

READERCON33

Program Guide

Guests of Honor:

Rebecca Roanhorse & Amal El-Mohtar

Memorial Guest of Honor:

Naomi Mitchison

July 11-14, 2024

Marriott Boston Quincy

Quincy MA

THURSDAY

Thu 08:00 PM

Wollaston • **Available for Overflow Discussions** •

Want to continue a discussion after the conclusion of a panel, reading, or presentation? This is where you may do so without disrupting the program rooms or blocking the hallway.

Thu 08:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Leon Perniciaro** • *Leon Perniciaro*

Solo Reading with participant: Leon Perniciaro

Thu 08:00 PM

Salon A • **Fantasies of Political Inagency** • *Rebecca Frainow, Storm Humbert, Amal El-Mohtar, Charlie Allison (M)*

Lois McMaster Bujold famously proposed that many speculative fiction works are “fantasies of political agency.” What about fantasies of political inagency? In the Hunger Games trilogy, Katniss wants to leave both the Games and the revolution; in two of Mo Xiang Tong Xiu’s influential Chinese webnovels, the happy ending is addressing immediate injustices and then withdrawing from wider society. Might fantasies of political inagency counter the more imperialist tendencies of speculative fiction? Can Anglophone audiences find such stories satisfying?

Thu 08:00 PM

Salon B • **Romanticizing Death and Dying** • *Natalie Luhrs, Emma J. Gibbon, Barbara Krasnoff (M), Amanda Downum, Gillian Daniels*

When somebody is dying or dies in fictional media, it is often romantic, or exciting, or noble, or beautiful and tragic. The reality that many of us face - pain, fear, loss of self, the gradual breakdown of the body due to age or disease - is a lot less pleasant to experience and witness. Why do we romanticize death in fiction? Is it a necessary defense against the reality of our own mortality, or just a part of making fictional worlds more entertaining, the way perfect sex is?

Due to high levels of interest, this panel is being run on both Thursday and Saturday, with different participants at each session.

READERCON 33 • Quincy MA • July 11-14, 2024

THURSDAY

Thu 08:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Kenneth Schneyer** • *Kenneth Schneyer*

Solo Reading with participant: Kenneth Schneyer

Thu 08:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Cecilia Tan** • *Cecilia Tan*

Solo Reading with participant: Cecilia Tan

Thu 08:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Allan Dyen-Shapiro** • *Allan Dyen-Shapiro*

Solo Reading with participant: Allan Dyen-Shapiro

Thu 09:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Walter Williams** • *Walter Williams*

Solo Reading with participant: Walter Williams

Thu 09:00 PM

Salon A • **Hugo Award Exclusions** • *Mark Painter, Natalie Luhrs*

Another year, another Hugo Award controversy. Let's discuss the mystifying numbers and unexplained nominee disqualifications at the 2023 Hugo Awards hosted by Worldcon in Chengdu.

Thu 09:00 PM

Salon B • **Writing Hope and Optimism** • *Andrea Hairston (M), John Wiswell, Scott Edelman, A. T. Greenblatt, Randee Dawn*

Hopeful and optimistic fiction are having a moment in genre spaces, but what of hopeful and optimistic characters? Cynical ones never go out of style, but is optimism really so uninteresting? What factors contribute to characters' hopes being perceived by the audience as believable and inspiring rather than naive or cliched? In what ways are notable portrayals of hope across subgenres - including romance, dystopias, and horror - in conversation with each other, and how can a narrative offer hope independent of its characters' opinions?

Due to high levels of interest, this panel is being run on both Thursday and Saturday, with different participants at each session.

READERCON 33 • Quincy MA • July 11-14, 2024

THURSDAY

Thu 09:00 PM

Salon C • **Weirding the Petrarchan Sonnet** • *Romie Stott*

Many have studied Shakespeare's sonnets in school, but fewer are familiar with the Petrarchan sonnet, defined by its twist ending. The Petrarchan sonnet is crafted around the "volta" where the poem pivots halfway through, as in "The New Colossus," by Emma Lazarus, which describes what an enormous intimidating statue at a harbor usually means and then springs the now-familiar reinterpretation. This workshop challenges you to write your own plot-twist poem, ideally in sonnet form. Give me your portal fantasies, your jump scares, your kaiju moonwalking back into the sea!

Thu 09:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Dennis Danvers** • *Dennis Danvers*

Solo Reading with participant: Dennis Danvers

Thu Midnight

Wollaston • **Overflow Discussions** •

Room closes

FRIDAY

Fri 10:00 AM

Registration, Information, and Con Suite open.

Fri 11:00 AM

Wollaston • **Available for Overflow Discussions** •

Want to continue a discussion after the conclusion of a panel, reading, or presentation? This is where you may do so without disrupting the program rooms or blocking the hallway.

Fri 11:00 AM

Blue Hills • **Perhaps You Should Not Have Opened That Door: An Extravagaza of Fiction** • *Sunny Moraine, Benjamin Rosenbaum, Jedediah Berry, Amanda Downum, Andrea Hairston, David Anthony Durham, David Moles, Sophia Babai*

A group reading of pieces by (alphabetically) Sophia Babai, Jedediah Berry, Amanda Downum, Andrea Hairston, David Moles, Sunny Moraine, and Benjamin Rosenbaum.

Fri 11:00 AM

Salon 3 • **AI: The Good Parts Version** • *Wendy Van Camp, Katherine Crichton, Kevin McLaughlin, David G. Shaw, Sarah Smith (M)*

The rollout of, and hype around, generative AI has been a mess, but the technology can have its uses. Panelists will discuss some of the ways they're using GenAI in their personal and creative lives, talk about ways that creatives should be protecting and redefining their IP, and note what work needs to be done on a governmental level -for instance, defining actors' voices as copyrightable IP.

Fri 11:00 AM

Salon 4 • **The Joys of the Truly Long Novel** • *Natalie Luhrs, Kate Nepveu (M), Rich Horton, Gwynne Garfinkle, Storm Humbert*

SFF loves its giant series, of course, but what about the very long solo novel? How do the pleasures and pitfalls of such novels vary from other lengths and plotting structures? How does serialization affect the length of a story people are willing to follow?

FRIDAY

Fri 11:00 AM

Salon A • **Workshop: Writing Physical Action** • *Marcy Arlin*

How do you write a sword fight? Or a moment of caresses between a robot and a human? In this workshop, participants will attempt to act out what others have written, giving everyone an opportunity to observe and re-describe. Learn to bring your action to realistic, vivid life without stumbling into odd descriptions (he looked back at her with his eyes).

Fri 11:00 AM

Salon B • **The Persistence of Enchantment: A Conversation** •

Greer Gilman, Sofia Samatar

In this open conversation, Greer Gilman and Sofia Samatar will discuss the ongoing presence and power of myth. Topics include Gilman's work on her imagined world of *Cloud*, now in its fourth decade; the links between ancient epics and modern epic fantasies; and the appeal of certain story structures and images through time. An audience Q&A will follow.

Fri 11:00 AM

Salon C • **Reading: Barbara Krasnoff** • *Barbara Krasnoff*

Solo Reading with participant: Barbara Krasnoff

Fri 11:30 AM

Salon C • **Reading: Caroline M. Yoachim** • *Caroline M. Yoachim*

Solo Reading with participant: Caroline M. Yoachim

Fri 12:00 PM

Salon 3 • **What Separates Adult and YA SFF?** • *Sarena Straus, Mark Painter, Kathy Karch (M), LJ Cohen, Melissa Caruso*

Both SFF sold as adult and as YA may contain protagonists who are teens or young adults, as well as sex, drugs, and violence. What, then, puts a story in one category or the other? Panelists will examine what tropes, themes, sensibilities, pacing, and narrative voices may genuinely distinguish the categories.

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FRIDAY

Fri 12:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Setting as Character** • *Ian Muneshwar, Charlie Allison, Julie C. Day, Graham Sleight (M), A.C. Wise*

Well-realized settings are frequently described as characters in their own right, but what does it mean for a writer to treat their setting as a character? From the depiction of towns and societies as having their own character and motivations irrespective of the individuals within them, as in Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery*, to the supernatural manifestation of place as person in N.K. Jemisin's *The City We Became*, this panel will discuss how settings become more than merely the backdrop for characters and their actions, but characters themselves.

Fri 12:00 PM

Salon A • **History of Readercon** • *Michael Cisco, David G. Shaw, Greer Gilman, Victoria Janssen (M)*

Veteran Readercon participants and organizers will tell stories of Readercon's nearly 40 year history. Learn about the awards and ceremonies that are or have been hosted here, events that have come and gone, clandestine attendance by rockstar authors, and maybe a little bit of drama if the panelists think it wise to share. Come to the second annual edition of this panel, now with a different mix of participants for the full Rashomon effect!

Fri 12:00 PM

Salon B • **Book Bans and the Publishing Industry** • *Zin E. Rocklyn, Rob Cameron, Kathryn Morrow (M), Gillian Daniels*

In our current era, book bans have re-emerged from their 20th century crypt as a popular tactic for censoring LGBTQ+ content, as well as any literature that doesn't reinforce racial hierarchies and narratives of white innocence. How has this trend affected the publishing industry, from behemoths like Scholastic to small presses and self-publishing authors? What new horrors are coming down the pike, and what, if anything, can be done to fight back?

Fri 12:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: C.S.E. Cooney** • *C.S.E. Cooney*

Solo Reading with participant: C.S.E. Cooney

FRIDAY

Fri 12:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Carlos Hernandez** • *Carlos Hernandez*

Solo Reading with participant: Carlos Hernandez

Fri 01:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Gregory Wilson** • *Gregory Wilson*

Gregory Wilson reads a passage from the forthcoming final book in his Gray Assassin trilogy, *Heretic*.

Fri 01:00 PM

Salon 3 • **Secret Masters of Genre: the Hidden Influences on SF** •

Romie Stott, Kathryn Morrow, Trisha J Wooldridge (M), Scott Lynch, Alexander Jablokov

Science Fiction has always had a plethora of root stems: from the very beginning, it has imported themes, motifs, characters, and plots from Western, Romance, Horror, Detective, Supernatural/Paranormal, Gothic, Robinsonade, Thriller, and other genres. (Consider telepathy, say: how did we come to view a staple of mysticism as a “scientific” phenomenon?) Our panelists will discuss these influences and how they’ve evolved and/or been subverted by sf authors over the years.

Fri 01:00 PM

Salon 4 • **The Stories We Tell About Israel and Palestine** • *Kate Nepveu, Karen Meisner (M), Noah Beit-Aharon, Amal El-Mohtar, Benjamin Rosenbaum*

Building upon the conversation started by Guest of Honor Amal El-Mohtar’s essay “Sour Milk and Bitter Herbs” and the introduction to it, this panel will discuss how the establishment (and maintenance) of the state of Israel at the cost of Palestinian freedom has impacted the panelists’ writing as well as their lives, both historically and in light of the current war.

Audience members will be asked to submit any questions for the Q&A session on either Discord (channel is named “#stories-of-israel-and-palestine-questions” under the RC33 section of the Readercon Discord) or paper, to allow for more considered moderation.

FRIDAY

Fri 01:00 PM

Salon A • **Convincing Your Book Club to Read Speculative Fiction** •

Sarena Straus, Allison King (M), Emma J. Gibbon, Wendy Van Camp

Does your book club keep selecting things by the same bestselling authors in the same handful of closely-related genres? Do you long to hear them discuss elves, robots, aliens, or vampires? Get some suggestions for newbie-friendly speculative fiction that your book club will enjoy, and tips on how to convince them to give it a try.

Fri 01:00 PM

Salon B • **Introducing New Sub-sub-subgenres** • *Rick Claypool,*

Steve Berman (M), Chris Rose, Kevin McLaughlin

Have you ever read a new work and felt as though you missed something it was clearly in conversation with? Or perhaps read one and mourned the fact that there wasn't anything else in conversation with it ... yet? Panelists will introduce their favorite emerging sub-sub-genres to Readercon, or make their pitches for why a not-yet-existing trend ought to get started.

Fri 01:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: James Morrow** • *James Morrow*

Solo Reading with participant: James Morrow

Fri 01:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: John Chu** • *John Chu*

John Chu reads from his novelette "Wonderland Is a Parking Lot in Revere", published in the July/August 2024 issue of *Uncanny Magazine*.

Fri 01:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: James Patrick Kelly** • *James Patrick Kelly*

Solo Reading with participant: James Patrick Kelly

Fri 02:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: P. Djèlí Clark** • *P. Djèlí Clark*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: P. Djèlí Clark

Fri 02:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: C.S.E. Cooney** • *C.S.E. Cooney*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: C.S.E. Cooney

FRIDAY

Fri 02:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Greer Gilman** • *Greer Gilman*

Greer Gilman reads from her third Cloudish novel, *Lightwards*.

Fri 02:00 PM

Salon 3 • **Retroactive Problem Solving in SF** • *Victoria Janssen (M), Karl Schroeder, Caroline M. Yoachim, Matthew Kressel, Sarena Straus*

A lot of the more hopeful SF is written in worlds where the most urgent problems facing our society today have already been solved, and the characters face other, different problems. But by imagining futures where our current crises are of the past, are we missing out on an opportunity to blaze a real path into such futures? What does it mean to tell stories about solving our problems, rather than stories where the problems have already been solved?

Fri 02:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Graduating (?) to Novels from Short Stories** • *Elizabeth Bear, Barbara Krasnoff, Karen Heuler, Gwynne Garfinkle, A.C. Wise (M)*

Reviewing Kelly Link's first novel, Amal El-Mohtar said, "A certain weight of expectation accrues on writers of short fiction who haven't produced a novel, as if the short story were merely the larval stage of longer work. No matter how celebrated the author and her stories, ... the sense persists: She will eventually graduate from the short form to the long." How can the harms of this expectation be avoided? Are there any benefits to it? Do novelists experience any inverse pressure to craft tight short stories?

Fri 02:00 PM

Salon A • **Brooklyn Speculative Fiction Writers Group Reading** •

Beto O'Byrne, Val Rigodon, W. Lance Hunt, A.T. Sayre, Bright Flame, Marcy Arlin, Leon Perniciaro, Rachel Gutin, Rob Cameron (M)

A group reading by members of the Brooklyn Speculative Fiction Writers (BSFW).

FRIDAY

Fri 02:00 PM

Salon B • **Iconic Characters and Works in the Public Domain** •

Sonja Ryst (M), Randee Dawn, Mark Painter, Gillian Daniels, Kevin McLaughlin
2023 saw Winnie the Pooh star in his own slasher flick, thanks to the release of its copyright. Sherlock Holmes and the film “Metropolis” are now similarly free agents. Our panelists will discuss the new shoots now budding from old branches, as well as preview what household names will soon be available for open use. Citizen Kane: Tokyo Rosebud Drift, anyone?

Fri 02:00 PM

Salon C • **No Gods, No Masters (of Fine Arts)** • *Andrea Martinez Corbin*
MFAs and multi-week workshops aren't for everyone, or for all stages of writing development. That shouldn't stop any writer from digging into their craft and understanding the long game of their career. In this repeat of last year's popular workshop, learn to identify your passions and interrogate your creative goals, and use those as the foundation to create a framework of study. The workshop will include discussion, and worksheets and resources for participants to take home.

Fri 02:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Ellen Brody** • *Ellen Brody*
Ellen Brody reads from *Travel Light* by Memorial Guest of Honor Naomi Mitchison

Fri 03:00 PM

Bookshop opens.

Fri 03:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Rebecca Roanhorse** • *Rebecca Roanhorse*
Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Rebecca Roanhorse

Fri 03:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Scott H. Andrews** • *Scott H. Andrews*
Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Scott H. Andrews

Fri 03:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Jeffrey Ford** • *Jeffrey Ford*
Solo Reading with participant: Jeffrey Fordhen

FRIDAY

Fri 03:00 PM

Salon 3 • **Fanfic Writers Going Pro: the Most Recent Generation** •

Cecilia Tan, Victoria Janssen, Wendy Van Camp, Kate Nepveu (M), Sunny Moraine

Pro authors have always also written fanfic, but prior generations were likely to limit their public connections to their fandom pseudonyms. In the last several years, newer pro authors are openly linking their fannish identities, and publishers are buying works first published as fic, including original fic. What are the effects of this greater openness on individual works, authors' careers and oeuvres, and the overall field? What, if any, relationship does this have to fic writers filing the serial numbers off stories for self-publication?

Fri 03:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Reading Horror into the Classics** • *Ian Muneshwar,*

Trisha J Wooldridge, Gillian Daniels (M), Lisa M. Bradley, Adam Golaski

Viewed through an anti-colonialist lens, the Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder would appear to belong squarely in the Horror section. What can be gained by reading various well-worn classics as works of horror, and how do changing readerships and sensibilities affect what separates the heroic from the horrifying or the whimsical from the uncanny?

Fri 03:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Max Gladstone** • *Max Gladstone*

Autograph Session with participant: Max Gladstone

Fri 03:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Amal El-Mohtar** • *Amal El-Mohtar*

Autograph Session with participant: Amal El-Mohtar

FRIDAY

Fri 03:00 PM

Salon B • **AI and the Universal Translator** • *Romie Stott (M), Jeff Hecht, James Patrick Kelly, Jeff Hecht, John Murphy, John Chu*

The universal translator, invaluable to authors and screenwriters who need to handwave away English-speaking aliens, has been a longtime goal for technologists. Most of us are familiar with the slapdash usefulness -though occasional butchery -of modern AI-based translations. Google Translate has already been used by US military personnel abroad when no human translator was handy. What can SF learn from the use, misuse, and politics of AI translation?

Fri 03:00 PM

Salon C • **Writing Outside the Box: Novels that Defy Genre** • *Veronica G. Henry (M), Karen Heuler, Andrea Hairston, Allison King, Susan Stinson, Walter Williams*

The decision to write a book that doesn't conform to traditional genre categories requires both the author and publisher to take a leap of faith with their readers. But these types of stories also have the potential to challenge author and reader alike, and perhaps draw in a wider audience. Panelists will discuss writing and editing genre-defying novels, and provide tips and advice on how others can do the same.

Fri 03:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Jedediah Berry** • *Jedediah Berry*

Jedediah Berry reads, for the first time, from his new novel, which will be out in September.

Fri 03:30 PM

Salon A • **Reading: Matthew Cheney** • *Matthew Cheney*

Solo Reading with participant: Matthew Cheney

Fri 04:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Ian Strock** • *Ian Strock*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Ian Strock

Fri 04:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: James Morrow** • *James Morrow*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: James Morrow

Fri 04:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Elizabeth Bear** • *Elizabeth Bear*

Solo Reading with participant: Elizabeth Bear

Fri 04:00 PM

Salon 3 • **I Don't Know Why I'm on This Panel!** • *Natalie Luhrs, Scott Edelman, William Alexander, Zin E. Rocklyn, Katherine Crighton (M)*

In this new take on those dreaded words, all the panelists on this panel have been selected for reasons unknown to them. Will they discover what they have in common? Will they take turns ranting about subjects the others have never even considered? Will they have taken what little advance notice they received to prepare a group song-and-dance number? There's only one way to find out!

Fri 04:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Editing as an Art Form** • *Ellen Datlow, Scott H. Andrews, Allan Kaster, Tracy Majka, Lila Garrott (M)*

Most authors know -and many quickly learn -that an editor is more than simply a curator of stories, and that a good editor can be the difference between a flawed gem and a brilliant masterpiece. What can we gain from viewing the work of editing as an art in its own right?

Fri 04:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: P. Djèlí Clark** • *P. Djèlí Clark*

Autograph Session with participant: P. Djèlí Clark

Fri 04:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: C.S.E. Cooney** • *C.S.E. Cooney*

Autograph Session with participant: C.S.E. Cooney

FRIDAY

Fri 04:00 PM

Salon A • **Publishing in the Democratic Republic of Congo** •

Mario Mangala

Writers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo confront several problems. Gaining access to appropriate education, training, and tools that might help budding writers flourish is difficult, and those who do write on their own still struggle to access publishing opportunities. When works are published, poor distribution infrastructure and political instability can cause additional issues with promotion and distribution. Mario Mangala, a writer, author, translator, and educator from the Democratic Republic of Congo, presents on the challenges facing writers from the DRC.

Fri 04:00 PM

Salon B • **How Psychology Can Inform SFF** • *Amanda Downum, Caroline M. Yoachim, Shariann Lewitt, Romie Stott (M)*

How can knowledge of psychology inform the writing of SFF? Practitioners and authors will delve into the ways that modern-day psychology departs from Freud and Jung, and how they've used concepts from the field to deepen characterization or generate worldbuilding ideas. They will also discuss how to research psychology and how to avoid common pitfalls, including stereotypes and ableism.

Fri 04:00 PM

Salon C • **Night Bazaar London** • *Lenore Hart (M), Aphrodite Anagnost, D Ferrara, David Poyer, Gregory Fletcher, Naia Poyer*

An introduction to the world of the Night Bazaar, featuring readings from the Night Bazaar London anthology with emcee Lenore Hart.

Fri 04:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: F. Brett Cox** • *F. Brett Cox*

Solo Reading with participant: F. Brett Cox

Fri 05:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Ellen Datlow** • *Ellen Datlow*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Ellen Datlow

FRIDAY

Fri 05:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Broad Universe Rapid-Fire Reading** • *E. C. Ambrose, LJ Cohen, Rande Dawn, Joanna Weston, Marianna Martin, Sara Codair, Trisha J Wooldridge*

Broad Universe is an international, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, encouraging, honoring, and celebrating women and historically excluded and marginalized genders writing, editing and publishing in science fiction, fantasy, horror, and other speculative genres.

Fri 05:00 PM

Salon 3 • **The Cultural Potency of Audiobooks** • *Gwynne Garfinkle, Melissa Caruso, Sarah Smith, Jim Freund, James Patrick Kelly (M)*

For as long as there have been stories to tell, people have listened to them with their ears. While many audiobook enthusiasts rave about the practicality of the audio format for multitasking, the format can also serve important cultural purposes, connecting us to stories on a more social (or parasocial) level, giving blind and other disabled readers another option for consuming books, and allowing readers to hear unfamiliar words and names as they were meant to be pronounced. Panelists will discuss the cultural impact of audiobook readership.

Fri 05:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Writing For, With, About, and Around Children** •

Carlos Hernandez, Noah Beit-Aharon, Caitlin Rozakis, Rob Cameron, Kathy Karch (M)

Many authors have to navigate their writing careers around the needs of their offspring, not least those who write books for children. How does parenting inform or transform one's writing, and how does writing inform or transform one's parenting? Do parents create more believable child characters? Do readers even want realistically depicted children? And what of the parents? How realistically do we dare depict ourselves?

Fri 05:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: A. T. Greenblatt** • *A. T. Greenblatt*

Autograph Session with participant: A. T. Greenblatt

FRIDAY

Fri 05:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: John Wiswell** • *John Wiswell*

Autograph Session with participant: John Wiswell

Fri 05:00 PM

Salon A • **How To Win a Pitch Contest** • *Sarena Straus*

Pitch competitions can be a great place to break rules, experiment, and hone your craft. In this workshop, we will talk about different types of pitches and where they can be submitted, such as pitch competitions, agent speed dating and Twitter pitch competitions, mood pitches, etc. Then we will work together to create and/or hone your pitch! Willing participants will have the opportunity to pitch to, and get feedback from, the group.

Fri 05:00 PM

Salon B • **Salvage from the Pyrite Age** • *Robert Killheffer*

On last year's panel "The Pyrite Age of Science Fiction," we looked back at the so-called "Golden Age" of the genre to ask if perhaps it should be re-ranked as one of the worst periods of SF rather than the best. There's good reason for that: It's no doubt hard for readers today to appreciate even the most celebrated Golden Age stories the way their original readers did. But does that mean we should toss it all on the scrap heap? Is it all hopelessly tainted by clumsy writing and the biases of the era? In this presentation, editor and critic Robert Killheffer will examine a handful of stories to see if anything can be salvaged.

Fri 06:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: John Murphy** • *John Murphy*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: John Murphy

Fri 06:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Amanda Downum** • *Amanda Downum*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Amanda Downum

Fri 06:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Lila Garrott** • *Lila Garrott*

Solo Reading with participant: Lila Garrott

FRIDAY

Fri 06:00 PM

Salon 3 • **Institutional Memory and Erasure in Fictional Societies** •

Elizabeth Bear, Rebecca Fraimow, Robert V.S. Redick, Allison King (M), Susan Stinson

Libraries, archives, and museums house materials a society deems worth preserving, and the decision is usually presided over by dominant social groups. How does speculative fiction address the problem of what gets memorialized on an institutional level, and who is excluded and therefore silenced? How does this interact with speculative fiction treatments of transmission and preservation of memories on an individual level?

Fri 06:00 PM

Salon 4 • **What to Do with Your 15 Minutes of Fame** • *Melissa Caruso, Sarena Straus, P. Djèlí Clark, Katherine Crighton (M)*

So a tweet about your book has gone unexpectedly viral (*cough* This is How You Lose the Time War *cough*) or your book's been featured on a popular TikTok, or in the New York Times Book Review -now what? Panelists will share stories of their own 15 minutes of fame, and discuss how they rode the wave (or didn't!) and which choices, in retrospect, were right for them.

Fri 06:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Storm Humbert** • *Storm Humbert*

Autograph Session with participant: Storm Humbert

Fri 06:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: James Morrow** • *James Morrow*

Autograph Session with participant: James Morrow

FRIDAY

Fri 06:00 PM

Salon A • **The Life and Work of Howard Waldrop** • *F. Brett Cox, Graham Sleight (M), Ellen Brody, Gregory Feeley, Alexander Jablov*
From 1976, when he published “Mary Margaret Road-Grader” and the collaborative “Custer’s Last Jump,” until the mid-2010s, Howard Waldrop’s short fiction created what was essentially a genre unto itself, what John Clute described as “ludic fiction, without nostalgia or an endgame.” Although he published a few early novels, Waldrop is most celebrated for his short stories and novellas, which eventually filled more than a dozen collections and chapbooks and gained him a reputation for highly imaginative, comic stories that played with both high and popular culture, real and invented people. He was Guest of Honor at Readercon 15 in 2003, and his death this January was a great loss to the community. This panel will celebrate his life and career.

Fri 06:00 PM

Salon B • **The King of Elfland's Daughter at 100** • *Jedediah Berry, The Joey Zone, Walter Williams, Sarah Smith, Henry Wessells (M)*
Published in May 1924, *The King of Elfland’s Daughter* by Lord Dunsany was a cornerstone of 20th-century heroic fantasy, inspiring writers such as the Weird Tales “big three” (Lovecraft, Howard, and Smith) to try their hand at ornate flights of imagination. Written (as were all Dunsany’s works) with a quill pen, this novel set mainly in “a common village and valley, a good twenty or twenty-five miles from the border of Elfland”, continues to inspire. Join us in celebrating the 100th anniversary of its publication.

Fri 06:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Benjamin Rosenbaum** • *Benjamin Rosenbaum*
The Ghost and the Golem: an interactive fiction reading with Benjamin Rosenbaum

Fri 06:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Michael Cisco** • *Michael Cisco*
Solo Reading with participant: Michael Cisco

Fri 06:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Karen Heuler** • *Karen Heuler*
Solo Reading with participant: Karen Heuler

Fri 07:00 PM

Bookshop closes.

Fri 07:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Jim Freund** • *Jim Freund*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Jim Freund

Fri 07:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Jeffrey Ford** • *Jeffrey Ford*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Jeffrey Ford

Fri 07:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Ann LeBlanc** • *Ann LeBlanc*

Solo Reading with participant: Ann LeBlanc

Fri 07:00 PM

Salon 3 • **EuroDivergence: BIPOC in Community Discuss Alternative**

Storytelling Conventions • *Leon Perniciaro (M), Akua Lezli HOPE,*

William Alexander, Andrea Hairston

The world of storytelling is significantly larger than the way narrative is taught in the narrow walls of academia and workshops. From ngano to recursive stories to kishotenketsu, from hard science fiction to magical realism to Afrosurrealism, panelists will discuss the ways changing approaches to the creation of stories also changes the ways stories impact us.

Fri 07:00 PM

Salon 4 • **The Paradox of Writing Series Endings** • *Melissa Caruso,*

LJ Cohen, Scott Lynch, E. C. Ambrose, Andrea Kriz (M)

Attack on Titan, arguably the most popular anime of our era, ended controversially in November 2023 after a decade of acclaim. Author Hajime Isayama said in a New York times interview, "If I was completely free, then I should have been able to change the ending... [but] I was tied down to what I had originally envisioned." When are series endings set in stone and when can they be changed? How does one balance reader expectations with one's own intent, and what lessons can we take from finales that have either strayed from their original vision or succumbed to it?

READERCON 33 • Quincy MA • July 11-14, 2024

FRIDAY

Fri 07:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Meg Alison** • *Meg Alison*

Autograph Session with participant: Meg Alison

Fri 07:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Cecilia Tan** • *Cecilia Tan*

Autograph Session with participant: Cecilia Tan

Fri 07:00 PM

Salon A • **Unpredictably Topical Panel** • *Romie Stott, Sonja Ryst (M), Trisha J Wooldridge, Robert V.S. Redick, Walter Williams*

Some happenings in the genre world can be predicted in advance, but sometimes a new development or controversy will erupt overnight and everyone will suddenly want to talk about it. This panel will discuss genre developments so recent that they weren't on our radar yet when we were writing panel descriptions. Who can say what those will be? Not us!

Fri 07:00 PM

Salon B • **A Weird Reading Tonight** • *Will Ludwigsen, Matthew Cheney, A.T. Sayre,*

Eric Schaller, Steve Berman (M), Laura Argiri, Rob Costello, Brett Mitchell Kent

Welcome the strange and queer into your life with this group reading of Lethe Press authors. Boy Scouts from Innsmouth; hungry game parks from New Hampshire; lecherous 19th-century photographers; time permitting, forgotten listings from the banned phone book will be read as well.

Fri 07:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Charlie Allison** • *Charlie Allison*

Charlie Allison reads from his book, *No Harmless Power: The Life and Times of the Ukrainian Anarchist Nestor Makhno* (PM Press, 2023).

Fri 07:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Andrea Martinez Corbin** • *Andrea Martinez Corbin*

Solo Reading with participant: Andrea Martinez Corbin

Fri 08:00 PM

Registration and Information close.

FRIDAY

Fri 08:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Shariann Lewitt** • *Shariann Lewitt*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Shariann Lewitt

Fri 08:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Erin Roberts** • *Erin Roberts*

Solo Reading with participant: Erin Roberts

Fri 08:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Elizabeth Bear** • *Elizabeth Bear*

Autograph Session with participant: Elizabeth Bear

Fri 08:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: William Alexander** • *William Alexander*

Autograph Session with participant: William Alexander

Fri 08:00 PM

Salon A • **The Life and Work of Terry Bisson** • *Simone Zelitch (M),*

Meg Elison, F. Brett Cox, Gregory Feeley

Terry Bisson (1942-2024) was a tireless and open-hearted champion of politically engaged science fiction. From his own Nebula and Hugo winning short stories, to his collaborative novels and alternative histories, Bisson never stopped imagining an anti-authoritarian future. Most recently, his "Outspoken Authors" series issued through PM press was a platform for writers from Ursula K. Le Guin to Nisi Shawl. Panelists will discuss Bisson's work, his influence on science fiction, and his influence on their own writing lives.

Fri 08:00 PM

Salon B • **Book Club: Elizabeth Hand's Winterlong trilogy** •

Jedediah Berry, Rich Horton, Robert Killheffer (M), Henry Wessells, Lila Garrott

The Winterlong trilogy was Elizabeth Hand's debut as a novelist. A tale of the far-future Earth made hard to recognize after "baroque" genetic manipulation, its prose, full of "mythical resonances and ornate psychopathologies intensely glimpsed" (SF Encyclopedia), continues to challenge readers with its powerful portrait of a decadent culture facing collapse. Come join our panelists as we discuss the trilogy's characters, setting, themes, and vision.

Fri 08:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Richard Butner** • *Richard Butner*

Solo Reading with participant: Richard Butner

Fri 08:30 PM

Wollaston

Reopens for overflow discussions.

Fri 08:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Storm Humbert** • *Storm Humbert*

Solo Reading with participant: Storm Humbert

Fri 08:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Rebecca Fraimow** • *Rebecca Fraimow*

Solo Reading with participant: Rebecca Fraimow

Fri 09:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Adam Golaski** • *Adam Golaski*

A solo reading with participant Adam Golaski

Fri 09:00 PM

Salon A • **The Novels of Mo Xiang Tong Xiu** • *Rebecca Fraimow, Kate Nepveu (M), Lila Garrott, Sophia Babai*

Mo Xiang Tong Xiu is the author of three Chinese webnovels; one was adapted into the influential live-action drama *The Untamed*, and all three landed on the NY Times bestseller list in English translation. Her books are romantic, horrific, funny, tragic, intimate, epic, layered with more narrative foils and parallels and inversions than you can shake a stick at, and very queer.

Panelists will introduce her works, argue for their favorite and least favorite aspects, and discuss her influence on the genre.

FRIDAY

Fri 09:00 PM

Salon B • **Mad Science Q&A** • *Arula Ratnakar, Amanda Downum, Allan Dyen-Shapiro, Kathy Karch (M)*

Have a notion for a futuristic technology and want to run it by some experts? A chimerical monster whose biology requires further scientific study? Need to know how long it takes a body to decompose in an abandoned mineshaft, for... um... reasons? Ask our panel of mad scientists your burning questions and see what they think ~~through the little windows in their skulls~~. Answers may be unexpectedly thoughtful or incredibly unreliable -you will have to judge that for yourself. They called us mad, MAD to do this panel!

Fri 09:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Andrea Hairston** • *Andrea Hairston*
Andrea Hairston reads from ARCHANGELS OF FUNK.

Fri 09:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Shariann Lewitt** • *Shariann Lewitt*
Solo Reading with participant: Shariann Lewitt

Fri 09:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Scott Lynch** • *Scott Lynch*
Solo Reading with participant: Scott Lynch

Fri 10:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award** • *Rich Horton*
The *Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award* honors underread science fiction and fantasy authors, with the intention of drawing renewed attention to the winners.

FRIDAY

Fri 10:15 PM

Salon 3 & Salon 4 • **Meet the Pros(e)** • *Erin Roberts, Ellen Datlow, Jedediah Berry, Amanda Downum, P. Djèlí Clark, Gregory Feeley, Kenneth Schneyer, Jeff Hecht, Benjamin Rosenbaum, Jeff Hecht, Wendy Van Camp, Alexander Jablokov, Jim Freund, Arula Ratnakar, Julie C. Day, C.S.E. Cooney, Randee Dawn, Shariann Lewitt, Victoria Janssen, A. T. Greenblatt, Caitlin Rozakis, Melissa Caruso, Veronica G. Henry, Dennis Danvers, E. C. Ambrose, Karl Schroeder, Meg Elison, Natalie Luhrs, Scott Edelman, Neil Clarke, Barbara Krasnoff, Leon Perniciaro, Storm Humbert, William Alexander, Sarena Straus, A.C. Wise, Zin E. Rocklyn, Trisha J Wooldridge, Rebecca Fraimow, John Wiswell, Sarah Smith, Ian Strock, Eric Schaller, John Murphy, Greer Gilman, Rich Horton, Kathy Karch, Matthew Kressel, Rob Cameron, Andrea Hairston, Walter Williams, Simone Zelitch, Richard Butner, Jeffrey Ford, Robert Killheffer, Henry Wessells, Marcy Arlin, Gillian Daniels, Katherine Crichton, Max Gladstone, Allan Dyen-Shapiro, Andrea Kriz, Karen Heuler, Kevin McLaughlin, James Patrick Kelly, Cecilia Tan, Robert V.S. Redick, James Morrow, Rick Claypool, Michael DeLuca*

At the Friday night Meet the Pros(e) party, program participants are assigned to tables with a roughly equal number of conferencegoers and other participants, and then table placements are scrambled at regular intervals so that everyone gets to meet a new set of people in a small-group setting. Think of it as a low-key sort of speed dating where you need never be the sole focus of anyone's attention, and the goal is just to get to know some cool Readerconnish people. ***Please note that this event will include a bar and is mask-optional, unlike most other programming.***

Fri Midnight

Wollaston • **Overflow Discussions** •

Room closes.

Fri Midnight

Con Suite closes.

SATURDAY

Sat 8:30 AM

Con Suite opens.

Sat 9:00 AM

Registration and Information open.

Sat 10:00 AM

Bookshop opens.

Sat 10:00 AM

Wollaston • **Available for Overflow Discussions •**

Want to continue a discussion after the conclusion of a panel, reading, or presentation? This is where you may do so without disrupting the program rooms or blocking the hallway.

Sat 10:00 AM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Amal El-Mohtar • *Amal El-Mohtar***

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Amal El-Mohtar

Sat 10:00 AM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Wendy Van Camp • *Wendy Van Camp***

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Wendy Van Camp

Sat 10:00 AM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Rob Cameron • *Rob Cameron***

Solo Reading with participant: Rob Cameron

Sat 10:00 AM

Salon 3 • **Mad Prophets & Time Travelers: Dementia in SFF •**

Noah Beit-Aharon, Zin E. Rocklyn, Ann LeBlanc, Julie C. Day, Allison King (M)

Writing in the New Yorker, Stefan Merrill Block suggested that mainstream fiction often relies on the redemptive idea of a true self revealed by Alzheimer's and dementia, but that depicting such diseases as transformative events was truer to his experience. Panelists will discuss SFF depictions of dementia (for instance, Bujold's *Memory*; Clarke's *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*; and Mosley's *The Last Days of Ptolemy Gray*), how or whether they differ from mainstream fiction's approaches, and what they say about our willingness to engage honestly with mental disability and vulnerability.

SATURDAY

Sat 10:00 AM

Salon 4 • **Writing Hope and Optimism** • *Matthew Kressel, Mike Allen (M), Robert V.S. Redick, C.S.E. Cooney, LJ Cohen, Carlos Hernandez*

Hopeful and optimistic fiction are having a moment in genre spaces, but what of hopeful and optimistic characters? Cynical ones never go out of style, but is optimism really so uninteresting? What factors contribute to characters' hopes being perceived by the audience as believable and inspiring rather than naive or cliched? In what ways are notable portrayals of hope across subgenres - including romance, dystopias, and horror - in conversation with each other, and how can a narrative offer hope independent of its characters' opinions? ***Due to high levels of interest, this panel is being run on both Thursday and Saturday, with different participants at each session.***

Sat 10:00 AM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: James Patrick Kelly** • *James Patrick Kelly*
Autograph Session with participant: James Patrick Kelly

Sat 10:00 AM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Ellen Datlow** • *Ellen Datlow*
Autograph Session with participant: Ellen Datlow

Sat 10:00 AM

Salon A • **How to Read Like a Writer** • *Chris Rose, E. C. Ambrose (M), Storm Humbert, Scott Edelman, Jeanne Cavelos*

Most of us learn how to compose stories through an osmotic process, soaking in influences as we grow as readers, but how can writers looking to hone their skills get the most out of their reading? Panelists will share tools and approaches for active reading, including which fiction and non-fiction books they have found most helpful for improving their craft, from story structure to dialog to perfecting POV and more.

SATURDAY

Sat 10:00 AM

Salon B • **Striking the Right Genre Balance** • *Caitlin Rozakis, Meg Elison, Caroline M. Yoachim, David Anthony Durham (M), Kenneth Schneyer*

Almost every author considers how to satisfy readers' expectations while also keeping them guessing with inventive plot, character, or settings that might be unusual for the genre. It's a balance: tip too far toward the tried and true, and one risks reader (and author!) boredom; tip too far on the other side and the reader may feel that the writer has reneged on what they expect from a given genre. This panel will consider striking the right balance.

Sat 10:00 AM

Salon C • **Reading: Max Gladstone** • *Max Gladstone*

Solo Reading with participant: Max Gladstone

Sat 10:30 AM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Veronica G. Henry** • *Veronica G. Henry*

Solo Reading with participant: Veronica G. Henry

Sat 10:30 AM

Salon C • **Reading: Sarena Straus** • *Sarena Straus*

Solo Reading with participant: Sarena Straus

Sat 11:00 AM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Neil Clarke** • *Neil Clarke*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Neil Clarke

Sat 11:00 AM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Storm Humbert** • *Storm Humbert*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Storm Humbert

Sat 11:00 AM

Blue Hills • **Book Collectors Meetup** • *David G. Shaw, Tracy Majka, Greer Gilman*

A meetup of collectors of books in their physical form, with all the attendant joys and chores thereof (finding, buying, organizing, displaying, cataloging, storing). Come spend time with fellow bibliophiles who share the common lament that space is not expanding fast enough.

SATURDAY

Sat 11:00 AM

Salon 3 • **Getting Your Other Foot in the Door** • *Elizabeth Bear, E. C. Ambrose (M), Gregory Wilson, Jeanne Cavelos, Will Ludwigsen*

So you published a novel, a trilogy, a series -congrats! But as all too many authors learn to their dismay, having your foot in the door rarely means what we thought it did when we started out: that future projects will have a smooth path to publication, so that the rest of your career will depend only on the quantity and quality of your writing output. Panelists will discuss the experience of having to get that foot in the door a second (or third, or more) time.

Sat 11:00 AM

Salon 4 • **Anger, Anxiety, Gender and Climate** • *Michael DeLuca, Ann LeBlanc (M), Dennis Danvers, Trisha J Wooldridge, Leon Perniciaro*

Climate crisis may amount to the great unifying trauma of our time, but our society prescribes different acceptable emotional responses by gender, with men being socialized to react more with anger and women with anxiety. Taking works like Paolo Bacigalupi's *The Water Knife*, Kim Stanley Robinson's *Ministry for the Future*, and adrienne maree brown's *Emergent Strategy* as a jumping off point, let's discuss how entrenched gender essentialism forms our thinking about the future, and consider how to change the way we think and write about climate futures.

Sat 11:00 AM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Wendy Van Camp** • *Wendy Van Camp*
Autograph Session with participant: Wendy Van Camp

Sat 11:00 AM

Salon A • **Audiobook Publishing vs. Production** • *Chris Ciulla*

In this presentation, Chris Ciulla, founder and CEO of Leonardo Audio, explains the ins and outs of audiobook publishing and production (which are not the same thing!), from rights considerations, to the key phases of audio production, to how to best prepare yourself and your work for audio.

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SATURDAY

Sat 11:00 AM

Salon B • **Archeology in Reality and Speculative Fiction** • *Victoria Janssen, Kathryn Morrow, Katherine Crichton, Jeff Hecht, Alexander Jablovkov (M)*

Archeology is the study of human cultures through their material remains. Panelists will examine archeology's past flaws, current practice, and future potential, and suggest ways that the field can inform speculative fiction, including what archeology tells us about the range of human cultures and how an archeological mindset can strengthen worldbuilding.

Sat 11:00 AM

Salon C • **Reading: Zin E. Rocklyn** • *Zin E. Rocklyn*

Solo Reading with participant: Zin E. Rocklyn

Sat 11:30 AM

Salon C • **Reading: Sofia Samatar** • *Sofia Samatar*

Solo Reading with participant: Sofia Samatar

Sat 12:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Victoria Janssen** • *Victoria Janssen*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Victoria Janssen

Sat 12:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: A. T. Greenblatt** • *A. T. Greenblatt*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: A. T. Greenblatt

Sat 12:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Rebecca Roanhorse** • *Rebecca Roanhorse*

Solo Reading with participant: Rebecca Roanhorse

SATURDAY

Sat 12:00 PM

Salon 3 • **Moral Discourse as a Professional Concern** • *Sunny Moraine, Storm Humbert, Erin Roberts, P. Djèlí Clark, Michael DeLuca (M)*

Like it or not, we appear to be living in a cultural moment where readers and reviewers are consumed with moral discourse. Fiction is being judged, sometimes primarily, on the moral and political implications of its existence, with other aesthetic and artistic considerations taking a more minor role. What does this mean for authors and publishers on a practical level? How does one navigate the professional reality of producing art at a time when so many readers are asking not "is this any good" but "is this good for Society"?

Sat 12:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Romanticizing Death and Dying** • *Julie C. Day, James Morrow, Shariann Lewitt, Scott H. Andrews (M), Marcy Arlin*

When somebody is dying or dies in fictional media, it is often romantic, or exciting, or noble, or beautiful and tragic. The reality that many of us face - pain, fear, loss of self, the gradual breakdown of the body due to age or disease - is a lot less pleasant to experience and witness. Why do we romanticize death in fiction? Is it a necessary defense against the reality of our own mortality, or just a part of making fictional worlds more entertaining, the way perfect sex is?

Due to high levels of interest, this panel is being run on both Thursday and Saturday, with different participants at each session.

Sat 12:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Caroline M. Yoachim** • *Caroline M. Yoachim*
Autograph Session with participant: Caroline M. Yoachim

Sat 12:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Kevin McLaughlin** • *Kevin McLaughlin*
Autograph Session with participant: Kevin McLaughlin

SATURDAY

Sat 12:00 PM

Salon A • **How to Read Like a Reader** • *Susan Stinson, James Patrick Kelly, C.S.E. Cooney, William Alexander, David Anthony Durham (M)*

It's all well and good to hone one's craft through active reading, but is there a way to then shut off writer-brain, stop admiring the artistry, and get back to devouring the art? Are active readers forever spoiled for fun stories told with subpar craftsmanship? A companion panel to How to Read Like a Writer.

Sat 12:00 PM

Salon B • **What Makes a Good Audiobook Narrator Tick** • *Chris Ciulla (M), Danielle Cohen, Sara Sheckells, Justin Price, Steven Jay Cohen*

How do audiobook narrators prepare for their performances, make character choices, and communicate with authors and rights-holders to achieve a storytelling experience that matches the original work? This panel of working audiobook narrators will discuss their process, punctuating the discussion with demonstrations of technique.

Sat 12:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Wendy Van Camp** • *Wendy Van Camp*
Solo Reading with participant: Wendy Van Camp

Sat 12:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Amal El-Mohtar** • *Amal El-Mohtar*
Solo Reading with participant: Amal El-Mohtar

Sat 12:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Matthew Kressel** • *Matthew Kressel*
Solo Reading with participant: Matthew Kressel

Sat 01:00 PM

Bookshop closed for bookdealers' lunchbreak.

Sat 01:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Jeff Hecht** • *Jeff Hecht*
Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Jeff Hecht

SATURDAY

Sat 01:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Elizabeth Bear** • *Elizabeth Bear*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Elizabeth Bear

Sat 01:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Bound to Please: a Book Makers Meet-up** • *Eric Schaller (M), Wendy Van Camp*

Enjoy making books yourself? Or want to learn how? Come meet fellow book makers and engage with them on a wide range of topics such as methods of printing, paper selection, bindings, and cover selection. Bring your creations to show them off, or come to ask questions.

Sat 01:00 PM

Salon 3 • **Beyond Afrofuturism** • *P. Djèlí Clark, Zin E. Rocklyn, Rob Cameron (M), Akua Lezli HOPE, Andrea Hairston*

Afrofuturism is, in many ways, a response to Science Fiction revealing that its mainstream did not believe Black people would inherit a future. It is not, however, the only branch of speculative fiction belonging to Black creatives, nor a catch-all term for Black SF. This panel will discuss the knotty intersections of Black identity with time travel and body horror, the existence of Afrosurrealism and ngano, and the mundane magicks that do not qualify as realism according to the Academy.

Sat 01:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Classics with Undeservedly Bad Reputations** • *Ian Muneshwar, Rebecca Fraimow, The joey Zone, Laurence Raphael Brothers (M), Max Gladstone*

Which classics have undeserved reputations as dry and dusty, or really hard work, or bone-crushingly depressing? How are these reputations developed and perpetuated? Are there any patterns in what works are relegated to “worthy but unread (and perhaps unreadable)”? What books make us want to grab people by the metaphorical shoulders and say, “No, forget what you think you know about this book, you really have to read it!” (and why is one of them Moby-Dick)?

SATURDAY

Sat 01:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Sofia Samatar** • *Sofia Samatar*
Autograph Session with participant: Sofia Samatar

Sat 01:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Greer Gilman** • *Greer Gilman*
Autograph Session with participant: Greer Gilman

Sat 01:00 PM

Salon A • **A Genre Unto Oneself** • *Karl Schroeder, LJ Cohen, Simone Zelitch, Graham Sleight (M), Jeanne Cavelos*

Career writers often reach a point where readers feel they don't need to seriously consider new books; either they liked the old ones enough to buy the new one looking for more of the same, or they didn't, and won't give the new book a chance. How do we as readers make these determinations? How do authors navigate this shift? How do you maintain a career when your past accomplishments might hinder your prospects for a growing audience?

Sat 01:00 PM

Salon B • **Paranormal Romance, Romantasy, or "Just" Fantasy?** • *Cecilia Tan, Natalie Luhrs, C.S.E. Cooney, Mark Painter, Victoria Janssen (M)*

Significant amounts of romance in a fantasy novel can lead to its being designated as part of a romance-focused subgenre, such as paranormal romance or romantasy -which can be a restrictive pigeon-hole or a way of reaching new audiences. Panelists will discuss the reader expectations that come along with these designations and how authors can attempt to write within a particular subgenre, to deliberately subvert reader expectations, or to resist such categorization altogether.

Sat 01:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Gwynne Garfinkle** • *Gwynne Garfinkle*
Gwynne Garfinkle reads from her forthcoming collection of short fiction, *SINKING, SINGING* (Aqueduct Press).

Sat 01:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Sarah Smith** • *Sarah Smith*
Solo Reading with participant: Sarah Smith

Sat 02:00 PM

Bookshop reopens.

Sat 02:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Jeanne Cavelos** • *Jeanne Cavelos*
Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Jeanne Cavelos

Sat 02:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Karl Schroeder** • *Karl Schroeder*
Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Karl Schroeder

Sat 02:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Mike Allen** • *Mike Allen*
Solo Reading with participant: Mike Allen

Sat 02:00 PM

Salon 3 • **SFF and Wanderlust** • *A. T. Greenblatt, Greer Gilman, Robert V.S. Redick, Alexander Jablovkov (M), Amal El-Mohtar*
Science fiction and fantasy both have a strong tradition of fantastical travelogue, taking readers and audiences to strange new worlds and then, more often than not, moving from place to wondrous place as if unable to sit still. What is behind this drive to explore the fantastic rather than dwell in it? Is there something to be learned from more conventional travelogue about how people experience unfamiliar places and make sense of them?

Sat 02:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Audiobook Live Narration** • *Cecilia Tan, Justin Price, Steven Jay Cohen, Danielle Cohen, Sara Sheckells, Sarah Smith, Chris Ciulla (M), Katherine Crighton*
A live demonstration by narrators from the Boston-area audiobook narrating community, showing differing approaches to audio narration for the many subgenres of speculative fiction, working off samples submitted in advance by author attendees.

Sat 02:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Rebecca Roanhorse** • *Rebecca Roanhorse*
Autograph Session with participant: Rebecca Roanhorse

SATURDAY

Sat 02:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Veronica G. Henry** • *Veronica G. Henry*
Autograph Session with participant: Veronica G. Henry

Sat 02:00 PM

Salon A • **The Tyranny of the Tale** • *Will Ludwigsen, Andrea Kriz, Gregory Wilson, RB Lemberg, Andrea Martinez Corbin (M)*

In her New Yorker article, *The Tyranny of the Tale*, book critic Parul Sehgal launched a diatribe against “the doctrine of narrative supremacy”, the idea that humans innately rely on stories to understand the world and so are best reached and persuaded via a good tale, rather than through data or non-narrative fact. Has storytelling truly conquered the political and marketing worlds to our detriment? How can artists defend against the “encroachment of storytelling upon art”? Should they?

Sat 02:00 PM

Salon B • **The Life and Work of Michael Bishop** • *F. Brett Cox, James Morrow (M), Robert Killheffer*

Michael Bishop (1945-2023) published his first story in 1970, and in the decades that followed he published some fifteen novels and nearly a dozen story collections, as well as volumes of poetry and a number of edited anthologies. His humane, very literary science fiction, fantasy, and (sometimes) horror fiction, much of it set in the American South, won him awards and the admiration of his peers. He is perhaps best known for the novels *Brittle Innings* and *Unicorn Mountain*, one of the first SF novels to deal with the AIDS crisis. Bishop was Guest of Honor at Readercon 5 in 1992.

Sat 02:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Ian Muneshwar** • *Ian Muneshwar*

Ian Muneshwar, a finalist at last year’s Shirley Jackson Awards, reads from a new work of gothic horror.

Sat 02:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Michael DeLuca** • *Michael DeLuca*

Solo Reading with participant: Michael DeLuca

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SATURDAY

Sat 02:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: John Wiswell** • *John Wiswell*

Solo Reading with participant: John Wiswell

Sat 03:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Andrea Hairston** • *Andrea Hairston*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Andrea Hairston

Sat 03:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Caroline M. Yoachim** • *Caroline M. Yoachim*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Caroline M. Yoachim

Sat 03:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: A. T. Greenblatt** • *A. T. Greenblatt*

Solo Reading with participant A. T. Greenblatt

Sat 03:00 PM

Salon 3 • **Responses to Omelas** • *Tom Greene, Leon Perniciaro, Carlos Hernandez, Ann LeBlanc (M), Kenneth Schneyer*

In February 2024, Isabel J. Kim's "Why Don't We Just Kill the Kid In the Omelas Hole" became the latest of a number of responses to Ursula K. Le Guin's classic short story. Others include N.K. Jemisin's "The Ones Who Stay and Fight"; "The Odyssey Problem" by Chris Willrich; "The Ones Who Come Back to Heal" by Cynthia Gómez; Naomi Novik's Scholomance trilogy; and Star Trek Strange New Worlds's episode "Lift Us Where Suffering Cannot Reach." Panelists will discuss what these responses tell us about the original story, the times they're written in, and the perspectives they're written from.

SATURDAY

Sat 03:00 PM

Salon 4 • **What has RWA Got that We Ain't Got?** • *Cecilia Tan (M), Meg Elison, Allan Dyen-Shapiro, Kevin McLaughlin, John Murphy*

In the wake of the Romance Writers of America's 2020 meltdown over institutional racism, then-SFWA President Mary Robinette Kowal extended an open invitation to our genre compatriots from Romancelandia to bring their enthusiasm and antiracist energy to our community, prompting a discussion among authors who straddle the Romance and SFF worlds about how different the RWA and SFWA are as organizations. What are some of the ways they differ, and what can we as a community learn from the RWA's example, both positive and negative? Panelists may also discuss the RWA's recent bankruptcy filing, and what it says about the organization's struggles.

Sat 03:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Sarena Straus** • *Sarena Straus*
Autograph Session with participant: Sarena Straus

Sat 03:00 PM

Hallway • **Autograph Session: Karl Schroeder** • *Karl Schroeder*
Autograph Session with participant: Karl Schroeder

Sat 03:00 PM

Salon A • **The Expanding Universe of Speculative Poetry** •
Akua Lezli HOPE, Lisa M. Bradley (M), Wendy Van Camp, Gwynne Garfinkle, Romie Stott

Although mainstream poets have long included fantastika within their bodies of work, recognition of poetry in genre spaces has grown in the half-century since Suzette Haden Elgin's 1978 founding of the SF Poetry Association and the Rhysling Awards. Since then, the increasing crossover that witnessed the birth of slipstream literature has also fostered the emergence of speculative poetry as an active pursuit and not a post-facto label. Our panelists will survey the current landscape of speculative poetry, and speculate about where we're headed next.

SATURDAY

Sat 03:00 PM

Salon B • **The Works of Naomi Mitchison** • *Rebecca Fraimow, Kate Nepveu (M), Max Gladstone, Lila Garrott, Amal El-Mohtar*

Memorial GOH Naomi Mitchison came to SFF late in her writing career, after achieving success with her historical fiction (*The Corn King and the Spring Queen* 1931). Her retelling of the Grail legend in the tone of a tabloid journalist, *To the Chapel Perilous* (1955), presaged much of contemporary urban fantasy with its irreverent modern twist on the old story. Mitchison's anthropological and political interests made for unique works that explored the difficulty of recording history while hurtling into the future (*Memoirs of a Spacewoman*, 1962), the downsides of food surpluses (*Not by Bread Alone*, 1983), and the ramifications of cloning (*Solution Three* 1975). Join us in exploring the works of her long and storied career.

Sat 03:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: William Alexander** • *William Alexander*
Solo Reading with participant: William Alexander

Sat 03:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Sunny Moraine** • *Sunny Moraine*
Solo Reading with participant: Sunny Moraine

Sat 03:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: A.C. Wise** • *A.C. Wise*
Solo Reading with participant A.C. Wise

Sat 04:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Interview: Rebecca Roanhorse** • *P. Djèlí Clark (M), Rebecca Roanhorse*
Guest of Honor Rebecca Roanhorse interviewed by P. Djèlí Clark.

Sat 05:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Interview: Amal El-Mohtar** • *Amal El-Mohtar, Max Gladstone (M)*
Guest of Honor Amal El-Mohtar is interviewed by Max Gladstone.

Sat 06:00 PM

Registration and Information close.

SATURDAY

Sat 06:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Sarena Straus** • *Sarena Straus*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Sarena Straus

Sat 06:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Trisha J Wooldridge** • *Trisha J Wooldridge*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Trisha J Wooldridge

Sat 06:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Julie C. Day** • *Julie C. Day*

Solo Reading with participant: Julie C. Day

Sat 06:00 PM

Salon A • **The Fiction of Christopher Priest** • *Rich Horton, Graham Sleight (M), Tracy Majka, Gregory Feeley*

Christopher Priest (1943-2024) was widely celebrated in his native United Kingdom for his novels and novellas, but save for his 1995 novel *The Prestige* (which was made into a successful film), his work was known in North America primarily by science fiction fans -and mostly for the most science-fictional of them, such as his novels and stories about the Dream Archipelago. Priest's fifty-year career comprises nearly twenty novels, some (such as the Hugo nominee *Inverted World*) well-known, some never published in the US. Let's celebrate his life and work.

Sat 06:00 PM

Salon B • **First Contact in Historical Detail** • *Tom Greene, Jeff Hecht, Rob Cameron, Leon Perniciaro (M), Michael DeLuca*

The most documented instance of "first contact" between alien cultures is the European invasion of the Americas. In the nearly 20 years since Thomas Mann's "1491" summarized the research challenging simplistic and racist stereotypes about the pre-Columbian Americas for a popular audience, how has our imagination of historical America evolved, and what influence has that had on our fiction?

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SATURDAY

Sat 06:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Susan Stinson** • *Susan Stinson*

Susan Stinson reads from a novel-in-progress about 17th century women who turn into lampreys.

Sat 06:30 PM

Con Suite closes; will reopen at 9 PM.

Sat 06:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Henry Wessells** • *Henry Wessells*

Solo Reading with participant: Henry Wessells

Sat 06:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Akua Lezli HOPE** • *Akua Lezli HOPE*

Solo Reading with participant: Akua Lezli HOPE

Sat 07:00 PM

Bookshop closes.

Sat 07:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Veronica G. Henry** • *Veronica G. Henry*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Veronica G. Henry

Sat 07:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Arula Ratnakar** • *Arula Ratnakar*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Arula Ratnakar

Sat 07:00 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Noah Beit-Aharon** • *Noah Beit-Aharon*

Noah Beit-Aharon (N.S. Dolkart) reads something fun but unspecified.

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SATURDAY

Sat 07:00 PM

Salon A • **How I Wrote: The Birdverse** • *RB Lemberg*

The Birdverse, RB Lemberg's Jewishly-inspired setting for novels, novellas, short stories, and poetry, has enchanted readers for over a decade with its characters, worldbuilding, and deepname-based magic system. In this talk, the author will discuss their latest novella set in the Birdverse, Yoke of Stars, which deals with languages, translation, gender, migration, and living in the aftermath of traumatic experiences. R.B. will talk about inspirations behind their setting, and the practicalities of constructing such a world.

Sat 07:00 PM

Salon B • **Ask a Necromancer** • *Amanda Downum*

A reprise of last year's popular Q&A with Amanda Downum, author and licensed mortician.

Sat 07:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Will Ludwigsen** • *Will Ludwigsen*

Solo Reading with participant: Will Ludwigsen

Sat 07:30 PM

Discord [Blue Hills] • **Jack Dann Virtual Q&A** •

A virtual discussion with Australian author Jack Dann, hosted on the Readercon Discord server in the channel named "panel-discussion-1" under the RC33 section. Jack's reading will be made available at <https://readercon.org/program/content> prior to the conference.

Sat 07:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Emma J. Gibbon** • *Emma J. Gibbon*

Solo Reading with participant: Emma J. Gibbon

SATURDAY

Sat 08:00 PM

Discord [Blue Hills] • **Evolution of Climate Writing Q&A** •

A virtual Q&A discussion hosted on Readercon's Discord server in the channel named "panel-discussion-1". The pre-recorded panel, "The Evolution of Climate Writing in the Age of Climate Collapse," will be posted on <https://readercon.org/program/content> prior to the conference.

All writing is climate writing, according to Camille T. Dungy's 2018 Georgia Review essay, whether it's addressing the 900 ton coal-powered gorilla in the room or deliberately avoiding the unifying crisis of our time. Climate writing is stuck in a rut, claims Heather Houser in a 2022 LitHub essay, because no matter how loudly we raise the alarm, nothing gets done, and writers keep relying on the same tools despite their ineffectuality. So let's talk about climate writing's weird, experimental future, the new tools it's employing, and how it takes advantage of the realization that everything intersects.

Sat 08:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Shirley Jackson Awards** • *Amal El-Mohtar, Rebecca Roanhorse*

In recognition of the legacy of Shirley Jackson's writing, and with permission of the author's estate, The Shirley Jackson Awards, Inc. presents awards for outstanding achievement in the literature of psychological suspense, horror, and the dark fantastic.

The Shirley Jackson Awards are voted upon by a jury of professional writers, editors, critics, and academics. The awards are given for the best work published in the preceding calendar year in the following categories: Novel, Novella, Novelette, Short Fiction, Single-Author Collection, and Edited Anthology. The full list of this year's nominees can be found at <https://www.shirleyjacksonawards.org>

Sat 08:00 PM

Salon A • **Hard SF and Beyond** • *Allan Kaster*

The editor of the annual series, *The Year's Top Hard Science Fiction Stories*, will discuss some, well, "hard" questions. What, exactly, is hard science fiction? Has its definition morphed over time? Does the term have any relevance in today's genre? And how does hard science fiction fit into the scheme of things at the small independent press, Infinivox?

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Sat 08:00 PM

Salon B • **AI: The Bad Parts Version** • *Neil Clarke (M), Scott H. Andrews, Arula Ratnakar, Michael DeLuca, Matthew Kressel*

Does this title even require explanation? Panelists will tackle the hype, ethics, and consequences of generative AI and its champions.

Sat 08:00 PM

Salon C • **Reading: Katherine Crichton** • *Katherine Crichton*

Solo Reading with participant: Katherine Crichton

Sat 08:30 PM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Laurence Raphael Brothers** • *Laurence Raphael Brothers*

Solo Reading with participant: Laurence Raphael Brothers

Sat 08:30 PM

Salon C • **Reading: E. C. Ambrose** • *E. C. Ambrose*

Solo Reading with participant: E. C. Ambrose

Sat 09:00 PM

Con Suite reopens.

Sat 09:00 PM

Salon A • **BSFW Karaoke Party** • *Rob Cameron (M)*

Our 2nd annual karaoke party, hosted by the Brooklyn Speculative Fiction Writers.

Sat Midnight

Wollaston • **Overflow Discussions** • Room closes.

Sat Midnight

Con Suite closes.

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Sun 8:30 AM

Con Suite opens

Sun 10:00 AM

Registration, Information, and Bookshop open.

Sun 10:00 AM

Wollaston • **Available for Overflow Discussions** •

Want to continue a discussion after the conclusion of a panel, reading, or presentation? This is where you may do so without disrupting the program rooms or blocking the hallway.

Sun 10:00 AM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Meg Elison** • *Meg Elison*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Meg Elison

Sun 10:00 AM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Michael DeLuca** • *Michael DeLuca*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Michael DeLuca

Sun 10:00 AM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Alexander Jablov** • *Alexander Jablov*

Solo Reading with participant: Alexander Jablov

Sun 10:00 AM

Salon 3 • **Imaginary Book Club** • *Greer Gilman, Scott Edelman, Zin E. Rocklyn, David G. Shaw, Graham Sleight (M)*

Panelists discuss the most interesting books they've read in the last year, even though those books (technically) do not exist, and regale the audience with learned commentary designed to persuade them to give some of their precious reading time for these nonexistent classics. Perhaps we will discuss a newly discovered 19th-century werewolf romantasy, or the Complete Goosebumps as annotated by Thomas Pynchon. Maybe the baseball horror anthology "If I Never Get Back"?

SUNDAY

Sun 10:00 AM

Salon 4 • **The Breakup of the United States in Speculative Fiction** •

Tom Greene, Sarena Straus, Ian Strock, Randee Dawn (M), James Morrow

America was founded in an act of separatism from the British Empire, and over the years, the idea of individual states breaking from the Union has appealed to a variety of Americans for some wildly divergent reasons. Why do Americans romanticize the idea of American breakup, and how do speculative fiction books discussing this topic handle it? What common ideas are expressed, and how do these ideas interface with recent and ongoing current events?

Sun 10:00 AM

Salon A • **The Works of Amal El-Mohtar** • *RB Lemberg, C.S.E. Cooney (M), Sarah Smith, Gwynne Garfinkle, Max Gladstone*

Author, poet, editor of Goblin Fruit magazine, SF reviewer for the NY Times Book Review, and longtime friend of Readercon, GOH Amal El-Mohtar has made multifarious contributions to our genres and received a variety of awards: a Hugo for *This is How You Lose the Time War* (2019), co-written with Max Gladstone; Nebula for “Seasons of Glass and Iron” (2016); Locus for “The Truth About Owls” (2014), and three Rhyslins for Best Short Poem. Please join us as we take in the wide expanses of El-Mohtar country. To quote a certain viral tweeter: “I’m very extremely serious.”

Sun 10:00 AM

Salon B • **Mosaic Novels, Form and Function** • *Matthew Cheney, Barbara Krasnoff, Julie C. Day (M), Dennis Danvers, Steven Popkes*

Mosaic novels are collections of associated stories that simultaneously stand alone but which collectively create a coherent narrative which can catch the reader by surprise. Characters who are front and center in one story can be background in another; a storyline in one will serve to illuminate another. The form has been used by writers such as Barbara Krasnoff, Kage Baker, and Richard Bowes. What makes a mosaic novel, and why do some authors gravitate toward that form?

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Sun 10:00 AM

Salon C • **Reading: Chris Rose** • *Chris Rose*

Solo Reading with participant: Chris Rose

Sun 10:30 AM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Kathy Karch** • *Kathy Karch*

Solo Reading with participant: Kathy Karch

Sun 10:30 AM

Salon C • **Reading: Allison King** • *Allison King*

Solo Reading with participant: Allison King

Sun 11:00 AM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Randee Dawn** • *Randee Dawn*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Randee Dawn

Sun 11:00 AM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: James Patrick Kelly** • *James Patrick Kelly*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: James Patrick Kelly

Sun 11:00 AM

Blue Hills • **Reading: Scott Edelman** • *Scott Edelman*

Solo Reading with participant: Scott Edelman

Sun 11:00 AM

Salon 3 • **Where "Cinematic" Meets Cinema** • *Romie Stott, Max Gladstone, Rebecca Roanhorse, David Anthony Durham (M)*

Richly described visuals are often described by readers as “cinematic,” possessing the kind of aesthetic power that calls to mind the experience of viewing the action with your eyes. Yet the process of writing a screenplay can require the writer to curb their “cinematic” instincts and leave the bulk of the visualization to the director, cinematographer, set and prop designers. How does the experience of writing for cinema relate to the experience of writing cinematically, and how do those boundaries get negotiated?

SUNDAY

Sun 11:00 AM

Salon 4 • **Defining and Appreciating Cozy SFF** • *Steven Popkes, Caitlin Rozakis, Natalie Luhrs, John Wiswell, Victoria Janssen (M)*

At the blog Lady Business, forestofglory argues that cozy SFF "generally has small stakes," "focuses on community-building," and "honors the importance of domestic labor and other undervalued jobs." She also argues that its main failure mode is "insularity": failing to ground a story by situating it within a larger context, or failing to recognize the implications of its background worldbuilding. Panelists will explore how this framework illuminates cozy SFF's appeal, scope, and relationships to other subgenres.

Sun 11:00 AM

Salon A • **The Works of Josephine Saxton** • *Rich Horton, Robert Killheffer, Gregory Feeley (M)*

Josephine Saxton, Recipient of the 2023 Cordwainer Smith Rediscovery Award and 1987 Arthur C. Clarke Award nominee, was a significant presence in the feminist New Wave of the 1970s and '80s. Her works, beginning with *The Hieros Gamos of Sam and An Smith* (1969) and *Vector for Seven* (1970), highlight the inner space of imaginative women who struggle against the outer constraints (sometimes physical) of a numbing and suppressive patriarchy. Later pieces showcase female characters seeking escape or answers, like the revolutionary leader who traverses the multiverse in search of a solution to the inequality of the genders in *The Travails of Jane Saint and Other Stories* (1989). We are pleased at Readercon to bring her fantastika back into focus.

Sun 11:00 AM

Salon B • **The Life and Work of Richard Bowes** • *Matthew Cheney (M), Jim Freund, Eric Schaller, Barbara Krasnoff, Jeffrey Ford*

Richard Bowes (1944-2023), a winner of multiple World Fantasy Awards, the International Horror Guild Award, and the Lambda, was especially well known for his short fiction and mosaic novels such as *Minions of the Moon* and *Dust Devil on a Quiet Street*, semi-autobiographical works that presented what he called "my life in speculative fiction." Bowes was a model and mentor to younger queer writers, and a frequent presence at Readercon. This panel will bring together friends, colleagues, and appreciative readers to celebrate his legacy.

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Sun 11:00 AM

Salon C • **Speculative Poetry Open Mic** • *C.S.E. Cooney (M)*,
Trisha J Wooldridge (M)

An open mic for works of speculative poetry. Want to gauge an audience's reaction to your robot vampire sestina? Read a new Petrarchan sonnet you were too nervous to share when you wrote it? Hear your friends recite their free-verse musings on the fungal zombie apocalypse? This is the place!

Sun 11:30 AM

Blue Hills • **Reading: John Murphy** • *John Murphy*
Solo Reading with participant: John Murphy

Sun 12:00 PM

Bookshop closes for dealers' lunchbreak.

Sun 12:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Steve Berman** • *Steve Berman*
Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Steve Berman

Sun 12:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Leon Perniciaro** • *Leon Perniciaro*
Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Leon Perniciaro

Sun 12:00 PM

Salon 3 • **The Translator as Editor** • *James Morrow, John Chu, Lila Garrott, Kathryn Morrow (M)*

Literary translation is a creative and transformative process that requires constant decision-making and prioritizing of conflicting interests, such as clarity vs. lyricism, literal meaning vs. cultural equivalence, and phonetics vs. content. So, too, must an editor juggle priorities in dialogue with authors' work, and with the authors themselves. This panel will explore the parallels between translation and editing, and what can be gained by focusing on the interplay between the two fields.

SUNDAY

Sun 12:00 PM

Salon 4 • **The Speculated Audience** • *Erin Roberts, Chris Rose, Ann LeBlanc, Kenneth Schneyer, Andrea Martinez Corbin (M)*

Imaginative fiction is generally written about people or places that do not exist, and is often written from the perspective of a narrator who doesn't exist, but it can also be ostensibly written for an audience that does not exist.

Panelists will explore sundry examples where the alleged intended audience is fictional, such as epistolary fiction, research reports included in science fiction, public service announcements, and textbooks about a fantasy subject. When are these tools used merely as devices for delivering information, and when is such a format essential to the kind of story that is being told?

Sun 12:00 PM

Salon A • **The Manuscripts of Arthur Machen** • *Henry Wessells*

Since last year's panel on Arthur Machen (1863-1947), the influential author of *The Great God Pan*, *The Three Impostors*, and *The Hill of Dreams*, new information on Machen's life and work has come to light. Henry Wessells will discuss Machen's place in the history of supernatural fiction, and report on an examination of the author's autograph manuscripts, in particular a group of newly discovered manuscripts of significant works, last seen in 1923.

Sun 12:00 PM

Salon B • **Book Club: The Locked Tomb Series by Tamsyn Muir** •

Yves Meynard, Benjamin Rosenbaum, Gillian Daniels (M), Karl Schroeder, Kate Nepveu, Graham Sleight

Tamsyn Muir's Locked Tomb series is dense with allusion, mystery, heartbreak, ever-more-unreliable narrators, and terrible jokes. Let's share our favorite characters and moments, point out telling details we were excited to discover, and speculate wildly about what might happen in Alecto the Ninth.

Sun 01:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Max Gladstone** • *Max Gladstone*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Max Gladstone

Sun 01:00 PM

Bookshop reopens.

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Sun 01:00 PM

Registration and Information close.

Sun 01:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Scott Edelman** • *Scott Edelman*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Scott Edelman

Sun 01:00 PM

Salon 3 • **Navigating Story Length** • *Yves Meynard, Jeanne Cavelos, Gregory Wilson, James Patrick Kelly (M), Lila Garrott*

How do you know when your short story is the right length for its goals, or how to tell a short story idea from a novelette, novella, novel, or (heaven forbid) eight book series idea? Do certain types of stories have optimal lengths, or can any story concept be distilled or expanded given enough skill and effort? What, besides submission requirements, guides the hand of those skilled at publishing short stories, on both sides of the publishing equation?

Sun 01:00 PM

Salon 4 • **The Intersections of Romance and Horror** • *Steve Berman, Zin E. Rocklyn, Gillian Daniels, Sunny Moraine, Romie Stott (M)*

Romance in dark fiction and horror can serve many purposes, such as offering respite or hope; clarifying or raising the stakes; or acting as the ultimate source of the conflict. How can romance, sex, and love be depicted in ways that serve the overall purpose of a dark story while still being satisfying in their own right (if that's the intent)? How have different subgenres, such as paranormal romance, slasher horror, or gothic fiction, approached these questions?

SUNDAY

Sun 01:00 PM

Salon A • **The Works of Rebecca Roanhorse** • *Kate Nepveu (M), Amal El-Mohtar, Noah Beit-Aharon*

GOH Rebecca Roanhorse won a Hugo and Nebula for her first published story, “Welcome to Your Authentic Indian Experience™” (2017), and was recognized with the 2018 Astounding Award for Best New Writer. She has been a force in the genre world ever since (perhaps literally, as evidenced by her Star Wars novel, *Resistance Reborn*). Her Sixth World series (*Trail of Lightning*, 2018; *Storm of Locusts*, 2019) featured a post-climate disaster future America with a now-sovereign nation of Dinétah (Navajo), haunted by monsters. In the Between Earth and Sky series (*Black Sun*, 2020; *Fevered Star*, 2022; *Mirrored Heavens*, 2024), she offers a fantasy re-imagination of the pre-colonial Americas and Pacific Islands. Please join us in exploring the richness of her works.

Sun 01:00 PM

Salon B • **With Your Shield or On It: The Mythology and Reality of Sparta** • *Tom Greene, Shariann Lewitt, Alexander Jablovkov (M), Wendy Van Camp*

Memorial GOH Naomi Mitchison delved deeply into the beliefs of and about the ancient Greek city of Sparta in stories (“Black Sparta”) and novels (*Cloud Cuckoo Land*, *The Corn King and the Spring Queen*). While she admired the rationality of its Stoicism, she also rejected its cruelty and loss of individuality. We still see glorification of Spartan military discipline, even as we miss the gaps in its ranks. Our panelists will differentiate legend from fact and dissect why the myth of Sparta still holds such appeal.

Sun 01:00 PM

Salon C • **AAPI Birds of a Feather Meetup** • *Emily Goroza, Liam Hobbs, Wren Lee*

A meetup for AAPI writers and readers of speculative fiction, hosted by Panethnic Pourovers.

Sun 02:00 PM

Con Suite closes.

SUNDAY

Sun 02:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: John Wiswell** • *John Wiswell*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: John Wiswell

Sun 02:00 PM

Basalt • **Kaffeeklatsch: Zin E. Rocklyn** • *Zin E. Rocklyn*

Kaffeeklatsch with participant: Zin E. Rocklyn

Sun 02:00 PM

Salon 3 • **The Transformations of Epic Fantasy** • *RB Lemberg, Scott Lynch, Rebecca Roanhorse, Rob Cameron, David Anthony Durham (M)*

Every story is a product of its time and culture, even in genres defined by nostalgia for times and entertainments past. How has our changing reality changed what stories we tell about the mythic past, from the mundane -has the booming human population caused inflation in fantasy populations? -to the profound? Has the expansion of who gets to tell and publish fantastical epics, a development that has received great fanfare (and, among some, the expected backlash) come alongside other, less discussed changes?

Sun 02:00 PM

Salon 4 • **Battle of the Academy** • *Benjamin Rosenbaum, Trisha J Wooldridge, Tom Greene, Andrea Kriz, Katherine Crighton (M)*

Besides the obvious cosplay connections (flowing robes! Funny hats!), academia and fandom both prize the ability of participants to expostulate upon a variety of topics, often impromptu and orally. Watch our panelists defend academic theses they've picked out of a hat ("The Reification of Martyrdom in [Pokemon]" "Confronting Bias through Teaching the Works of [Hayao Miyazaki]") while offering learned critiques of each others' attempts.

Sun 02:00 PM

Salon A • **Starting a Library is Easy!** • *Emily Goroza, Liam Hobbs*

A conversation with co-librarian Liam Hobbs and founding director Emily Goroza of Panethnic Pourovers, an AAPI nonprofit cafe, library, and community space in Quincy, about the process of creating their library and the ethos with which they approach it.

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SUNDAY

Sun 02:00 PM

Salon B • **Your Personal Odyssey — Students' Most Helpful Tools** •

Jeanne Cavelos

Two years ago, Your Personal Odyssey Writing Workshop was launched, providing a new option for writers of speculative fiction wanting to make progress in their writing. Students work online one-on-one with Odyssey director Jeanne Cavelos and guest critiquers, asking questions, sharing struggles, and discussing the usefulness of various tools and techniques they've learned in the program. This follow-up to last year's presentation will cover the tools that YPO students have found most useful in improving their craft. Share your writing problems and find out what tool may help you.

Sun 03:00 PM

Bookshop closes.

Sun 03:00 PM

Wollaston • **Overflow Discussions** • Room closes

Sun 03:00 PM

Salon B • **Readercon 33 Feedback Panel** •

Members of the Readercon Committee

Opportunity for attendees to provide constructive feedback about what worked well at Readercon this year and suggestions for how to improve the Readercon experience in the future.