

SPECIAL EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Thursday, May 8, 6:00–7:45 pm @Turnus Cafe

Weird Methods Workshop

Alison Sperling, Agnieszka Kotwasińska

“Weird Methods” is a 2-hour workshop that aims to weird our relation to text, knowledge, and the various institutions in which we are situated. The session will consider weird reading practices and experimental, collaborative forms of writing/making that imagines “weirdness” beyond its (slippery, incoherent) mode of genre fiction, as a proposed method, a broader approach to engaging culture.

This workshop welcomes conference participants with existing knowledge of weird fiction/weird studies as well as those exploring the weird for the first time. The program includes communal reading aloud, an activity involving a selection of short passages from weird fiction and weird theory, a series of short individual writing prompts, and a forum of discussion questions prepared for the group.

No prior reading or preparation is required; all materials will be provided. The workshop will be conducted in English. Limit: 20 people. Registration required. Please contact a.kotwasinska@uw.edu.pl to check availability and for more information.

Thursday, May 8, 8:00–9:30 pm @Turnus Cafe

Goblin Orchestra

David Ashford, Amy Cutler, Francis Gene-Rowe

A frightful Hobgoblin stalks throughout Europe.
(The Communist Manifesto, trans. Helen Macfarlane)

Through the creations of Tolkien and other visionary weirdos, many goblins of yore have mutated into orcs of 21st century mass-media, while others persist as ghosts, affects, online aesthetics, or (counter)aspirational modes. From the hobgoblins that haunt Renaissance theatre and the early printing-press, to the orcs that now thrive in paperbacks, tabletop RPG, video games, and blockbuster cinematic franchises, these creatures from folklore have drawn increasing and uncanny vitality from each generation of entertainment technology. We three orc and/or goblin poets invite you to come and experience our culture, the poetry and music of the orcish-speaking peoples, as well as of our gribbly companion species and grungey haunts. Howl! Weep! Spew! Bite! You’ll love us!

CREDITS

The conference is supported by an IDUB grant: PSP 501-D204-20-0004312.

The organizers would like to thank: Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Turnus Cafe, Jakub Błoński, and Klaudia Zalewska

Conference design: @lenasol.o



FORGOTTEN, MISPLACED, MARGINALIZED: SPECULATIONS WE DON'T SEE

American Studies Center, University of Warsaw | May 8-10, 2025

Conference schedule and a book of abstracts are available on our conference website: <https://forgottensf.wn.uw.edu.pl/>

Coffee breaks and lunches are provided throughout the conference.

WiFi at Dobra 55: 3-day Internet access tokens are included in conference packs (one extra). Send us questions and comments: forgottensf@uw.edu.pl

ORGANIZERS

The conference is co-organized by

Speculative Texts and Media Research Group and **Weird Fictions Research Group**, both at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw.

Organizers: Jędrzej Burszta, Paweł Frelik, Agnieszka Kotwasińska

Organizing Support: Olga Gajek, Anna Maria Grzybowska, Joanna Kaniewska, Ola Jędrzejak, Alicja Relidzyńska, Jagoda Tyczyńska

Stream coordinators: Patrick Brock, Jędrzej Burszta, Paweł Frelik, Agnieszka Kotwasińska, Karolina Lebek, Merve Tabur, Jaak Tomberg, Regina Kanyu Wang

VENUES

American Studies Center, University of Warsaw (all the panels and the first two keynote lectures)
Dobra 55
floor plan: <https://www.asc.uw.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ASC-Plan-AllInOne.pdf>

Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw (the last keynote lecture and the film screenings)
Marszałkowska 103
<https://artmuseum.pl/en>

Moss Cafe (conference dinner on May 10)
Józefa Sierakowskiego 5/u7

Turnus na Wolskiej (two events on May 8)
Wolska 46/48/Lokal 4

FILM SCREENINGS

The conference is preceded by a series of film screenings at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. For information about “Other Futures: Unknown Science Fiction Cinemas,” check the Museum’s website: <https://artmuseum.pl/en>



18:00-19:45	Weird Methods Workshop @Turnus (Thursday)
20:00-21:30	Goblin Orcestra @Turnus (Thursday)

Friday	Room 0.246	Room 0.256	Room 1.270	Room 1.271	Room 0.257
9:00-9:30	Registration				
9:30-9:45	CONFERENCE OPENING (Room 0.410)				
9:45-11:15	ARTWORLDS AND MEDIA #2	CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN SF CINEMA #1	GLOBAL SPECULATIONS #1	GLOBAL SPECULATIONS #2	SPECULATING BEYOND THE GENRE #1
	Karol Popov (University of Warsaw) “Reassembling the Self Anew: The Body of the Weak Cyborg in the multimodal narrative of Citizen Sleeper 1 and 2”	Jan Topolski (Nicolaus Copernicus University) “Ufonades, Time Travels and Zdenek Liška. The Sound in Czechoslovak Sci-fi Films“	Yauheniya Mc Daniel (University of Warsaw) “From ‘Women’ to Humans: Corporeal Metaphors of Oppression and Resistance in Before She Sleeps by Bina Shah”	Weronika Łaskiewicz (University of Białystok) “Visions of Indigenous Resurgence in the Works of Catherine Knutsson, Cherie Dimaline, and Waubgeshig Rice”	VIDEO: Francesca Arnavas (University of Tartu) “Fairy-Tale Speculations: Fantastic Bodies”
	Anna Temel (University of Warsaw) “Disrupting Norms in Neon: Queering Cyberpunk in 2064: Read Only Memories (2015)”	Simon Spiegel (University of Zurich) “SWISS MADE 2069: Switzerland’s First Science Fiction Movie”	Christina Lord (University of North Carolina Wilmington) “The Space Opera Nostalgia Regime in French Comics Valérian et Laureline”	Svetlana Stefanova (Universidad Internacional de La Rioja) “Alternate History Meets Afrofuturism: Multipolarity and Afro-capability in Nisi Shawl’s Everfair”	Myron Trzeciak (University of Warsaw) “Flirting With Eugenics - Disabled Futures in Meda Kahn’s ‘Difference of Opinion’”
	David Shipko (Johns Hopkins University) “Rituals of Renewal and Revolution in Frostpunk and Snowpiercer”		Sean Matharoo (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) “Toward a Library of Elsewhere: Maghrebian Francophone Speculative Fiction”		Curtis Runstedler (University of Stuttgart) “Man-Made Sex Robots: Sexual Politics, Women’s Bodies, and Cultural Misogyny in Sierra Greer’s Anniebot”
11:15-11:30	Coffee break				
11:30-13:00	FORGOTTEN WEIRD / WEIRDLY MISPLACED #1	GLOBAL SPECULATIONS #3	SPECULATING BEYOND THE GENRE #3 IN SEARCH OF SCIENCE FICTION: THREE TRIPS TO ACADEMICALLY AVOIDED LANDS	IN THE BELLY OF THE MONSTER: A CONVERSATION ON MONSTERS, TECHNOLOGY, AND SPECULATIVE FICTIONS	ARTWORLDS AND MEDIA #1
	Jeanne Prevost (University of Warsaw / Independent) “Splatterpunk and the (un) Ethical Slaughter: Grounding Animal Rights Through Visceral Horror Fiction”	Miguel Angel Albujar-Escuredo (The University of Kansas) "Sublimating Creative Destruction, a Schumpeterian analysis of Kentukis (2018) by Samanta Schwebelin"	Jerzy Stachowicz (University of Warsaw) “On the Borderlands of Genres and Media – Theatre and Radio of the Interwar Period and Polish Science Fiction”	ROUNDTABLE PANEL with Amy Cutler, Francis Gene-Rowe and David Ashford	Paweł Baran (University of Szczecin) “Satire or Celebration? Examining the Narrative, Aesthetics, and Reception of Paul Verhoeven’s Starship Troopers (1997)”
	Dominik Jaszczuk (University of Warsaw) “A Planet Made of Flesh. The (Cosmic) Horror of the Meat Industry in Meat Madness (2022)”	Filip Świerczyński (University of Warsaw) “Future Envisioned, Future Forgotten: Exploring Stanisław Lem’s Concept of Self-Dispersing Microreplicators”	Piotr Gorliński-Kucik (Uniwersytet Śląski w Katowicach) “Poetry as a Method of Science Fiction Diagnosis”		Jagoda Targońska (University of Warsaw) “Environmental Politics in Extrapolations: Critical Approach to the Portrayal of the Climate Crisis in the Science Fiction Series”
	Hugh O’Connell (University of Massachusetts Boston) “Weird Currencies: The New Weird Economics of Michael Cisco’s Animal Money”	Przemysław Kordos (University of Warsaw) “Apousia. The Curious Case of Modern Greek Science Fiction”	Agnieszka Haska (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences /SF_PL research team at IKP UW) “In the Year 2000. Visions of the Future in the Public Discourse of the Second Polish Republic”		Sarah Hamblin (University of Massachusetts Boston) “Empty Metal’s Invisible Revolution”
13:00-14:15	Lunch				
14:15-15:45	KEYNOTE 1: CAROLINE EDWARDS (Birkbeck, University of London), "Sonic Apocalypticism: Learning to Listen in the Necrocene" (Room 0.410)				
15:45-16:00	Coffee break				

Friday	Room 0.246	Room 0.256	Room 1.270	Room 1.271	Room 0.257
16:00-17:30	GLOBAL SPECULATIONS #4	ARTWORLDS AND MEDIA #3	SPECULATING BEYOND THE GENRE #4	GLOBAL SPECULATIONS #5	SPECULATING BEYOND THE GENRE #2
	Felipe Hernandez Vallejo (Independent) “The Baroque Future of Latin America: A Model for Reading Latin American Science Fiction based on the Ideas of Bolívar Echeverría”	Matin Nikookar Ardestani (University of Warsaw) “Selling Today as Tomorrow: Neom, or Speculative Urban Dystopia”	Maria Celińska (Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza w Krakowie) “Beyond the Canon: A Data-Driven Exploration of Science Fiction in BTS Fanfiction”	Xan van Rooyen (Independent) “Africanfuturism Inspired by African History”	Ali Riza Taskale (Roskilde University) “Transgression and Predatory Abstraction in Jonas Eika’s After the Sun”
	Sebastian Imoberdorf (Université de Fribourg / Universität Freiburg) “What We Should(n’t) Touch. Weird Fusions & Body Horror in ‘El Gusano’ by Luis Carlos Barragán Castro”	Joanna Kaniewska (University of Warsaw) “Death to the Holy – The Satanic Speculation of Zeal & Ardor”	Weronika Wadecka (Independent) “Heteroromantic Experimentation with Gender in Sentient Object Romance Genre”	Andrew Erickson (Schauffer Lab@TU Dresden) “Railroading History: Mobilizing Afrofuturism to Reconstruct Past and Future Worlds”	Jerry Määttä (Stockholm University) “When Winter Doesn’t Come: Climate Change in Contemporary Swedish Mainstream Dystopias”
17:30-17:45		Agata Zarzycka (University of Wrocław) “Speculative Tourism of YouTube Ambient Videos”	Michał Kłata (University of Warsaw) “Food for Thought: of Worldbuilding and Cookbooks in Transmedia Storyworlds”	Julia Gatermann (TU Dresden) “Forgotten Bodies, Remembered Futures: Reclaiming Identity in Contemporary Speculative Fiction”	
17:45-19:15	Coffee break				
	KEYNOTE 2: SONIA FIZEK (Cologne Game Lab, TH Köln) "Metaverse (Re)Visions – Speculative Frictions at Play" (Room 0.410)				

Saturday	Room 0.246	Room 0.256	Room 1.270	Room 1.271
9:30-11:00	ARTWORLDS AND MEDIA #4	FORGOTTEN WEIRD / WEIRDLY MISPLACED #2	SPECULATING BEYOND THE GENRE # 5 SPECULATIVE POLISHNESS: HOW AUTHORS OF MIDDLE-BROW LITERATURE USE FANTASTIKA IN POLAND	GLOBAL SPECULATIONS #6
	Karolina Madoń (University of Warsaw) "Hauntology of Liminal Spaces in Dreamcore (2025)"	Keren Omry (University of Haifa) "Making Kin with Genre in Israel"	ROUNDTABLE PANEL Stanisław Krawczyk (University of Wrocław)	Jagoda Tyczyńska (University of Warsaw) "Translation is the Message: Pre/Post/Neo-Colonial Language in Priya Sarukkai Chabria's Clone (2018)"
	Krzysztof Chmielewski (Kazimierz Wielki University) "Kurt Vonnegut's Forgotten Impact on Game Design"	Patrycja Pichnicka-Trivedi (University of Warsaw) "Political Entanglements: a Case Study of One French-Russian Weird Story"		Jing Yang (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies) "Alternative Narrative of Alien Encounter in Chinese Science Fiction Cinema"
	İbrahim Mertcan Alçinkaya (University of Warsaw) "RoboCopaganda: American Video Games as Glorification of Police Power"	Brian Willems (University of Split) "Anthropocene as Pathocenosis: Orly Castel- Bloom's Dolly City"		
11:00-11:15	Coffee break			
11:15-12:45	SPECULATING BEYOND THE GENRE #6	ARTWORLDS AND MEDIA #5	WORLDS LOST IN THE PAST #1	GLOBAL SPECULATIONS #7
	VIDEO: Gözde Ersoy (Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University) "The Intra-action of Otherworldly: Belgin Yücelen and Ray Nayler"	VIDEO: Tianxing Zhou (University College London) "The Narrative and Aesthetic Potential of VR in Futuristic Speculative and Historical Reenactment through So Long"	Adam Skowroński (University of Warsaw) "The Butlerian Jihad? Reading of the Book of the Machines"	Zhui Ning Chang (Birkbeck, University of London) "'Let Us Tend This Garden Together': Postcolonial Time Travel in Ng Yi-Sheng's 'Garden'"
	Gabriela Kozakiewicz (University of Warsaw) "Beyond the Genre, Gender, Genus and Greece: Vassilis Vassilikos' "The Plant" and the Speculative Exercises in 'Making Kin'"	Alicja Relidzyńska (University of Warsaw) "Anthropocene Visualized: Climate Change and Petroleum Culture in American Photography"	Magdalena Dziurzyńska (University of Szczecin) "Forgotten Futures or Failed Societies? Dystopian Separatism and Gendered Fears in 1920s Pulp"	Karoline Huber (Ruhr-University Bochum) "Coming-of-Mind in 'Water'"
	Sarah Lohmann (ETH Zurich) "'Rocks have their dreams, and the earth changes': Dream Space, Feminist Cognition and Trans-Corporeality in Ursula K. Le Guin's The Lathe of Heaven and N. K. Jemisin's The Fifth Season"	Maciej Ożóg (University of Łódź) "Seen by the Technological Other. Exploring 'Alien Perception' in AI Art"	Grzegorz Nogal (Independent) "Speculative Fiction and Aviation in Early 20th Century Poland"	Sang-Keun Yoo (Marist University) "The Forgotten History of Korean Translators Using European SF to Resist Japanese Colonialism in the Early 1900s"
12:45-13:45	Lunch			
13:45-15:15	CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN SF CINEMA #2	SPECULATING BEYOND THE GENRE #7	SPECULATING BEYOND THE GENRE #8	FORGOTTEN WEIRD/WEIRDLY MISPLACED #3
	Szymon Piotr Kukulak (AGH University of Kraków) "Beyond Tarkovsky's Solaris. Early Film Adaptations of Stanisław Lem's Novels in the Eastern Bloc"	Fryderyk Kwiatkowski (AGH University of Kraków) "From Arcane Texts to Streaming Platforms: Gnosticism in Recent Sci-Fi TV Shows"	Anna Celska (University of Warsaw) "Queer Lines of Vampiric Desire in Anna Rice's The Vampire Chronicles"	András Fodor (Independent) "Weird Minor: the Literary Scales of the Habsburg Empire – Of Monsters and Space in the Fiction of Franz Kafka, Bruno Schulz, and Stefan Grabiński"
	Brittany Roberts (Appalachian State University) "The Closed Circuit of Russian History in Karen Shakhnazarov's Zero City"	Juan Jose (Pepe) Rojo (UCSD) "The Air Loom and the Prophet Mode"	Patrycja Roguska (University of Warsaw) "Weird King: Surrealism and Psychology in Stephen King's Fiction"	Katarzyna Lubawa (Kazimierz Wielki University) "Love Kills with Flowers: The Trope of Hanahaki Disease"
		Ciarán Kavanagh (Ghent University) "In Search of Awe: The Lost Affect of SF Studies"		
16:15-18:00	KEYNOTE 3: SHERRYL VINT (University of California, Riverside) "Illiberal SF" + CONFERENCE CLOSING (@Museum of Modern Art)			
19:30	Dinner @Moss Cafe			