

RECEPTION HISTORIES OF THE FUTURE

A CONFERENCE ON
BYZANTINISMS, SPECULATIVE FICTION,
AND THE LITERARY HERITAGE OF MEDIEVAL EMPIRE

AUGUST 4 - 7, 2017
UPPSALA UNIVERSITY



FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

- 10:00 – 10:30** WELCOME AND OPENING LECTURE – Arkady Martine (AnnaLinden Weller)
- 10:30 – 11:30** PANEL: *THE SPECTRE OF EMPIRE HAUNTING SFF*
Panelists: Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Amal el-Mohtar,
Max Gladstone, Lydia Spielberg
Moderator: Elizabeth Bear
- 11:30 – 12:00** COFFEE
- 12:00 – 1:00** PAPER SESSION: *FROM ARRAKIS TO CONSTANTINOPLE: BYZANTINISM IN FRANK HERBERT'S DUNE.*
Moderator/Discussant: Scott Lynch
Brett M Rogers – “(False?) Byzantinisms in *Dune*”
Maximilian Lau – “Princess-Historians: Interpreting Irulan Corrino and Anna Komnene”
- 1:00 – 2:00** PANEL: *SPACE EMPIRES: ROMAN OR POST-ROMAN? AKA: RHOMAIOI AND BARBAROI IN SPACE*
Panelists: Liz Bourke, Ann Leckie, Arkady Martine (AnnaLinden Weller), Max Lau, Lydia Spielberg
Moderator: Teresa Nielsen Hayden
- 2:00 – 3:00** LUNCH
- 3:00 – 4:00** PAPER SESSION: *SCIENCE-FICTIONAL TRAVEL AND THE LEGACIES OF MEDIEVAL EMPIRE.*
Moderator/Discussant: Ada Palmer
Julia Unterhinninghofen – “Empires, connected and far-reaching: what the speeds of travel tell us”
Fran Wilde – “Medieval Dreams of Flight and Their Influence on Science Fiction”

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4:00 – 5:00

PANEL: (POST-ROMAN) MEDIEVAL LITERATURE AS A SOURCEBOOK FOR SFF

Panelists: Ada Palmer, Teresa Nielsen Hayden,
Amal el-Mohtar, Jo Walton

Moderator: Max Gladstone

5:00 – 5:45

GUEST LECTURE: PRZEMYSŁAW MARCINIAK (UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA) “The icon of decadence. The imagery of Byzantium in the modern Polish speculative fiction.”

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

10:00 – 11:00

PANEL: HISTORIES OF THE FUTURE: APOCALYPSE AS A FUTURE-STATE, ENDS OF THE WORLD, AND THE FALL OF EMPIRES.

Panelists: Elizabeth Bear, Olof Heilo, Mia Sereno
(Likhain), Arkady Martine (AnnaLinden Weller)

Moderator: Amal el-Mohtar

11:00 – 11:30

COFFEE

11:30 – 12:30

PANEL: BYZANTIUMS IN SPECULATIVE FICTION – KAY, TURTLEDOVE AND OTHERS

Panelists: Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Ann Leckie,
Tonje Sorensen, Fran Wilde

Moderator: Liz Bourke

12:30 – 1:45

LUNCH

1:45 – 3:00

PAPER SESSION: IMAGINARY & CONTRAFACTUAL BYZANTIUMS.

Moderator/Discussant: Jo Walton

Ellen Söderblom Saarela – “Fantasies of Female Agency: Partonopeu de Blois and Imaginary Byzantium”

Olof Heilo & Tonje Sorensen – “A Holistic Utopia? Byzantium in Contrafactic Historical Fiction”

Athena Andreadis (as read by Arkady Martine (AnnaLinden Weller)) – “A (Mail)coat of Many Colors – Unsung Songs of the Akritai”

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3:00 – 4:00

ROUND TABLE & OPEN DISCUSSION: WHAT HAS ATHENS TO DO WITH JERUSALEM – OR BYZANTIUM TO DO WITH THE 21ST CENTURY? CAN WE IMAGINE A ‘BYZANTINE’ FUTURE, AND IF SO, OUGHT WE?

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

10:00 – 11:00

PANEL: *EMPIRE AND ITS DISSIDENTS: READING THE SPECULATIVE FICTION OF EMPIRE AND CONQUEST THROUGH POSTCOLONIAL EYES*

Panelists: Mia Sereno (Likhain), Aliette de Bodard, Amal el-Mohtar, Max Gladstone

Moderator: Arkady Martine (AnnaLinden Weller)

11:00 – 11:30

COFFEE

11:30 – 12:30

PAPER SESSION: *DISSENT, MEMORY, AND THE PERSISTENCE OF EMPIRE IN HISTORIOGRAPHY.*

Moderator/Discussant: Brett Rogers

Lydia Spielberg – “Where they blow up a planet, they call it peace: (Outer) spaces of dissent in classicizing historiography and 21st century speculative fiction”

Liz Bourke – “Reconquering Rome: Justinian's Shadow in Speculative Fiction”

12:30 – 1:30

PANEL: *AFTER THE DECLINE AND FALL: DECADENCE IN SFF*

Panelists: Arkady Martine (AnnaLinden Weller), Ada Palmer, Aliette de Bodard, Elizabeth Bear, Teresa Nielsen Hayden

Moderator: Fran Wilde

1:30 – 2:00

FINAL DISCUSSION, WRAP-UP, FUTURE PLANS

2:30 – 4:00

LUNCH FOR SPEAKERS



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