Lonely People Dream of Electronic Lovers? On Two Recent Android Movies”

Simon Spiegel
University of Zurich

**Interstellar
Space**

AUTHOR READING:

∞ Petra Kuppens

- ∞ Alyx Dellamonica
- ∞ Chinelo Onwualu

2:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC
 2:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC

**Interstellar
Space**

AUTHOR READING:

- ∞ Kij Johnson
- ∞ Ben Loory

4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC
 4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC

**Counter
Space**

Yemoja's Tears Water Anthologists:

Contributors to the Water Project Anthology Yemoja's Tears read and discuss their creative and scholarly contributions.

- ∞ Mame Bougouma Diene
- ∞ Mary Turzillo
- ∞ Joshua Ichor

BREAK 5:00-6:00PM EST

6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC
 6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC

**Interstellar
Space**

AI Convergences: how writers interpret AI

- ∞ Camille Bacon-Smith
- ∞ Gillian Polack
- ∞ Joseph Elliott-Coleman
- ∞ Wole Talabi
- ∞ Octavia Cade
- ∞ RM Lemberg

- ∞ Regina Kanyu Wang
- ∞ Charles Stross

7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC
 7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC

Deep Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>
Counter Space	EVENT HORIZON: PLENARY SESSION Guest of Honor Annalee Newitz
Interstellar Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>

9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC
 9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC

Deep Space	<p>A Breath of Life: The necessary human touch in music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Carrie J. Cole, VPAA Division Head ∞ Nancy Menk ∞ Jason Oby
Counter Space	<p>Coffee with Creatives – Author Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Wole Talabi ∞ Geoffrey A. Landis ∞ Tenea Johnson
Interstellar Space	<p>AUTHOR READING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Dennis Danvers ∞ Elle Ire ∞ David Nickle

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

Deep Space

Close readings of Sci Fi Lit

Moderator: Alena Cicholewski
University of Bremen

“Aurora, Artificial Minds, and the Technological Sublime”

Gerry Canavan
Marquette University

“Artificial Intelligence and the Ethics of Representation in Ian McDonald's
‘The Dust Assassin’ and ‘The Djinn's Wife’”

Jerome Winter
University of California, Riverside

“No Robot Apocalypse, Not Now: AI in Stanislaw Lem’s Golem XIV & Ursula
K. Le Guin’s Always Coming Home”

Timothy Murphy
Oklahoma State University

9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC

9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC

Deep Space

AI and Robots as Sentient Supports

Moderator: Rachelle Saint Louis
Florida Atlantic University

“Wearing A.I.: An Exploration of the Green Lantern in N.K Jemisin’s *Far
Sector* and Techno-beings”

William Norris
University of Georgia

“Liberated Minds: Robots as Servants to the Pastoral Ideal in Simak”

Jeffrey Baus
Eötvös Loránd University

“Living Objects and Non-Murderous Robots: The Image of Artificial
Sentience In Becky Chambers' Series *Monk and Robot*”

Joanna Kaniewska
University of Warsaw

11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC
11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC

**Counter
Space**

**Spirituality, Substitutions, and Sabotage: Examinations of Reality and
Ruin in International Science Fiction**

Moderator: Jerome Winter
University of California, Riverside

“‘Artificial Mirror’: Facing Nostalgia and Trauma through AI
Doppelgangers”

Kyu Jeoung Lee
Oklahoma State University

“Divinity through Silicon Eyes: Asian Religions, Artificial Intelligence, and
Transhumanism in Asian and Asian American Science Fiction”

Sang-Keun Yoo
Marist College

"What Happens When the Metaverse Gets Out of Hand?"

Rachelle Saint Louis
Florida Atlantic University

BREAK 12:00-1:00PM EST

1:00-2:00pm EST/6:00-7:00pm UTC
1:00-2:00pm EST/6:00-7:00pm UTC

**Interstellar
Space**

AUTHOR READING:

- ∞ Ian Muneshwar
- ∞ Jason Baltazar
- ∞ Ben Pladek

2:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC
 2:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC

Deep Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>
Counter Space	EVENT HORIZON: PLENARY SESSION Guest Scholar Jennifer Rhee
Interstellar Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>

4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC
 4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC

Deep Space	<p>AI in Fantastic Production and Consumption Moderator: Jalondra A. Davis University of California, Riverside</p> <p>“It Practically Plays Itself: Science Fiction, Music, and AI” Nicholas Laudadio UNC Wilmington</p> <p>“Character prototypes and fantastic AIs: The Fallout franchise as a framework for analyzing artificial intelligence in SF” Kenton Howard University of Central Florida</p> <p>“AI'm a Fan: Speculative AI, Media Consumption, and Industry” Jessica FitzPatrick University of Pittsburgh</p>
Interstellar Space	<p>AUTHOR READING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Julie C. Day ∞ Richard Butner ∞ Phoenix Alexander

BREAK 5:00-6:00PM EST

6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC

6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC

**Deep
Space**

Artificial Progeny, Determinism and the Limits of Posthumanism

Moderator: Andrew Ferguson
University of Virginia

“Laplace's Demon and the Limits of Determinism”

Steven Shaviro
Wayne State University

“The Xenopoetics of Daniel Y. Harris’ The Posthuman Series”

Andrew Wenaus
University of Western Ontario

**Interstellar
Space**

Author Discussion Writing on Hope, Climate Change, and Activism

- ∞ Eli William
- ∞ Robert Redick

7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC

7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC

**Counter
Space**

VIRTUAL GALLERY TOUR

9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC

9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC

**Counter
Space**

Yemoja’s Tears Water Anthologists:

Contributors to the Water Project Anthology *Yemoja’s Tears* discuss their reflections on their creative and scholarly contributions.

- ∞ Regina Hansen
- ∞ Joyce Chng
- ∞ Mingle Moore

**Interstellar
Space**

AUTHOR READING:

- ∞ Simone Snaith
- ∞ Conrad Scott
- ∞ Nicole Lenoir Jourdan

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

Deep Space

AI Social and Future Perspectives

Moderator: A.J. Rocca
Western Illinois University

“Indigenous Protocols: Country and AI in Australia”

Iva Polak
University of Zagreb

“Planet Earth Is Blue and There’s Nothing I Can Do’: Identity and Humanism in the Age of Technoscience in Duncan Jones’ *Moon* (2009)”

Klaudia Paola Zalewska
University of Warsaw

Counter Space

How to Publish Fantastic Scholarship

Approaching a first (or subsequent) publication in a professional academic journal can be a daunting process. This session invites editors from leading journals that focus on research and creative work in fantastic genres to come into conversation with students to demystify the publication process and to help make pathways to getting published straightforward and inviting. Students are prioritized; all are welcome!

Moderator: Andrew Erickson
University of Potsdam

- ∞ Phoenix Alexander
- ∞ A.D. Boynton
- ∞ Novella Brooks de Vita
- ∞ David Higgins
- ∞ Emily Midkiff
- ∞ Joy Sanchez-Taylor
- ∞ Simon Spiegel
- ∞ Ida Yoshinaga

9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC
9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC

**Deep
Space**

Robots and AI in Children's and YA Lit

Moderator: Jessica FitzPatrick
University of Pittsburgh

“Robots at School in Contemporary Children’s Literature”

Amy Cummins
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

“(Post)Human-AI Assemblages in American Young Adult Science Fiction”

Alena Cicholewski
University of Bremen

“D.A.R.Y.L. to David: Personhood, Innocence, and (A.I.) Children”

Lynette James
Independent Scholar

**Interstellar
Space**

Decolonizing AI

One of the glaring flaws of language-learning models like ChatGPT is their noted predisposition to replicating the prejudices included in the data sets on which they're trained. In this panel discussion, writers, editors and scholars of Indigenous Futurism engage with the new obstacles and opportunities LLMs and related technologies present in the ongoing process of decolonization and progress towards Indigenous sovereignty at a time when, thanks to the climate crisis, Indigenous knowledge becomes daily more essential to human survival.

- ∞ Michael DeLuca
- ∞ E.G. Condé
- ∞ Rae Mariz
- ∞ Selena Middleton
- ∞ Tiff Morris

11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC
 11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC

Deep Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>
Counter Space	EVENT HORIZON: PLENARY SESSION Guest of Honor Martha Wells
Interstellar Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>

BREAK 12:00-1:00PM EST

1:00-2:00pm EST/6:00-7:00pm UTC
 1:00-2:00pm EST/6:00-7:00pm UTC

Deep Space	<p>Politics and Economics in Science Fiction Moderator: Gözde Ersoy Mugla Sitki Kocman University</p> <p>“Aaaargh!: THIS FORMER PRESIDENT: SCIENCE FICTION AS RETROSPECTIVE RETROROCKET JETTISONS TRUMPISM Portrays Trump as an Audacious Avaricious Atrocious Automation” Marleen S. Barr CUNY</p> <p>“Liberal Fascism: A Case Study in Reactionary Alt-History” David Higgins Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University</p> <p>“Biopunk Post Capitalism in the Trilogy 'Los ojos bizcos del sol' (2017, 2018, and 2020) by Emilio Bueso” Miguel Angel Albuja-Escuredo J. Wayne and Elsie M. Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction</p>
Interstellar Space	Author Discussion: Blurred Boundaries: Redefining Genre and Reader Interest

- ∞ Stina Leicht
- ∞ Stephen Donaldson
- ∞ Louisa Morgan

2:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC
 5:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC

**Interstellar
Space**

AUTHOR READING:

- ∞ Andy Duncan
- ∞ P. Andrew Miller
- ∞ Indrapramit Das

4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC
 4:00-2:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC

**Interstellar
Space**

AUTHOR PERFORMANCE:

- ∞ Henry Lien
- ∞ Kenrick Kamiya-Yoshida

BREAK 5:00-6:00PM EST

6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC
 6:00-1:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC

**Deep
Space**

Religious Perspectives on Automated and Artificial Intelligences

Moderator: Vera Benczik
 Eotvos Lorand University

“Golems: The Good, the Bad, and the Surprising: Considering
 Appropriation and Themes of the Jewish Automaton”

Valerie Estelle Frankel
 Mission College & San Jose City College

“Rabbi-Bot, Pastor-Bot and Imam Bot walk into a bar”

Muhammad Aurangzeb Ahmad
 University of Washington

Counter Space	Coffee with Creatives: Author Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Annalee Newitz ∞ Justin Sanders ∞ Kate Johnston
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7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC

7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC

Counter Space	<i>Yemoja's Tears</i> Water Anthologists: Contributors to the Water Project Anthology <i>Yemoja's Tears</i> read and discuss their creative and scholarly contributions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki ∞ James Morrow ∞ AE Fonsworth
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Interstellar Space	Author Discussion: Crafting Middle Grade Fiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ José Pablo Iriarte ∞ Leah Cypess
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9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC

9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC

Counter Space	<i>Yemoja's Tears</i> Water Anthologists: Contributors to the Water Project Anthology <i>Yemoja's Tears</i> discuss their reflections on their creative and scholarly contributions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Tobias Buckell ∞ Eileen Gunn ∞ Ceschino Brooks de Vita
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Interstellar Space	AUTHOR READING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Marie Brennan ∞ Erin Roberts ∞ Rick Wilber
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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

Deep Space	<p>Othering, Alienation, and Conflict Moderator: Brittani Ivan Western Sydney University</p> <p>“The Horde Enters Ukraine: Rhetorical Use of Orcs in the Russo-Ukrainian War” A.J. Rocca Western Illinois University</p> <p>“Maker Culture vs. Algorithmic Alienation in the Verse Epic: The Procedural and the Organic in Renée Sarojini Saklikar’s <i>Bramah’s Quest</i>” James Gifford Fairleigh Dickson University</p>
Interstellar Space	<p>AUTHOR DISCUSSION – Mapping Fantasy and Weaving Tales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∞ Vida Cruz-Borja ∞ Charis Loke

9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC

9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC

Deep Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>
Counter Space	<p>EVENT HORIZON: PLENARY SESSION Guest Scholar Wole Talabi</p>
Interstellar Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>

11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC
11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC

**Deep
Space**

Generative AI: uses and implications

Moderator:

“Literature Scholarship in the Age of AI: Using Python to Study H.G. Wells”

Brian Jukes

University of Hertfordshire

“AI for a Children's Book? The French ‘bande dessinée’ Mathis and the Forest of Possibilities Illustrated by Midjourney”

Manuela Mohr

University of Strasbourg

“Elastic Literacy and Compression Culture: Meaning Making in the wake of ChatGPT”

Haerin Shin

Korea University

BREAK 12:00-1:00PM EST

1:00-2:00pm EST/6:00-7:00pm UTC
1:00-2:00pm EST/6:00-7:00pm UTC

**Deep
Space**

The Fake, the Faithful, the Female, the Fantastic

Moderator: Jenny Bonnevier

Örebro University

“The Black Mermaid: Lore, Memes, and Revolutionary Violence”

Jalondra A. Davis

University of California, Riverside

“The Fake and the Faithful: (De-/Re-)Constructing the Divine in *Mrs. Davis*”

Ildikó Limpár

Pázmány Péter Catholic University

**Interstellar
Space**

AUTHOR READING:

- ∞ Alan Smale
- ∞ Carrie Vaughn
- ∞ Nicola Griffith

BREAK 2:00-4:00PM EST

4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC

4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC

**Deep
Space**

Psychoanalytical Investigations into Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

Moderator: Melanie Marotta
Morgan State University

*"Concepts of Isolation in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*"*

Zarah Hawkins
Morgan State University

"Frankenstein: Needs Not Met Births Destruction"

Tobi Owolabi
Morgan State University

**Interstellar
Space**

AUTHOR READING:

- ∞ Janny Wurts
- ∞ David Sandner
- ∞ Anna Smith Spark

BREAK 5:00-6:00PM EST

6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC
6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC

**Deep
Space**

Gender and Queer Theory

Moderator: Eden Lackner
Independent Scholar

“Why Is It So Queer? Psychoanalytic Queer Theory in Science Fiction Portrayals of Artificial Intelligence”

Bryce King
Independent Scholar

“Playing With(in) Genre: Exploring Adaptation & Gender through Coded Restraints and Fictional Realities in The Wolf Among Us”

Jade Lum
University of Hawaii at Manoa

“Transgender Possibilities in SF: Beyond Medicalization, Identity, and the Trans Body”

WG Pearson
University of Western Ontario

**Counter
Space**

Coffee with Creatives: Author Readings

- ∞ Steven Barnes
- ∞ Mimi Mondal

7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC
7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC

**Interstellar
Space**

AUTHOR READING:

- ∞ David Kopaska-Merkel
- ∞ Marisca Pichette
- ∞ Luis Filipe Silva

9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC
9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC

Counter Space

Roundtable: “Ethical AI in Science Fiction, Public Policy, Space Exploration, and Health”

Moderator: Alexis Brooks de Vita

Special Guests and Science Fiction authors will discuss ethical innovations using Artificial Intelligence to advance public policy, space exploration and health services.

- ∞ Wole Talabi, author of “A Dream of Electric Mothers”
- ∞ Steven Barnes, author of “IRL”
- ∞ Annalee Newitz, author of “When Robot and Crow Saved East St. Louis”
- ∞ Geoffrey A. Landis, author of “The Long Chase”
- ∞ James Morrow, author of “Spinoza’s Golem”

Interstellar Space

fAlcing facts: Authors and AI

As we write code—it is already/always imbued with our values, our cosmology—no neutral code—yet there is resistance to working on ethical/moral issues (Timnit Gebru et.al.) on the part of Google, Meta, and other tech giants. How do we get the technology we want? How do we do Big Data for the People? Join this session for a review of AI’s history, ethical issues, and potential.

- ∞ Jon Evans: Author of EXADELIC from Tor. Journalism has appeared in The Guardian, Wired, Quartz, The Globe & Mail, The Walrus, and (weekly, for a decade) TechCrunch.
- ∞ Andrea Hairston: Author of "Dumb House" in *New Suns* and "Seventh Generations Algorithm" in *Trouble the Waters*. Novel *Archangels of Funk* comes out in May.
- ∞ Melissa Watkins: Author of “Dragonflies” in *midnight&indigo*. Works can be found in *Fantasy Magazine*, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, and *khōréō magazine*.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

Deep Space

Love and Care from Unliving Bodies

Moderator: Haerin Shin

Korea University

“Selfless Servers, Weapons in Waiting: Androids Parenting Human Children in *Raised by Wolves* and *I am Mother*”

Berit Åström and Jenny Bonnevier

Umeå University Örebro University

“Motherly Dolls and Baba Yaga: The Russian ‘Vasilisa the Beautiful’ and Sarah Porter’s ‘Vassa in the Night’”

Martha Hixon

Middle Tennessee State University

“‘There was something very special, but it wasn’t inside Josie’: excess and the erasure of embodiment in Kazuo Ishiguro’s *Klara and the Sun*”

Bipasha Mandal

Independent Scholar

BREAK 9:00-11:00AM EST

11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC

11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC

Counter Space

Blue Beetle and Latinx Traditions of Heroism/Cyberpunk/AI (discussion panel)

Moderator: Ida Yoshinaga

Patrick Brock

University of Oslo/CoFutures Institute

Libby Ginway

University of Florida, and IAFA International Fantastic Division Head

Matthew Godwin
The University of New Mexico

Gustavo Velázquez Lazcano
University of Florida

Karina Vado
Florida Atlantic University

Zac Zimmer
University of California, Santa Cruz

**Interstellar
Space**

AUTHOR READING:

- ∞ Will Ludwigsen
- ∞ Kelly Robson

BREAK 12:00-2:30PM EST

2:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC
2:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC

**Deep
Space**

**Human / Machine Interactions and Artificial Intelligence in the Works of
Science Fiction**

Moderator: Olga Gajek
University of Warsaw

“Human/machine relationships and AI in the works by Olaf Stapledon”

Iren Boyarkina
University of Tuscia

“Human/AI Interactions in the works by Ted Chiang”

Ljudmila Djukic
Independent Scholar

“Human/machine interactions in *Her* (2013) by Spike Jonze”

Davide Persico
University of Naples Federico II

4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC
4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC

Deep Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>
Counter Space	EVENT HORIZON: PLENARY SESSION Guest of Honor Alec Nevala-Lee
Interstellar Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>

BREAK 5:00-6:00PM EST

6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC
6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC

Interstellar Space	Just the Facts: Incorporating Rigor and Research into Fiction ∞ Arula Ratnakar ∞ Michael Swanwick ∞ Mike Allen
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7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC
7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC

Deep Space	Bodies as Fields of Horror Moderator: Miguel Angel Albuja-Escuredo J. Wayne and Elsie M. Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction “The Horror of Hair” Lisa Wood Shenandoah University, Speculative Fiction Academy “Under Construction: Black Bodies, the Singularity, and the AI Apocalypse” Alexandria Nunn
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Independent Scholar

“Poetics and Personification in the Discourse of Cursed A.I. Art and Body Horror”

Steven Holmes

University of Hawaii at Manoa

“The Xenogenesis of Artificial Offspring in Science Fiction-Horror Through the Lens of the Child Monster: A Teratological Approach to Monstrous Progeny and AI”

Keiley Colpoys

Deakin University

**Interstellar
Space**

Author Discussion: Nuts and Bolts of Spinning a Tale

- ∞ Shveta Thakrar
- ∞ Dave Ring

9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC

9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC

**Counter
Space**

Roundtable: “The Intersections of Scientific Inception and Fictional Inspiration”

Science has been inspired and furthered by Science Fictional vision.

Yemoja’s Tears innovators Joshua Ichor and Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki discuss with Special Guests the intersections of vision and possibility.

Co-Hosts: Joshua Ichor and Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki

- ∞ Steven Barnes
- ∞ Annalee Newitz
- ∞ Alec Nevala-Lee
- ∞ Jennifer Rhee
- ∞ Wole Talabi
- ∞ Martha Wells

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

8:00-9:00am EST/1:00PM-2:00pm UTC

Deep Space	What Could Go Wrong? AI Run Amok Moderator: “From Chucky to M3GAN: AI Antagonists and Folklore Futurism” Olga Gajek University of Warsaw “TESCREALism, AI, and the Monsters in the Machine” Andrew Ferguson University of Virginia “What Happens When the Metaverse Gets Out of Hand?” Rachelle Saint Louis Florida Atlantic University
Interstellar Space	AUTHOR READING: ∞ Albert Wendland ∞ Gregory Frost ∞ Stephanie Smith

9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC

9:30-10:30am EST/2:30-3:30pm UTC

Deep Space	Brutal Purification Moderator: “‘The grit that made the pearl’: Peeking Through the Diffractive Layers of Obfuscation in Jeff VandertMeer’s the <i>Southern Reach</i> trilogy” Sheyda Safaeyan University of Arizona “‘After I kill every living thing...I will Join you’: <i>Kingdom: Ashin of the North</i> as a Feminist Zombie Manifesto”
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Li Zeng
Illinois State University

“Empathy and Feminist Violence in Octavia Butler’s Novels and Archival Drafts”

Barbara Simerka
Queens College/CUNY

11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC

11:00-12:00pm EST/4:00-5:00pm UTC

Deep Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>
Counter Space	EVENT HORIZON: ICFA 2024 Preview
Interstellar Space	<i>Proceed toward Event Horizon</i>

BREAK 12:00-2:30PM EST

2:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC

2:30-3:30pm EST/7:30-8:30pm UTC

Interstellar Space | **Author Discussion: Creative Intersections of Modality and Culture**

- ∞ Cecil Castellucci
- ∞ Mari Ness
- ∞ Yilin Wang

4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC
4:00-5:00pm EST/9:00-10:00pm UTC

**Counter
Space**

Human(oids), Hauntings and Horrors - Roundtable

Moderator: Alexis Brooks de Vita

Special Guests and Science Fiction writers discuss the challenges explored when definitions that distinguish the human from the artificially animated may be difficult distinctions to draw, as science advances the limits of the possible into territory not yet defined or regulated by ethics.

- ∞ Martha Wells, author of *The Murderbot Diaries* and “Home: Habitat, Range, Niche, Territory”
<https://www.tor.com/2021/04/19/home-habitat-range-niche-territory-martha-wells/>
- ∞ Alec Nevala-Lee, author of *Astounding: John W. Campbell, Isaac Asimov, Robert A. Heinlein, L. Ron Hubbard, and the Golden Age of Science Fiction* and “The Whale God”
<https://nevalalee.wordpress.com/the-whale-god/>
- ∞ Jennifer Rhee, author of *The Robotic Imaginary: The Human and the Price of Dehumanized Labor* and “How to Prevent a Robopocalypse” <https://www.berfrois.com/2012/03/jennifer-rhee-killer-robots/>
- ∞ Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, co-author of *Between Dystopias: The Road to Afropantheology* and “Destiny Delayed”
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KI0lks1M8xk-zMC-FE3Xl3FsNf8Ce4f9/view?pli=1>
- ∞ Ceschino Brooks de Vita, author of “The Bringer of Light Becomes the Fallen Angel: Sephiroth, Lucifer, and Frankenstein’s Creature” in *The World of Final Fantasy VII* and “Dr. Berenger’s Dogs”
<https://blackfiretiger.com/wtfw/2018/10/27/dr-berengers-dogs>

BREAK 5:00-6:00PM EST

6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC
6:00-7:00pm EST/11:00-12:00am UTC

**Counter
Space**

Coffee with Creatives: Author Readings:

- ∞ Jennifer Rhee
- ∞ Alec Nevala-Lee
- ∞ Tonia Ransom

7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC
7:30-8:30pm EST/12:30-1:30am UTC

**Counter
Space**

Workshop: A Very Human Instinct in Acting

Moderator: Cliff Chapman

- ∞ Dirk Blocker – Actor: *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* (2013–2021), *Poltergeist* (1982); Author - *Master and the Little Monk*
- ∞ Danielle Aubuchon – Actor: *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* (2013), *Trouble in Mind* (1985), *Made in Heaven* (1987)

9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC
9:00-10:00pm EST/2:00-3:00pm UTC

**Counter
Space**

SCIAFA AND BIPOC CAUCUS-HOSTED - FAREWELL SOCIAL

This social is intended for and open to all VICFA presenters and attendees.