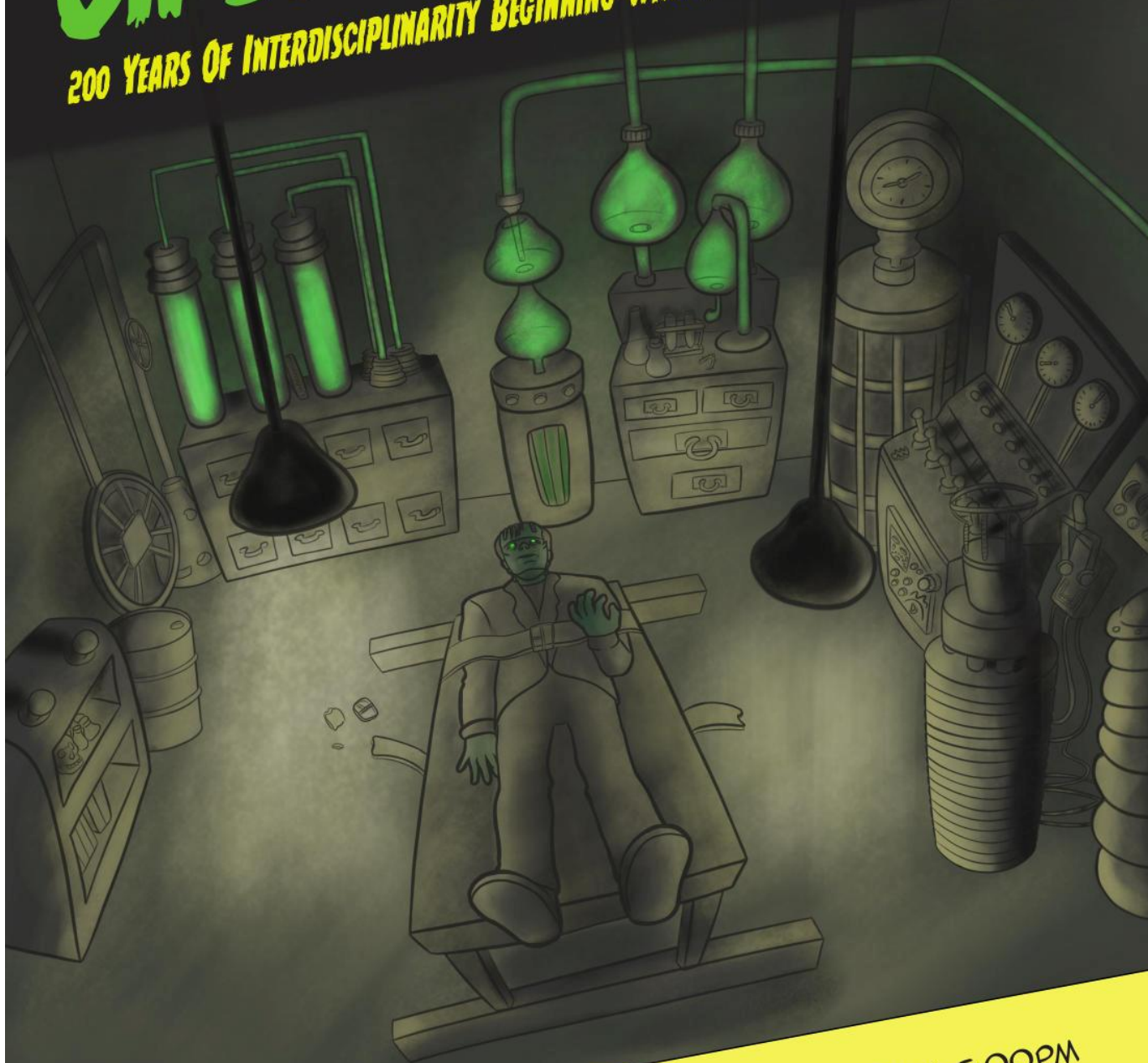


THIRD ANNUAL CITY TECH SYMPOSIUM ON SCIENCE FICTION

200 YEARS OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY BEGINNING WITH MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN



DATE & TIME: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018; 9:00AM-5:00PM
LOCATION: NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
285 JAY ST., A105, BROOKLYN, NY

The Third Annual City Tech Symposium on Science Fiction

200 Years of Interdisciplinarity Beginning with Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018, 9:00am-6:00pm

New York City College of Technology,
CUNY
Academic Complex, Room A105
285 Jay St., Brooklyn, NY 11201

Organizing Committee: Jill Belli, Jason W.
Ellis, Leigh Gold, Lucas Kwong, Robert
Lestón, and A. Lavelle Porter

Hosted by the School of Arts and Sciences.

Event hashtag: #CityTechSF

The kind of literature that came to be known as Science Fiction (SF) owes a tremendous debt to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus* (1818). In addition to being an (if not the) inaugural work of SF, Mary Shelley builds her cautionary tale around interdisciplinary approaches to science, and she takes this innovation further by applying the humanities to question the nature of being in the world, the effects of science on society, and the ethical responsibilities of scientists. These are only some of *Frankenstein's* groundbreaking insights, which as Brian Aldiss and David Wingrove observe in *Trillion Year Spree* (1986), "is marvellously good and inexhaustible in its interest" (20). The many dimensions of interdisciplinarity in *Frankenstein* and the SF that followed are the focus of the Third Annual City Tech Science Fiction Symposium.

Schedule

9:00am-9:20am

Continental Breakfast and Opening Remarks
Location: Academic Complex A105
Justin Vazquez-Poritz, Dean of the School
of Arts and Sciences, New York City
College of Technology
Jason W. Ellis, New York City College of
Technology

9:20am-10:35am

Session 1: Affect and Experimentation
Location: Academic Complex A105
Moderator: Jason W. Ellis
Leigh Gold, "The Legacy of Frankenstein:
Science, Mourning, and the Ethics of
Experimentation"
Lucas Kwong, "*The Island Of Dr. Moreau*,
Fantastic Ambivalence, and the
Victorian "Science Of Religion"
Robert Lestón, "Between Intervals: A
Soundscape for all Us Monsters"

10:35am-10:45am

Break

10:45am-12:00am

Session 2: Identity and Genre
Location: Academic Complex A105
Moderator: Jill Belli
Anastasia Klimchynskaya, "Frankenstein,
Or, the Modern Fantastic:
Rationalizing Wonder and the Birth
of Science Fiction"
Paul Levinson, "Golem, Frankenstein, and
Westworld"
Joy Sanchez-Taylor, "Genetic Engineering
and non-Western Modernity in Paolo
Bacigalupi's *The Windup Girl* and
Larissa Lai's *Salt Fish Girl*"

12:00am-1:15pm

Lunch

1:15pm-2:30pm

Session 3: American Culture and Media

Location: Academic Complex A105

Moderator: A. Lavelle Porter

Aaron Barlow, “*Fraunkesteen*: What's No Longer Scary Becomes Funny or, How American Popular Culture Appropriates Art and Expands the Commons”

Marleen S. Barr, “Trumppunk Or Science Fiction Resists the Monster Inhabiting the White House”

Sharon Packer, “*Jessica Jones* (Superhero), Women & Alcohol Use Disorders”

2:30pm-2:40pm

Break

2:40pm-3:40pm

Student Round Table: “Shaping the Future: A Student Roundtable on Octavia Butler’s *Parable of the Sower*”

Location: Academic Complex A105

Moderator: A. Lavelle Porter

Panelists: Zawad Ahmed
Marvin Blain
Kartikye Ghai
Devinnessha Ryan

3:40pm-3:50pm

Break

4:00pm-4:50pm

Frankenstein Panel: Mary Shelley’s Novel’s Influence on Scientists and Technologists

Location: Academic Complex A105

Moderator: Justin Vazquez-Poritz

Panelists:

Heidi Boisvert, Entertainment Technology Department

Robert MacDougall, Social Sciences Department

Ashwin Satyanarayana, Computer Systems Technology Department

Jeremy Seto, Biological Sciences Department

4:50pm-5:00pm

Break/Relocate to Library

5:00pm-6:00pm

Closing Remarks and Tour of the City Tech Science Fiction Collection

Location: City Tech Library L543

Jason W. Ellis

Symposium Participants & Contributors

Aaron Barlow teaches English at New York City College of Technology (CUNY).

Marleen S. Barr is known for her pioneering work in feminist science fiction and teaches English at the City University of New York. She has won the Science Fiction Research Association Pilgrim Award for lifetime achievement in science fiction criticism. Barr is the author of *Alien to Femininity: Speculative Fiction and Feminist Theory*, *Lost in Space: Probing Feminist Science Fiction and Beyond*, *Feminist Fabulation: Space/Postmodern Fiction*, and *Genre Fission: A New Discourse Practice for Cultural Studies*. Barr has edited many anthologies and co-edited the science fiction issue of PMLA. She is the author of the novels *Oy Pioneer!* and *Oy Feminist Planets: A Fake Memoir*. Her latest publication is *When Trump Changed*, the first single authored short story collection about Trump.

Jill Belli, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of English and Co-Director of the OpenLab, the college’s open-source digital platform for teaching, learning, and collaborating. Jill teaches and researches utopian studies and science fiction, and she serves on the Steering Committee and as the web developer for the Society for Utopian Studies. She is currently working

on a book about happiness and well-being in education.

Heidi Boisvert (PhD) is a new media artist, experience designer, creative technologist, researcher and writer who creates groundbreaking games, web interactive, virtual/augmented reality and transmedia storytelling experiences for social change, as well as large-scale networked performances in dance and theatre using biocreative technology.

Julie Bradford designed the symposium's Frankenstein-themed poster. She is a BFA in Communication Design Management student at City Tech who has a strong background in illustration. When she is not distracted by cute and shiny things or busy drawing up comic adventures with her *Pokemon Go* buddies, she is focused on her schoolwork and catching up on her shows. While completing her BFA, she is working as a graphic design intern for City Tech's Faculty Commons. Her online portfolio is available here: www.behance.net/juliebradf2a85.

Jason W. Ellis is an Assistant Professor of English at the New York City College of Technology, CUNY.

Leigh Dara Gold received her doctorate in German Literature in 2011 from New York University. She teaches Introduction to Poetry and English 1121 at New York City College of Technology, and Ancient Literature and Composition at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Her current research interests include science fiction's role in the classroom, research on Ursula K. Le Guin, and connections between dance, literature, and philosophy.

Anastasia Klimchynskaya is a doctoral candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently working on a dissertation on the emergence of science fiction in the 19th century, which she situates in the context of earlier genres as well as the period's discourses around scientific and technological novelty. Her other intellectual interests include the mechanisms through which science fiction becomes science fact, literature as political engagement, and the cultural history of AI. She is also on the organizing committee of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference (Philcon), and a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Science Fiction*.

Lucas Kwong is an assistant professor of English at New York City College of Technology, where he has recently served as the coordinator for the Literary Arts Festival Writing Competitions. His scholarship

includes the article "Dracula's Apologetics of Progress," published in a 2016 issue of *Victorian Literature and Culture*, as well as a forthcoming article on H.P. Lovecraft's "The Call of Cthulhu" for *Journal of Narrative Theory*. His current research project examines how late Victorian fantastic fiction reimagined the era's fascination with religious difference. He also serves as the assistant editor for *New American Notes Online* (www.nanocrit.com) and *City Tech Writer* (openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/citytechwriter), a journal of student writing.

Robert Lestón's research includes studies in the avant garde arts of sound, image, film, and continental philosophy as they apply to expanding the scope of rhetorical invention. His work has appeared in *Itineration*, *Kairos*, *Configurations*, *Enculturation*, *Atlantic Journal of Communication*, and other venues. He is also coauthor of *Beyond the Blogosphere: Information and Its Children* (2012) with Aaron Barlow.

Paul Levinson, PhD, is Professor of Communication & Media Studies at Fordham University in NYC. His science fiction novels include *The Silk Code* (winner of Locus Award for Best First Science Fiction Novel of 1999), *Borrowed Tides* (2001), *The Consciousness Plague* (2002), *The Pixel Eye* (2003), *The Plot To Save Socrates* (2006), *Unburning Alexandria* (2013), and *Chronica* (2014). His stories and novels have been nominated for Hugo, Nebula, Sturgeon, Edgar, Prometheus, and Audie Awards. His novelette "The Chronology Protection Case" was made into short movie, now on Amazon Prime. His nonfiction books, including *The Soft Edge* (1997), *Digital McLuhan* (1999), *Realspace* (2003), *Cellphone* (2004), *New New Media* (2009; 2nd edition, 2012), *McLuhan in an Age of Social Media* (2015), and *Fake News in Real Context* (2016), have been translated into twelve languages. He co-edited *Touching the Face of the Cosmos: On the Intersection of Space Travel and Religion* in 2016. He appears on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, the Discovery Channel, National Geographic, the History Channel, NPR, and numerous TV and radio programs. His 1972 LP, *Twice Upon a Rhyme*, was re-issued in 2010. He was President of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, 1998-2001. He reviews television in his InfiniteRegress.tv blog and was listed in The Chronicle of Higher Education's "Top 10 Academic Twitterers" in 2009.

Robert MacDougall is an Assistant Professor in Philosophy at City Tech.

Sharon Packer, MD is a physician and psychiatrist who is in private practice and is Assistant Clinical Professor at Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai. She is the author of several books that link science, psychiatry and the humanities, including *Neuroscience in Science Fiction Film, Cinema's Sinister Psychiatrists, Movies and the Modern Psyche, Superheroes & Superegos: the Minds behind the Masks; Dreams in Myth, Medicine & Movies*. She edited two multi-volume books on *Evil in American Popular Culture* and *Mental Illness in Popular Culture*. She writes regular articles on "Why Psychiatrists are Physicians First" for *Psychiatric Times*.

A. Lavelle Porter is an Assistant Professor of English at New York City College of Technology. He holds a B.A. in history from Morehouse College and a Ph.D. in English from the CUNY Graduate Center. His writing has appeared in venues such as *The GC Advocate, Callaloo, The New Inquiry, Poetry Foundation*, and the *African American Intellectual History Society*. He is currently working on a book about representations of black higher education in popular culture.

Ashwin Satyanarayana is currently an Associate Professor with the Department of Computer Systems Technology, New York City College of Technology (CUNY). Prior to this, Dr. Satyanarayana was a Research Scientist at Microsoft in Seattle from 2006 to 2012, where he worked on several Big Data problems including Query Reformulation on Microsoft's search engine Bing. He holds a PhD in Computer Science from SUNY, with particular emphasis on Data Mining and Big data analytics. He is an author or co-author of over 25 peer reviewed journal and conference publications and co-authored a textbook – "Essential Aspects of Physical Design and Implementation of Relational Databases." He has four patents in the area of Search Engine research. He is also a recipient of the Math Olympiad Award, and is currently serving as Chair Elect of the ASEE (American Society of Engineering Education) Mid-Atlantic Conference. He also serves as an NSF (National Science Foundation) panelist.

Joy Sanchez-Taylor is an Associate Professor of English at LaGuardia Community College whose research specialty is science fiction and fantasy literature by authors of color. She has published articles in *Science Fiction Studies, Extrapolation* and *The Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*. Currently, she is working on a book project titled *Diverse Futures: Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Writers of Color*.

Jeremy Seto is an Assistant Professor in Biological Sciences at City Tech.

Justin Vazquez-Poritz is the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at City Tech.

Special Thanks

Complementary magazines donated by *Analog Science Fiction and Fact*. For more information about the magazine and subscriptions, visit www.analogsf.com.

Complementary passes donated by The Morgan Library & Museum. Enjoy the exhibition *It's Alive! Frankenstein at 200* through 27 Jan. 2019. For more information, visit themorgan.org.

Invaluable support from Dean Justin Vazquez-Poritz and Office Assistant Iva Williams.

Tremendous assistance from the Faculty Commons: Director Julia Jordan, Design Intern Julie Bradford, and the rest of the team.