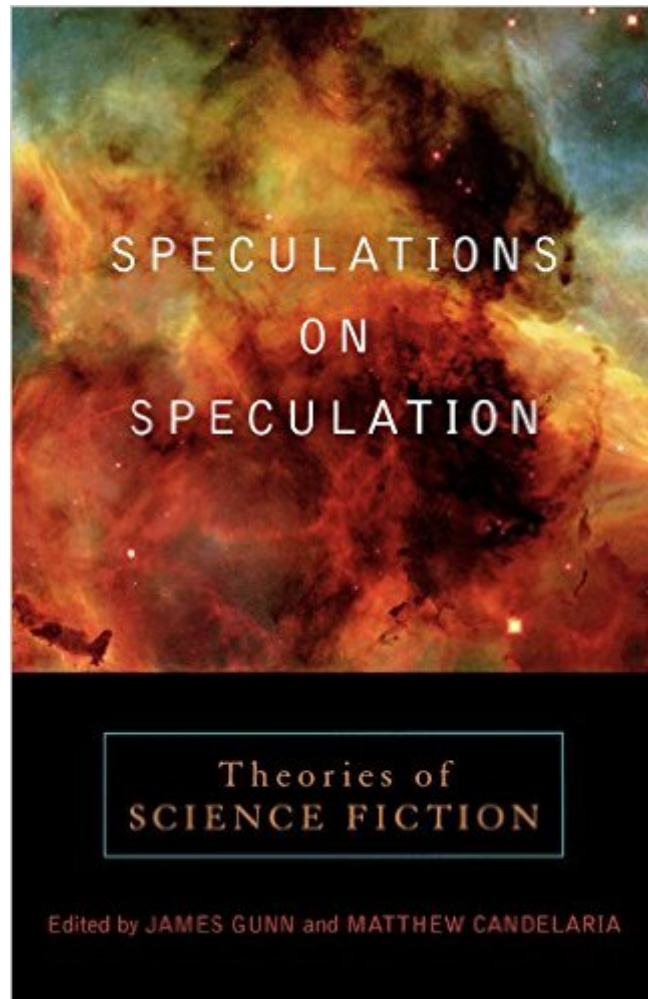


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Speculations On Speculation: Theories Of Science Fiction



Synopsis

Science fiction is a field of literature that has great interest and great controversy among its writers and critics. This book examines the roots, history, development, current status, and future directions of the field through articles contributed by well-respected science fiction writers, teachers, and critics. The articles 'speculate' on what is science fiction, is science fiction serious literature, which writers are considered good science fiction writers, and where the genre of science fiction is headed with 21st-century writers. Contributors include Brian W. Aldiss, Kathryn Cramer, Samuel R. Delany , David G. Hartwell, Ursula K. Le Guin, Barry N. Malzberg, Darko Suvin, Michael Swanwick, and many other outstanding authors. Examining all genres and subgenres of science fiction writing, this book provides differing viewpoints on science fiction, making it a great basis for dynamic classroom discussions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A wonderful compilation of essays edited by James Gunn and Matthew Candelaria. Some are out of print or hard to find canonical articles, such as 2 chapters from Darko Suvin's *Metamorphoses of Science Fiction*, other from Robert Scholes' *Structural Fabulation*, Alexei and Cory Panshin's *Science Fiction and the Dimension of Myth*, or even David Ketterer's *The Apocalyptic Imagination...*. Others are more recent or even written for the occasion, as is the case of Gary K. Wolfe's *Coming to Terms*, on the almost impossible task to define the genre. It is a wide ranging and impartial collection (it is very hard to find Suvin and the Panshins side

by side on other compilations), which is a must if you have a theoretical interest on this literary genre (particularly teachers on any level), but also recommended for everyone who just reads SF for pleasure and wants to know a little more on its history and significance. Will The Scarecrow Press and the editors be willing to have it on mass market paperback, thus reaching a wider audience?

Noted science fiction author and critic James Gunn has amassed a set of lectures and papers analysing science fiction. The authors attempt a serious look at what defines science fiction, as contrasted to other genres like mystery, romance or adventure. The hardest problem appears to be in drawing a good demarcation between science fiction and fantasy. If you are a science fiction reader, here is a rare chance to get deeper look at your genre. Perhaps the essays might give you a better appreciation of what makes SF so distinctive. It should be said that the essays are not light reading. Unlike breezy book reviews [like mine]. Some of the essays also provide a good survey of the trends over the decades in SF. And there are also numerous references to classic SF stories, like the Demolished Man and the Cold Equations. But you, presumably, are a fan, so you should recognise most of these stories.

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