



Letter from the Editor

The past year has presented unprecedented challenges for people across the world. From the public health and governance issues raised by COVID to the social and racial issues that have reached a fever pitch—particularly in America—unrest and discomfort have become the “new normal” for far too many. As we face loosening COVID restrictions in advance of summer, many are anxiously anticipating a return to old habits (both good and bad). While a return to the crucial social interactions that define the human experience may be a welcome reprieve, for instance, such a long period inside has also inspired many towards the pursuit of much less sustainable goals.

This issue of the MOSF *Journal of Science Fiction* explores a variety of topics, but begins and ends on notes of environmental reflection. In part continuing the discussion from our first issue of last year, the Environmental Science Fiction special issue (V4N1), the articles in this issue look both to our world and others—those worlds created by SF authors—that may shed light on our habits and the problems we have yet to face. Beginning with a reflection on the science fiction disaster films’ effect on real attitudes towards climate change, Isabella Hermann explores varying tropes within dystopic environmental SF and debates their varying educational and entertainment values.

The issue then moves toward the issues of gender and sexuality as Race MoChridhe explores lesbian resistance and anti-feminism in Annalinde Matichei’s *Flight of the Silver Vixen* and Kristine Larsen offers an analysis of the problematic representation of female scientists in the filmic adaptations of Michael Crichton’s work.

Transitioning to the realm of metaphysics and metanarrative, Eduardo Santiago Ruiz charts the evolution of insignificance and cosmic solitude in the scientific and science fictional imaginaries, and Juliette Bessette explores the Independent Group’s extratextual production of science fiction art and artifacts.

Lastly, the issue returns to questions of land, belonging, dispossession, and environmentalism as Sandra Cox explores representations and readings

of indigeneity in the works of Rebecca Roanhorse and Cherie Dimaline. The issue concludes with Hans-Georg Erney’s reading of Liu Cixin’s *The Three-Body Problem* and its implications as a reflection of Chinese environmental concerns.

Together, these articles underscore the important work that science fiction has done thus far to construct our social and sometimes political attitudes towards the future. Even more crucially at our current moment, they reflect on what science fiction still has to offer—reflections on the things that make us different, the fundamental ways in which we are all one species, and the questions and crises will we face whether united or divided.

- Aisha Matthews
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