

**Mechademia Conference on Asian Popular Cultures 2017:
“Science Fictions”**

*Minneapolis College of Art and Design
Minneapolis, Minnesota
September 22-24, 2017*

Keynote Speakers: Tatsumi Takayuki and Kotani Mari

Science fiction gives us free rein to imagine a different world, giving us insight into what in our own world has become naturalized and allowing us the space to question the potentials of technologically enhanced futures. The questions provoked by science fiction strategies and forms often provide insights that lead us to imagine our own world in a different light. Mechademia 2017 focuses on Science Fictions. Science fiction is central to the study of Asian Popular Cultures because it is the key narrative formation of anime, and the subject of many manga volumes and video game narratives. We encourage papers that analyze science fiction tactics and narratives to explore themes regarding the way the geo-political, geo-economic climatic situation has been reflected, criticized, and made hypothetical through futuristic utopian/dystopian narratives in anime, manga, art, design, illustration, literature, film, and gaming. Topics may include but are not limited to the following areas:

- Transnational science fiction forms
- Gender, feminist science fiction
- Emergent genre of “cli-fi”
- Fan Fiction
- Science fiction and environmental justice movements
- Anthropocene and or anthropocide as posited in science fiction forms
- Petroleum, resource extraction, fossil economy as a theme of science fiction narratives
- Early responses to climate change (precursors, etc.)
- Techno-Orientalism as a problematic subtext in science fiction forms
- Fashion and cosplay inspired by science fiction
- Historical changes in science fiction visions of “the future”

Tatsumi Takayuki is a Professor at Keio University where he teaches literary theory and American literature. He is one of Japan’s leading cultural critics, renowned for his work on American literature and culture, but especially science fiction.

Kotani Mari is a Japanese science fiction critic, best known in the West for her work, *Techno-Gynesis: The Political Unconscious of Feminist Science Fiction*, which won the 15th Nihon SF Taisho Award. She is now the chair of the Japan PEN Women Writers Committee and a member of the Science Fiction Writers of Japan.

This conference invites scholars, fans, and creators to consider the situation and respond with presentations as we expand the discursive field against the vast mediated (dis)information found on the web. We welcome both in-person presentations at the

conference as well as remote presentations via Zoom (much like Skype) for those unable to make it to Minneapolis.

Teachers: We also have an “Emerging Scholars Panel” for your advanced undergraduate students to participate in during this event. They can also register at the same site.

Please send 250 word proposals to mechademia@mcad.edu by September 1, 2017. In your email memo field, state: **mechademia_2017_submission**