

Workshop

Future Presents: Futurological Congress of the Neological Institute

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This 3hr workshop will engage participants of the “Complexity and change” conference in creative writing exercises based on the issues discussed during the event and their notes of the sessions and exchanges. It draws on the reality-making power of language to challenge them to move from the insights they have gleaned during the event to explore, through linguistic play and story-telling, creative ways of resisting obsolescence, preserving extinguishing realities, re-existing through the unfolding Fourth Industrial Revolution, Holocene extinction, climate crisis, and (post-)pandemic. As researchers of the “Neological Institute”, participating in a “Futurology Congress”, they will be involved in wor(l)d-designing tasks and new Lifestories for the future.

It is inspired by the use of language as an instrument to redress the present and mould the future into being, notably in the speculative fiction of Stanisław Lem – particularly his use of new words (neologisms) to actualise hypothetical futures in his fictional works in line with his philosophy of science – and in Charles Bernstein’s experimental poetry, engaging with scientific developments and what he calls “pataqueric” writing.