

Conference

Translating the Present: Science Fiction and our Futures

December 2-4, 2020

IFK_Live@Zoom

By imagining the future, science fiction shapes the present. It re-casts the present rather than fore-casting the future, it re-contextualizes it, translates it into another reality, shaping the tomorrows of our mind, the way we think—our imagination.

We tend to think science fiction as dedicated to the future, but 'its 'deepest subject', as Frederic Jameson has written, 'may in fact be our own historical present.' As a spatial endeavor, science fiction is not just an escape into another dimension, it is, above all, a fiction of the space we live in—of Earth.

Considering this, it is perplexing how little has been said and researched about the relationship between science fiction and one of the most basic, structurally decisive human cultural techniques—translation. Understood in a broader sense as a negotiation of differences by means of a de- and re-contextualization of meanings across identity constructions, ideologies and media, the participants of the international conference will discuss the role of translation processes in science fiction from a global perspective, touching on themes such as the re-contextualization of architectural patterns into futuristic megacities, the translation of Earth's environmental crisis into imaginary worlds or the dramatic cultural encounters with aliens.

The conference is the result of a collaboration between the IFK | University of Art and Design Linz and the IKT Institute of Culture Studies and Theater History at the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

THE CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE AS A LIVE MEETING VIA ZOOM. YOU CAN FIND THE LINKS FOR PARTICIPATION HERE (one link per conference day):

TRANSLATING THE PRESENT: SCIENCE FICTION AND OUR FUTURES, **December 2, 2020**
<https://zoom.us/j/93479167641?pwd=MFBXbmZZTjJlUzRSdlgIRmhRa2wrUT09>

Meeting-ID: 934 7916 7641, Kenncode: eCFy0n

Telefon-Kenncode: 430523

TRANSLATING THE PRESENT: SCIENCE FICTION AND OUR FUTURES, **December 3, 2020**
<https://zoom.us/j/93294178156?pwd=MStrcGlxa3BJTGdvVlV0YlBBTmkzQT09>

Meeting-ID: 932 9417 8156, Kenncode: SH8K1B

Telefon- Kenncode: 400739

TRANSLATING THE PRESENT: SCIENCE FICTION AND OUR FUTURES, **December 4, 2020**
<https://zoom.us/j/94782525249?pwd=ZzJrYmZlVGhKcHNXdUxzZTdKcWxyUT09>

Meeting-ID: 947 8252 5249, Kenncode: dTMGs7

Telefon- Kenncode: 772753

- 14.30 Welcome and Introduction
Federico Italiano
- 15.00 KEYNOTE
Lisa Yaszek
Translating Feminist Politics to Science Fiction, 1761-Present
Chair: Federico Italiano
- 16.30 Break
- 17.00 **Claudia Sackl**
Translating (in) Afrofuturism:
Cross-Cultural Exchange and Intermedial Transfer in Black Speculative (Young Adult) Fiction
Chair: Julia Boog-Kaminski
- 18.00 Break
- 18.30 CONVERSATION
Olalekan Jeyifous and Elsa Bleda
African Futures: Cyberpunk Aesthetic, Afrofuturism and the Visual Arts
Chair: Federico Italiano
- 19.30 End

- 10.30 **Johannes Kaminski**
All Under Heaven: World Governments in Contemporary Chinese SF
Chair: Federico Italiano
- 11.30 Break
- 12.00 **Iseult Grandjean**
Terraforming Earth: The Past as Future Space in Climate Fiction
Chair: Julia Boog-Kaminski
- 13.00 Lunch Break
- 14.30 **Ann Cotten**
Camp, Projection and indirect access: SF as a sturdy vehicle
Chair: Julia Boog-Kaminski
- 15.30 Break
- 16.00 READING
Lauren Beukes
Afterland
Chair: Federico Italiano
- 17.00 Break
- 18.00 KEYNOTE
Roland Innerhofer
Das Ende der Eintönigkeit. Wie SF das Leben nach dem Menschen erzählt
Chair: Federico Italiano
- 19.30 End

10.00	Julia Grillmayr Strategic Embarrassment. Ways of translating Non-human Perspectives Chair: Julia Boog-Kaminski
11.00	Break
11.30	Karin Harrasser Übersetzen zwischen Science Fact, Science Fiction und Spekulativem Feminismus. Eine Fußnotenlesung Chair: Federico Italiano
12.30	Break
13.00	Paul Dobraszcyk Dead cities and the optical unconscious Chair: Julia Boog-Kaminski
14.00	Lunch Break
15.30	Daniel Syrový Language Puzzles and Puzzling Languages: Conlangs and Communication in Recent SF Chair: Julia Boog-Kaminski
16.30	Break
17.00	READING Ted Chiang The Great Silence Chair: Federico Italiano
18.00	End

Concept:

Federico Italiano (Vienna)
in collaboration with Julia Boog-Kaminski (Vienna)

Participants:

Lauren Beukes (Johannesburg), Elsa Bleda (Johannesburg), Ted Chiang (Seattle), Ann Cotten (Vienna), Paul Dobraszcyk (London), Iseult Grandjean (Vienna), Julia Grillmayr (Linz), Karin Harrasser (Linz/Vienna), Roland Innerhofer (Vienna), Olalekan Jeyifous (New York), Johannes Kaminski (Vienna), Claudia Sackl (Vienna), Daniel Syrový (Vienna), Lisa Yaszek (Atlanta)

Kindly supported by

