

FROM THE EDITORS

Summer 2023

Ian Campbell



Welcome to the coolest summer of the rest of our lives. As I write this, doctors in Phoenix, Arizona, have announced new protocols for how to treat burn injuries that result from people falling or lying on the sidewalk; the ocean temperature off the Florida coast is now warmer than a typical hot tub; the Mediterranean is now at its warmest temperature ever; signs have emerged that the thermohaline cycle in the North Atlantic is on the verge of collapse; the Republican Party has called for more fossil fuel burning.

One purpose of SF is to use the future to estrange the present, but the future's already here, and in no way is it evenly distributed. There are many works of SF that pose future environmental changes as the catalyst for societal changes, but comparatively little that deal directly with our most pressing problem: the vast and powerful oligarchy-controlled media machine that's still trying to persuade us that this is all just some natural climactic cycle. Nothing to worry about here: get back to pumping up the economy. What's going to astonish most of us is how quickly the whole thing turns on a dime from "climate change is a hoax" to "climate change is god's punishment upon us for letting queer people exist". If you're sleeping too much and want to give yourself a reason to stay up at night worrying, go look up "effective altruism", the new philosophical darling of cryptocurrency and tech bros.

Subsequent issues of *SFRA Review* will likely address the sheer inhumanity of the post-catastrophe future: for now, however, we have the usual palette of reviews and feature articles. But keep in mind that SF is only literature, and the power of literature accrues to the reader, not the writer. There's only so much we can do about ideas and critique being stolen and repurposed, usually for the benefit of the oligarchy, other than to create more ways to estrange what's being done to us.



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Sci-Fi Author: In my book I invented the Torment Nexus as a cautionary tale

Tech Company: At long last, we have created the Torment Nexus from classic sci-fi novel Don't Create The Torment Nexus

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