

Excursions

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Zac Rowlinson, “Preface”,

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Chief Editor

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“Each society,” in the words of Michel Foucault, “has its régime of truth, its ‘general politics’ of truth.” That science is the dominant discourse of truth in our society is now undeniable. Yet one does not have to repudiate the truths science can offer us in order to question its relation to power, its seeming stranglehold over truth, which is tragically reflected at university level by the disproportionate funding cuts to the humanities. It is not that we should simply cast the humanities as the victim, here; rather, and equally pertinently, the many merits of science are adversely affected by such a political alignment, too. Can fiction not offer us another kind of truth?

It was with this in mind that we sent out a call for papers entitled Science/Fiction, seeking to explore not only the science fiction genre, nor the use of science in fiction, but, in addition, the role of fiction in science: the narratives, stories, and myths that science tells both itself, and us.

The fertility of the response to our call is reflected in the diverse range of articles that have made it through to publication. Even those that draw on well-established science fiction texts—*Frankenstein*, *Star Wars*—direct us as much towards an interrogation of our present political reality as do the

contemporary techno-thriller novels of Daniel Suarez. With new and exciting directions represented in the exploration of Human Computer Interaction; the mythic echoes in the futurist writings of Ray Kurzweil; and the use of science for narrative and rhetorical legitimation in HBO's television series, *Breaking Bad*, the articles published here represent all that *Excursions* stands for: varied, interdisciplinary dialogue that begins journeys down untrodden, or forgotten, paths, bridging the two cultural divide.

For all their divergences, however, it is possible, viewing these articles together, to see the emergence of a clear thread. For what they all intimate is that science, as the privileged domain of truth, is not so much divorced from, but in a tense and fraught dialectical relationship with, fiction. There are thus, as we believe this issue aptly demonstrates, far more stories to be told.

Chief Editor

Zac Rowlinson

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