#PodcastsInTheClassroom

Episode Question Ideas: Episode 89

**Cli-Fi Research: Can Climate Science Fiction Influence Behavior + Interview with MIT’s Today I Learned: Climate Podcast**


**Full Episode Questions**

- Have you had experience reading Cli-Fi literature? Think back to specific texts. Were they dystopian? Hopeful? What effect did the literature have on you?

- Dr. Schneider-Mayerson mentions the field of “environmental communications.” Had you heard of this field before listening to the podcast? What kind of work could you envision yourself doing within this field?

- Dr. Schneider-Mayerson mentions [Global Warming’s Six Americas](https://tinyurl.com/yygfwk4h), a project of the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. Take a look at the [original study](https://tinyurl.com/y3ro3kk8). As noted in the report summary, “One of the first rules of effective communication is to ‘know thy audience’” (Leiserowitz, Maibach, & Roser-Renouf, 2009). In what ways does the report shift how you think about engaging others in conversations about climate change?

- Dr. Schneider-Mayerson observes how art has the potential to move us from awareness to action. What examples from your own life or community do you have of this being true?

- Throughout the podcast, the conversation refers to cli-fi literature as an artefact that supports initiating conversation with others about climate change. Do you have conversations with others about climate change? How do you initiate these conversations? Do you discuss with people who disagree with you?

**Segment Questions**

- At 27:00 Dr. Schneider-Mayerson and the co-hosts, Doug and Amy, discuss a place for hope in cli-fi. Do you think that cli-fi is inherently hopeful, unhopeful, or neither? Why do you feel this way? Support your statement with an example.
Related Open Education Resources
Learn more about issues raised in this episode! You may find the following open educational resources from MIT OpenCourseWare of interest.

9.70 Social Psychology or: https://buff.ly/2W34Y3X
Stephan L. Chorover shares materials from a course on how the thoughts, feelings, and actions of individuals are influenced by (and influence) the beliefs, values, and practices of large and small groups. Educators have access to the course syllabus, reading list, full lecture notes, and assignments.
Image caption: Regions of the brain important to social processes, example stimuli used for social and feelings testing, and a large group sitting together. (Rendered illustrations courtesy of Elsevier, Inc., http://www.sciencedirect.com. Used with permission. Photo courtesy of premasagar on Flickr.)

21L.449 End of Nature or: https://buff.ly/2W561Av
Professor Alvin Kibel shares materials from a survey of texts that illustrate the growth of ideas about nature and the natural environment, from ancient religious and philosophical writings to contemporary musings on the loss of a proper relation between nature and humanity. Educators have access to the syllabus, reading list, and assignments.
Image caption: Paul Cézanne, Montagnes en Provence, 1886-90. This image is in the public domain.

21W.730 Writing on Contemporary Issues: Imagining the Future or: https://buff.ly/2WcvRTv
Dr. Rebecca Blevins Faery shares materials, including the syllabus, reading list, assignments, and a selection of student papers, from a course on how writers and filmmakers have responded to the present as a way of imagining—and warning about—possible worlds to come.
Image caption: “Think Tank.” Original artwork. (Image courtesy of Laurent Alquier. Used with permission.)

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WGS.700 Changing Life: Reading the Intersections of Gender, Race, Biology, and Literature or: https://buff.ly/2W5bTKb

Professors Mary Baine Campbell and Peter Taylor share materials from a course on the cultural shaping of scientific knowledge. Educators have access to the syllabus, reading lists, and descriptions of the four projects that comprised the course, including a project on how science and literature explore life on the near-future earth.

Image caption: A false-color image of neurons in the brain. (Image by Seung Lab on flickr. License CC: BY-NC-SA.)