

The World As It Could Be

Speculative Fiction from around the World

2023 ORIAS Summer Institute

In preparing for this program I interviewed program speakers and other scholars to ask about approaches to teaching speculative fictions and recommendations of books, short stories, articles, films, and other resources that could be used to teach speculative fiction in a variety of classroom situations. During the program, participants were asked to share their own recommendations from the world of speculative fiction. This list aggregates all those recommendations. There are MANY possible options beyond those listed below.

Program speakers: Martha Kenney (San Francisco State University), Mary Anne Mohanraj (University of Illinois at Chicago), Fabrice Guerrier (Syllble), Cheryl Ntuny and Ikechukwu Nwaogu (Sauúti Writers Collective), Azucena Castro (Stanford University), Sang Keun Yoo (University of San Diego), and Sibelan Forrester (Swarthmore College)

Additional Scholars Consulted: Arielle Saber (Johns Hopkins University), Kathleen Snyder, Vikram Chandra, Kevin Michael Smith, and Juan Berumen (UC Berkeley)

Readings and Resources

Please note: This list has NOT been fully vetted for classroom use. Teachers should preview ALL readings and resources for appropriateness in their own classroom context before using them.

To find film/TV viewing services, search *JustWatch* (<https://www.justwatch.com/>)

General SF Resources

Stories & Criticism

- [Website for Arielle Saber's "World Science Fiction"](#) course - includes extensive book, short story, article, film, and reference resources
- Ward Shelley, [The History of Science Fiction, version 1](#), infographic showing the origins and sub-genres within science fiction (2011)

- [Tor.com](#) online magazine featuring science fiction and fantasy stories, reviews, and more
- [Clarkesworld Magazine](#) (+podcast)
- [Encyclopedia of Science Fiction](#) website
- [Extrapolation](#) (journal)
- [International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts](#)
- [Internet Speculative Fiction Database](#)
- [Science Fiction Studies](#) (journal)
- [Speculative Fiction in Translation](#) website
- [Speculative Literature Foundation](#) (including the [Portolan Project](#))
- [Strange Horizons](#) online weekly magazine of Speculative Fiction
- [Syllble](#)
- [Uncanny Magazine](#) (+podcast)

Books & Articles

In no particular order...

- Rachel Cordasco, "[The Best in Translated Speculative Fiction of 2018 \(So Far\) And Some More to Look Forward To...](#)" from *LitHub* (2018)
- Lavie Tidhar, "[Celebrating International Speculative Fiction: Lavie Tidhar on The Best of World SF Anthology](#)" (2020)
- Jason Sanford, "[A Truly Global SF/F Genre Must Recognize the Financial Barriers Faced by Many International Authors and Creatives](#)" (2021)
- Alexandra Pierce and Mimi Mondal, eds. [Luminescent Threads: Connections to Octavia Butler](#) (2017)
- Robin D. G. Kelley, [Freedom Dreams: the Black Radical Imagination](#) (2002)
- Saidiya Hartman, [Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Riotous Black Girls, Troublesome Women, and Queer Radicals](#) (2019)
- Julian Hanna, "[Manifestos: A Manifesto](#)" in *The Atlantic* (2014)

- ["Op-Eds From the Future"](#) in *The New York Times*
- Mimi Mondal, ["Imagining 2019: The system isn't warped, the system is us"](#) in *Hindustan Times* (2019)
- Vandana Singh, ["A Speculative Manifesto"](#) on *Antariksh Yatra* (originally in *The Woman Who Thought She Was a Planet*, 2008)
- Elizabeth Weil, ["You Are Not a Parrot"](#) in *New York Magazine*
- Ted Chiang, ["ChatGPT Is a Blurry JPEG of the Web"](#) from *The New Yorker* (2023)
- David Columbia, ["ChatGPT Should Not Exist"](#) from *Medium* (2023)
- Henry Farrell, ["Seeing Like a Finite State Machine"](#) from *Crooked Timber* (2019)
- Jim Dator, ["Alternative Futures at the Manoa School"](#) in *Journal of Future Studies* (2009)
- Leah Zaidi, ["Worldbuilding in Science Fiction, Foresight and Design"](#) in *Journal of Future Studies* (2019)
- Marcus Bussey and Jacques Barcia, ["Marginalia and the ethnosphere"](#) in *TEXT* (2018)
- John Scalzi, ["Mary Anne Mohanraj Gets You Up to Speed, Part I"](#) and ["Mary Anne Mohanraj Gets You Up to Speed, Part II"](#) (2009)
- N.K. Jemisin, ["Why I Think RaceFail Was The Bestest Thing Ever for SFF"](#) (2010)
- [The WisCon Chronicles](#) (various editors, 2007+)
- Mary Anne Mohanraj, ["Towards a More Welcoming War"](#) via *Medium* (2016)

Film, Video, Other

- [Coded Bias](#) (film, Shalini Kantayya, 2020)
- Algorithmic Justice League, ["Drag vs. AI"](#) workshop
- Robin D. G. Kelley, [Robin D.G. Kelley — Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination](#), (talk at Politics and Prose, 2022)
- RPMfm, ["Indigenous Futurisms Mixtape"](#) music playlist (2015)
- *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* (beginning 2022)

- *Star Trek: Picard* (2020 - 2023)
- [Underground Resistance](#)
- [Sorry to Bother You](#) (film, Boots Riley, 2018)
- *Firefly* (TV series, Joss Whedon, 2002)
- *Moongirl* (comic & character, created by Amy Reeder-Hadley, Brandon Montclare and Natacha Bustos, 2016)
- [Love, Death + Robots](#) (TV series, Tim Miller, David Fincher, Jennifer Miller, Josh Donen, 2019)
- [Otherwise Award: An award encouraging the exploration & expansion of gender](#)
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Region-specific SF Resources

These regional resources include books, stories, articles, and films written by authors within each region or in diasporic communities.

Africa

- *Africa Risen: A New Era of Speculative Fiction* by Sheree Renée Thomas, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, and Zelda Knight
- [Omenana Speculative Fiction Magazine](#) on Patreon
- Ikechukwu (Eye Kay) Nwaogu, "Anna"
- [Mothersound: the Sauutiverse Anthology](#) by the Sauúti Collective, available Fall 2023
- 'Pemi Aguda, "[Masquerade Season](#)" from Tor.com (2021)
- Somto Ihezue, "[Like the Stars Daring to Shine](#)" from Fireside Fiction (2022)
- Tendai Huchu, *The Library of the Dead (Edinburgh Nights, Book 1)* (2021) *note: there is a lot of profanity in this novel.
- Nnedi Okorafor, *Akata Witch (The Nsibidi Scripts)* (2011)
- Nnedi Okorafor, "[From the Lost Diary of Treefrog7](#)" in Clarkesworld (2009)

- Nnedi Okorafor all titles
- [Pumzi](#) (film, Wanuri Kahiu, 2010)
- Sheree R. Thomas, [Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction from the African Diaspora](#) (2014)
- Wangechi Mutu, all work (Kenyan artist)
- Akwaeke Amezi, [Pet](#) (2019)
- ["Imagining Abolition: Dr. Kwame Holmes discusses Akwaeke Emezi's novel 'Pet'"](#) (video, via UC Boulder's Department of Women and Gender Studies)
- [Africa Access & Children's Africana Book Award](#) book reviews, awards, some teaching materials for Africa-focused children's and YA books (including some speculative fiction)

East Asia

- Bong Joon-ho, [Okja](#) in Netflix (2017)
- Ted Chiang, *Stories of Your Life and Others* (2002)
- Ted Chiang, *Exhalation: Stories* (2019)
- Han Song, "[Chinese Science Fiction: A Response to Modernization](#)" (2013)
- Ryo Hanmura, "[Cardboard Box](#)" in *The Best Japanese Science Fiction Stories* (1989)
- Hao Jinfeng, "[Folding Beijing](#)" in *Uncanny Magazine* (2015)
- Kim Bo-Young, *I'm Waiting for You: And Other Stories* (2021)
- Sakyo Komatsu, "[Take Your Choice](#)" in *The Best Japanese Science Fiction Stories* (1989)
- Cixin Liu, [The Wandering Earth](#) (2000)
- Ken Liu, *The Paper Menagerie and Other Stories* (2016)
- Ken Liu's "[The Paper Menagerie](#)" [read aloud](#) via LeVar Burton Reads
- Ken Liu, *The Hidden Girl and Other Stories* (2020) and related TV series, *Pantheon* (2022)

- Ken Liu, multiple titles
- Yōko Ogawa, [The Memory Police](#) (1994)
- Park Eun-kyo and Choi Hang-yong, [The Silent Sea](#) in Netflix (2021)
- Sunyoung Park, "[Decolonizing the Future](#)" in *Routledge Handbook of Modern Korean Literature* (2020)
- David S. Roh et al., eds., *Techno-Orientalism: Imagining Asia in Speculative Fiction, History, and Media* (2015)
- Xia Jia, "[What Makes Chinese Science Fiction Chinese?](#)" on *Tor.com*
- Cixin Liu, [Three Body Problem](#) (book trilogy, 2008)
- [Three Body Problem](#) (TV, 30-episode series produced in China) available on viki.com
- [The Place Promised in Our Early Days](#) (film, Makoto Shinkai, 2004)
- [Weathering With You](#) (film, Makoto Shinkai, 2019)
 - Seaver Wang, "[Weathering With You: The Big Climate Film of 2019 That Most People Missed Completely](#)" (2020)
- *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* [manga](#) & [film](#) (Hayao Miyazaki, 1982/1984)
- [Everything Everywhere All at Once](#) (film, Daniel Kwan & Daniel Schweinert, 2022)
- [Freeman Book Award](#) book awards, reviews, teaching materials for East Asia and Southeast Asia-focused childrens' and YA books (including some speculative fiction).

Eastern Europe/Russia

- [Syllabus for Sibelan Forrester's "Russian and East European Science Fiction" class](#), featuring works in translation.
- [Additional resources from Sibelan Forrester's class page](#).
- Evgeny Zamyatin (1884-1937):
 - His 1920 novel *We* is anti-utopian the pre-text of Huxley's *Brave New World* and Orwell's *1984*. It could not be published under Bolshevik rule in the new USSR, and it first appeared in English translation in 1924.

- Karel Čapek (1890-1938):
 - The play *R.U.R.* (Rossum's Universal Robots, 1920) introduced the word "robot" and was performed all over the world
 - The (longish and very funny) satirical novel *War with the Newts* (1936) has some content that might be sensitive for discussion with young readers but is also readable as a powerful climate change novel
- Mikhail Bulgakov (1891-1940):
 - Bulgakov is best known for his brilliant novel *The Master and Margarita*, now available in multiple translations into English, and for his *Young Doctor's Notebook* (not long ago adapted for British TV with Daniel Radcliffe playing a role!), but his long short stories "The Fatal Eggs" (1925) and "Heart of a Dog" (written 1925, first published in the USSR in 1987!) are fascinating works of near-future SF.
- Stanisław Lem (1921-2006):
 - He wrote a ton of stories and novels, including:
 - *Tales of Pirx the Pilot* (1966) – these short stories were on the list of required readings for Polish schoolchildren
 - *Solaris* (1961) – the basis of Andrei Tarkovsky's 1972 film
 - *Cyberiad* (1965) – Very funny stories about two "constructors" who turn out to be robots themselves, set in a universe with fairy-tale characteristics
- Translator Mirra Ginsburg (1909-2000) edited and translated three collections of Russophone SF stories – including Olga Larionova's "Temira," a rare example of a SF story by a Soviet Russophone woman that is available in English. Anything Ginsburg translated (including some of Isaac Bashevis Singer's early stories, from Yiddish) is worth a look.
- Oles Berdnyk, [Apostle of Immortality: Ukrainian Science Fiction](#) (1984)

Latin America

- Federico Schaffler, "A Miscalculation" in [Cosmos Latinos: An Anthology of Science Fiction from Latin America and Spain](#) (2003)
- Gabriel Perez-Barreiro: ["Latitude 0°08'79.1": Latin American Artists and Science Fiction](#) lecture filmed at Bowdoin College (2015)
- [Nalo Hopkinson](#), multiple titles

- [Americas Award](#) book awards, reviews, teaching materials for Latin America-focused childrens' and YA books (including some speculative fiction).

Middle East

- Basma Abdel Aziz, [The Queue](#) (2016)
- Ahmad Saadawi, [Frankenstein in Baghdad](#) (2018)
- Ahmed Khaled Towfik, [Utopia](#) (2013) - link leads to review in *Bidoun*
- [The Antenna](#) (film, Orçun Behram, Turkey, 2019)
- [In the Future They Ate from the Finest Porcelain](#) (film, Larissa Sansour, United Kingdom, 2016)
- Saleem Haddad, "Song of the Birds" in [Palestine+100: stories from a century after the Nakba](#) (2019)
- [Middle East Book Award](#) book awards for Middle East-focused childrens' and YA books (including some speculative fiction).

South Asia

- Mimi Mondal, "[A Short History of South Asian Speculative Fiction: Part I](#)" (2018)
- Mimi Mondal, "[A Short History of South Asian Speculative Fiction: Part II](#)" (2018)
- [Mary Anne Mohanraj website](#) (including books and links to her other projects)
- "[South Asian Literature Bibliographies](#)" on *DesiLit*
- Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, "[Sultana's Dream](#)" originally in *Indian Ladies' Magazine* (1905)
- S.B. Divya, [Contingency Plans for the Apocalypse and Other Possible Situations](#) (2019)
- Vandana Singh, "[Delhi](#)" in *Lightspeed Magazine* (2016)
- Yudhanjaya Wijeratne, "[The Writing Contest](#)" in *Future Visions: Volume I* (2018)
- S.B Divya, [Meru](#) (2023)
- [South Asia Book Award](#) book awards, reviews, teaching materials for South Asia-focused childrens' and YA books (including some speculative fiction).

Southeast Asia

- ["Defying Classification: An Introduction to Southeast Asian Speculative Fiction"](#) by Victor Fernando R. Ocampo, on *LitHub*
- ["A Spicepunk Manifesto: Towards a Critical Movement of Southeast Asian Heritage-Based SF"](#) by Ng Yi-Sheng in *Strange Horizons*
- Vina Jie-Min Prasad, ["A Series of Steaks"](#) in *Clarkesworld* (2017)
- [The Halt](#) (film, Lav Diaz, Philippines, 2019)
- [Krabi, 2562](#) (film, Ben Rivers and Anocha Suwichakornpong, Thailand, 2019)
- [The Tree House](#) (film, Truong Minh Quý, Vietnam, 2019)

Western Europe

- Tor Åge Bringsværd (Norwegian speculative fiction author), multiple books
- [The Girl With All The Gifts](#) (film, Colm McCarthy, 2016)
- *Tank Girl* (comic and film, Rachel Talalay, 1995)
- [Black Mirror](#) (TV series, Charlie Brooker, 2011)

Other

These authors are based in the US/Canada/Australia/Oceania OR are not clearly situated in any single region.

- Kazuo Ishiguro, [Klara and the Sun](#) (2022)
- Ursula K. Le Guin, ["The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"](#) originally in *The Wind's Twelve Quarters* (1973)
- N.K. Jemisin, ["The Ones Who Stay and Fight"](#) in *Lightspeed Magazine* (originally in *How Long Til Black Future Month*, 2018)
- [Donna Haraway: Storytelling for Earthly Survival](#) (documentary, Fabrizio Terranova, 2016)
- Cory Doctorow, ["Affordances"](#) in *Slate* (2019)
- Sam J. Miller, ["Death and Other Gentrifying Neighborhoods"](#) on *Vice*

- Domenica Phetteplace, ["One Thousand Beetles in a Jumpsuit"](#) in *Lightspeed Magazine*
- Karl Schroeder, ["The Suicide of Our Troubles"](#) in *Slate* (2020)
- Allison Croggon, *The Naming: The First Book of Pellinor* (2006)
- Kurt Vonnegut, ["2BR02B"](#) in *If: Worlds of Science Fiction* (1962) via Project Gutenberg
- Kurt Vonnegut, multiple titles
- Ursula K. LeGuin, "The Wife's Story" in *The Compass Rose* (1982)
- Octavia Butler, multiple titles
- Robert J. Sawyer, [Far-Seer](#) (1992)
- Kim Stanley Robinson, [The Ministry for the Future](#), 2020
- N. K Jemisin, multiple titles
- Marge Piercy, [Woman on the Edge of Time](#) (1976)
- Isaac Asimov, *Foundation* series (first book 1951; TV series, Goyer and Friedman, 2021)
- Corey Ann Haydu, [Eventown](#) (2019)
- Cherie Dimaline, [The Marrow Thieves](#) (2017)
- William Gibson, [Neuromancer](#) (1984)
- William Gibson, multiple titles
- Ann Leckie, [Ancillary Justice: Book 1 of the Imperials Radch series](#) (2013)
- Becky Chambers, multiple titles
- [Whose Streets](#) (film, Sabaah Folayan and Damon Davis, 2020)
- Ling Ma, [Severance](#) (2019)
- Scott Gable and C. Dombrowski, [Whether Change: The Revolution Will Be Weird](#) (2021)

Climate-focused resources

Books/Stories

- [*Solarpunk Magazine*](#)
- Gerson Lodi-Ribiero, ed. [*Solarpunk: Ecological and Fantastical Stories in a Sustainable World*](#) (2018)
- A.C. Wise, et al, [*Sunvault: Stories of Solarpunk and Eco-Speculation*](#) (2017)
- Christopher Rupprecht, Deborah Cleland, Norie Tamura, Rajat Chaudhuri, Sarena Ulibarri, eds. [*Multispecies Cities: Solarpunk Urban Futures*](#) (2021)
- Manjana Milkoreit, Meredith Martinez, Joey Eschrich, eds. [*Everything Change: An Anthology of Climate Fiction*](#) (2016)
- Joey Eschrich and Clark A. Miller, eds., [*The Weight of Light: A Collection of Solar Futures*](#) (2019)
- Joey Eschrich and Clark A. Miller, eds., [*Cities of Light: A Collection of Solar Futures*](#) (2021)
- Amitav Ghosh, [*The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*](#) (2016)
- Francesco Verso, [*The Roamers*](#) (2023)
- Multiple authors, [*A Dying Planet: Short Stories*](#) (2020)
- Brian Wood (writer), Kristian Donaldson (penciller), Garry Brown (artist), [*The Massive*](#) (2019)

Articles

- Adam Flynn, [“Solarpunk: Notes toward a manifesto”](#) in *Hieroglyph* (2014)
- Justine Norton-Kertson, [“The Solarpunk Future: Five Essential Works of Climate-Forward Fiction”](#) on *Tor.com* (2021)
- Stacey Balkan, [“Can Solarpunk Save the World?”](#) on Public Books (2022)
- Chris Mooney, Naema Ahmed and John Muyskens, [“We looked at 1,200 possibilities for the planet's future. These are our best hope.”](#) *Washington Post* (2022)

Other

- ["Episode 84: Sarena Ulibarri and Ed Finn on Solarpunk"](#) from *How Do You Like It So Far?* Podcast