

THEORETICAL AND ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVES ON AMERICAN SPECULATIVE FICTION

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Purpose:

The resources below contain technical, critical, and theoretical observations on texts, technology, and speculative fiction. I aim to reconcile the content discussion in my secondary examination more closely here with the theoretical and academic perspectives on American spec. fic.

Research Questions:

- How does speculative fiction operate as an expressive mechanism for understanding humanity's complicated relationship to science and technology?
- Which critical/theoretical modes offer the most productive means for interrogating speculative fiction?

Potential Themes:

- Communication theory, from telegram to twitter
- The human condition and alienation
- Embodiment (posthumanism, avatar emergency, A.I.)
- Identity (learning, voice, persona) in the midst of a paradigm shift (Kuhn)
- Systemic hegemony (sci-fi and our understanding of social and political power systems)
- Critical theory in speculative fiction (Marxism, surrealism, and psychoanalysis and their manifestations in spec. fic.)

List (theory and scholarship)

1. Balsamo, Anne. *Technologies of the Gendered Body: Reading Cyborg Women*.
2. Bailey, Dale. *American Nightmares: The Haunted House Formula in American Popular Fiction*.
3. Clover, Carol. *Men, Women, and Chainsaws: Gender in the Modern Horror Film*.
4. Dinelo, Daniel. [Technophobia! Science Fiction Visions of Posthuman Technology](#).
5. Freedman, Carl. *Critical Theory and Science Fiction*.
6. [Future Tech](#) on Forbes.com.
7. Harms, Daniel. *The Cthulhu Mythos Encyclopedia*.
8. Hayles, N. Katherine. *How We Think: Digital Media and Technogenesis*. UChicago Press, 2011.
9. Huesseman, Michael and Joyce. *Techno-Fix: Why technology won't save us or the environment*, 2011.
10. James and Mendlesohn. *The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction*.
11. Joshi and Schulz. *An H.P. Lovecraft Encyclopedia*.
12. Kaplan, Matt. *Medusa's Gaze and Vampire's Bite: The Science of Monsters*.
13. King, Stephen. *Danse Macabre*.
14. ---. *Secret Windows: Essays and Fiction on the Craft of Writing*.
15. McLarty, Lianne. "Beyond the Veil of the Flesh": Cronenberg and the Disembodiment of Horror." *The Dread of Difference*. UTexas Press, 1996.

16. McLuhan, Marshall. "Automation." *Understanding Media*, 1964.
17. *Nightmare Magazine*. [The H-Word](#) column.
18. Poole, W. Scott. *Monsters in America: Our Historical Obsession with the Hideous and the Haunting*.
19. Seed, David. *Science Fiction: A Very Short Introduction*.
20. [SF Signal](#).
21. Sobchack, Vivian. *Screening Space: The American Science Fiction Film*.
22. Thacker, Eugene. *In the Dust of this Planet: Horror of Philosophy*.
23. Tomlinson, Bill. *Greening through IT*, 2010.
24. Turkle, Sherry. *Alone Together*.
25. VanderMeer, Ann and Jeff. *The Weird*. TOR, 2011.