

## From the President

Hugh O'Connell



The dreaded date of August 1<sup>st</sup> looms heavy. That period when time compression kicks in, and all those research projects and new syllabi that we had “all summer” to work on will now be crammed into the final waning weeks and days of summer break. However, amongst the scramble to finish that work we swore that we wouldn’t put off—again—this year, we can look forward to the upcoming combined SFRA/GFF “Disruptive Imaginations” conference at TU-Dresden. Along with all of the research presentations and special events organized by the fantastic team of Julia Gatermann and Moritz Ingwersen, everyone should check out Vice President Ida Yoshinaga’s column in this issue for a rundown of the special panels and events sponsored by the SFRA Executive Committee (including programming that specifically addresses early career scholars and Equity/Diversity/Inclusion).

And perhaps this is a good time to offer some other calendrical reminders. Typically, at this point in August, I’d be using this President’s column to reflect on the end of the conference. However, following the theme of this year’s conference in Dresden, “disruption” is working its way through the usual SFRA calendar. The SFRA’s annual conference traditionally takes place in mid-to-late June, after many of us have turned in final grades and projects and are looking for a well-deserved break and chance to catch up with our friends and colleagues. However, this is a reminder that not only this year’s but also next year’s conferences are bucking this tradition as we continue to partner with some of our European colleagues. So, while it may feel odd since we haven’t had our 2023 conference yet, we should however also be planning for a quick turnaround, as the 2024 conference has been penciled in for the second week of May. This may be a difficult time for some of us in the US to get away (a quick look reveals that it coincides with my last

FROM THE SFRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*From the President*

week of spring classes), but it will certainly be worth it. While we will hopefully be presenting more details about this timing at the Dresden conference, part of the reason for this earlier 2024 conference date is to coincide with the “Futures Better and Worse” literary festival, which features a number of events and writers that will be of interest to the SFRA membership. So, please be on the lookout for more information at the conference and then through the usual lists and social media sites!

Speaking of events that are of interest to SFRA members, if you have an event that you'd like the SFRA to distribute through its email lists or social media sites, or you have other ideas or concerns about the work the organization is doing, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [hugh.oconnell@umb.edu](mailto:hugh.oconnell@umb.edu). I'd love to hear from you.

# FROM THE SFRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## From the Vice President

Ida Yoshinaga



Dear fellow Science Fiction Research Association members:

With your hearty responses to our call for papers and our registration deadline—adding up to 300+ participants!—“Disruptive Imaginations” looks to be one of the largest academic meetings of our organization ever [thanks also to our co-sponsor, German fantasy-studies research group GFF (<https://fantastikforschung.de/en>), which agreed to share our two conferences’ venues and content].

In addition to the current themes covered by conference paper sessions as well as by the splendid German cultural studies events put together by dedicated TU Dresden organizers Julia Gatermann and Moritz Ingwersen (and team), several **Executive Committee-sponsored events** on speculative-fiction studies, can be attended by registrants virtually or in person (the following is all in Central European Time):

Wed. 8/16, 9:30-11 a.m. (Panel 7, ABS/E11 Auditorium & online): “**Early Career Scholar Event: Diffrakt on Nourishing Imaginative SF/F Thought-Making, Artistry, Community**” featuring members of the German speculative-arts collective “*diffrakt: centre for theoretical periphery*” (<http://diffrakt.space/en>) Moritz Gansen and Hannah Wallenfels share how Diffrakt combines inventive pedagogy with sf theory and other intellectual discourses, to create a community-engaged arts practice. Thanks to SFU’s Ali Sperling for helping make the contact with this group and for suggesting their session in the first place!

Wed. 8/16, 16:30-18:00 (p.m.) (ABS/E11 Auditorium & online): “SFRA Business Meeting.”

Thur. 8/17, 15:30-17:00 (p.m.) (Panel 44, ABS/E08 & online): “**SFRA: Equity/Diversity/Inclusion Event: Indigenous Futurism in Latin America—The Case Study of the Aymara in El Alto, Bolivia**” featuring Aymara Ph.D. student Ruben Darío Chambi Mayta of LMU Munich’s Indigeneities in the 21st Century Project, who’ll share his research on how a Native Bolivian group has responded to settler colonialism including the state’s “Buen Vivir” (“Living Well”) campaign which extracts culture from Aymara protest history and struggles (<https://www.indigen.eu/projects/core-projects/indigeneity-beyond-buen-vivir-the-aymara-case-in-bolivia>). Thanks to UFL’s Libby Ginway for serving as discussant!

Fri. 8/18, 09:30-11:00 a.m. (Panel 46, ABS/E11 Auditorium & online): “[**SFRA Early Career Scholars Roundtable**] **SF on the Market: Advice from Early Career Researchers in Pursuing an SF Studies Career**” will feature global Ph.D. students and postdocs participating in a vibrant conversation & audience Q&A about concerns, strategies, and issues about being on the academic job market, including Patrick Brock Nora Castle, Reem Mansour, Yilun Fan, Candice Thornton,