





Welcome de l'Institut français!

Dedicated to research and the development of French education in Saskatchewan, the Institut français encourages and supports the initiatives of Francophones at the University of Regina in generating original and innovative projects.

As a stakeholder engaged in promoting Francophone culture and language, the Institut français is proud to take part in presenting the very first French-language science fiction conference at the University of Regina. A unique event in Saskatchewan!

More than a dozen researchers, from Canada, Europe and the U.S., will come together in the Rotonde at the Institut français to debate, discuss and share their knowledge of French-language science fiction. *Pan! Dans l'œil de la lune* explores the cultural richness and influence of French-language science fiction in literature, comics and cinema. This will be a unique opportunity to highlight the contribution of French-language science fiction at the international level.

Come discover the world of science fiction and take part in an extraordinary voyage of discovery.

Best wishes for a successful conference!

Sheila Petty, Ph.D.
Acting director
Institut français
Dean of Fines Arts
University of Regina

Institut français



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of Regina

CAMPION COLLEGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA



Introduction

Science fiction is an important genre in French culture. From Cyrano de Bergerac who, in 1657, described a trip to the moon, through the famous Jules Verne narrative of 1865 which was filmed by Georges Méliès in 1902, to Tintin's first steps on the moon in 1954, French science fiction has evolved over time.

POW! In the Eye of the Moon!, a multidisciplinary conference on French science fiction, brings together a dozen researchers from all over the world. They will share their research on the roles of science and the fantastic in Francophone science fiction, the influence of certain authors, and the impact of film and comics on public perception of the genre.

The interdisciplinary exchanges will be an opportunity to recognize the contribution of French science fiction on the world stage.

Québec science fiction author Élisabeth Vonarburg, guest of honour at the event, will present a lecture entitled *Pratique de la science-fiction en français* on the evening of Friday, November 2 in the Rotonde of the Institut français at the University of Regina.

Mather

Dr Philippe Mather,
Media Studies,
Campion College (University of Regina)

Sylvain Rheault

Dr Sylvain Rheault,
French Department,
University of Regina

Members of the Organizing Committee:

- Dr. Christina Stojanova,
Department of Media
Production & Studies
- Mr. Gerald Saul,
Department of Media
Production & Studies
- Ms. Donna Bowman,
Archer Library
- Ms. Francine Proulx-Kenzle,
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Consultants:

- Dr. Nicholas Ruddick,
Department of English

Assistant:

- Elise Beaudry Ferland

Élisabeth Vonarburg: Grande Dame of Québec Science Fiction



The guest of honour at **POW! In the Eye of the Moon**, Élisabeth Vonarburg is one of Québec's best-known and most award-winning science fiction authors.

Also known by the pseudonym of Sabine Verreault, this grande dame of Québec science fiction is a recipient of the Cyrano Prize for her body of work, presented in France at the 2007 National Science Fiction Convention.

In addition to having taught literature and creative writing in many universities in Québec, Élisabeth Vonarburg has published multiple anthologies of Québec science fiction, organized the first Québec science fiction convention in Chicoutimi in 1979 and was literary manager of the Québec magazine *Solaris* from 1979 to 1990.

Conference

Friday, November 2nd, 2012

9:30 a.m. Coffee and muffins + Registration in the Rotonde, Language Institute 216

10:30 a.m. Student Panel I:

Chair: Dr. Philippe Mather (Campion College)

- 1) Kirsten Bligh (University of Regina): "Dualistic Traditions in American Film Noir and French Science Fiction in Christian Volckman's *Renaissance: Paris 2054*."
- 2) Mazin Saffou (Brock University): "Cartesian Dualism and the Orgasmotron: Interiority and Eroticism in *Barbarella*."

12:00 noon Lunch in the Rotonde.

1:30 p.m. Panel II: Science in Science Fiction

Chair: Dr. Nick Ruddick (University of Regina)

- 1) Fred Waage (East Tennessee State U.): "Science Fiction as Science: The Case of S.S. Held's *La Mort du Fer* (1931)."
- 2) Marie-Gérald Jean (University of British Columbia, Vancouver): "Entre Technophilie et Anti-Utopie : Visions du Futur dans la Science-Fiction d'Albert Robida."
- 3) Ari Margolin (University of Colorado at Boulder): "How Do I Know Unless I Go There? Cyranian Thought Experiment as Scientific Method and Commentary on the Mind-Body Problem."

2:45 p.m. Refreshments.

3:00 p.m. Panel III: Authors, Past and Present

Chair: Dr. Sylvain Rheault (University of Regina)

- 1) Elisabeth Stojanov (Université Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand, France): "L'épopée transfigurée dans l'œuvre de René Barjavel."
- 2) Lia A. S. Mitchell (University of Minnesota - Twin Cities): "The Invisible and the Blind in Maurice Renard's *Le Péril bleu*."
- 3) Catherine Repussard (Université de Strasbourg, France): "La fraction d'éternité qui leur avait fait croiser leur décalque...": *Le Déchronologue* (2009) de Stéphane Beauverger."

e Program

5:00 p.m. Dinner in the Rotonde.

6:00 p.m. Film Screening: peut-être (1999-Cédric Klapisch-106 min.)

8:00 p.m. Keynote Address by author **Élisabeth Vonarburg**, introduced by Dr. Sheila Petty, Dean of Fine Arts and Head of the Institut Français (University of Regina), followed by a reception in the Rotonde

Saturday, November 3rd, 2012

9:15 a.m. Panel IV: Fantasy and Science Fiction

Chair: Dr. Alex MacDonald (Campion College)

- 1) Patrick Guay (Université du Québec à Chicoutimi): "Le Virage générique de Jacques Spitz : passage à la SFF."
- 2) Scott Sanders (New York University): "**La Découverte Australe's** Marvelous Aesthetic: Hoisting up an Enlightened Ruler."
- 3) Lionel Philipps (Université de Paris X): "La filiation de Cyrano à Verne : Une exigence poétique aux origines de la Science-Fiction Française."

10:30 a.m. Refreshments.

10:45 a.m. Panel V: Comics and Film

Chair: Dr. Christina Stojanova (University of Regina)

- 1) Alexandra Rolland (Université de Paris I): "Métal hurlant, première revue française de bandes dessinées de science-fiction."
- 2) Sylvain Rheault (University of Regina): "Les Premiers robots de la bande dessinée française: des machines qui ne font que détruire!"
- 3) Philippe Mather (Campion College, Regina): "A Typology of French Science Fiction Film."

12:00 noon Lunch in the Rotonde.

1:30 p.m. Closing remarks.

Panelist Biographies

Kirsten Bligh

Kirsten Bligh is currently completing a double degree in Film Production and Theatre Studies (Honours) at the University of Regina. Throughout her university career, she has received multiple academic awards, and has been inducted into Alpha Sigma Nu through Campion College, of which this year she is serving as Chapter President. Kirsten also serves as Public Relations for Campion College's Students Union, and volunteers with the Campion Connect Mentor Program.

Patrick Guay

Patrick Guay is interested in literary history and the historical dimension of genres. His current research concerns Spitz and other less well-known novelists. He has worked for the last seven years on the Canada Research Chair for the modern novel (under the direction of François Ouellet), which has focused on the French novel between the wars.

Marie-Gérald Jean

Marie-Gérald Jean is a third-year doctoral student in French Literature at the University of British Columbia. Her working thesis project will deal with the early reception of science fiction in the 19th century, and on the construction of a reader and reading mechanisms specific to the genre.

Philippe Mather

Philippe Mather has taught film studies for Campion College at the University of Regina since 1996. His dissertation at the University of Paris III (1995) is entitled "Cognitive estrangement: towards a semiology

of science fiction film." He has recently published a book for Intellect on the photojournalistic career of filmmaker Stanley Kubrick.

Lia Mitchell

Lia Mitchell is a PhD student in French at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Her work examines the changing relationships between visibility, technology, and epistemology in literature of the Third Republic, with particular interest in the proto-science fiction of the Belle Époque.

Lionel Philipps

Lionel Philipps has a PhD in French literature from the University of Paris X. His dissertation dealt with 18th century trompe-l'œil texts. He has published in *Revue d'Histoire Littéraire de la France*, *Cahiers Tristan l'Hermite* and *Bulletin de la Société Jules Verne*.

Catherine Repussard

Catherine Repussard is a Professor of Foreign Languages and Cultures (Germanic Worlds) at the University of Strasbourg, formerly Assistant Professor at the Université de la Réunion. Her work focuses primarily on political utopia and colonial fictional projections, with a dissertation entitled "Colonial ideology and mythical imagination: the magazine 'Kolonie und Heimat' from 1909 to 1914" (1997).

Sylvain Rheault

Sylvain Rheault is an Associate Professor of French at the University of Regina. His two main research interests concern the representation of combat

in 20th century French literature, as well as comics and graphic novels of all cultures (European, Asian, North American).

Alexandra Rolland

Alexandra Rolland is a Doctor in Contemporary Art History at the University of Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne. Her research concerns comics and graphic novels, and since 2007 she has been the manager of the Autrique House, Brussels Museums. She is the co-superintendent of the current exhibition "Victor Horta, A Lost World."

Mazin Saffou

Mazin Saffou graduated as a BA Honours Film Studies major from the University of Regina. He has received the Jean Oser prize twice for two outstanding essays: "Men of Steel: A Diachronic Analysis of Superman, Reeves, and Reeve" and "The Mobius Strip of Affect: David Lynch's Narrative Strategies in Twin Peaks and Fire Walk with Me". His publications include "Men of Steel" and "Kubrick's White Utopia: An Analysis of Race in 2001: A Space Odyssey." Mazin enjoys film, literature, art, and music.

Scott M. Sanders

Scott M. Sanders is a PhD candidate at New York University where he studies early-modern French literature, performance and music history. He researches the intersection of music and literature; particularly, philosophical approaches to music, the aesthetic of parody in popular musical theater, and literary and musical representations of female singers.

Elisabeth Stojanov

Elisabeth Stojanov has been a doctoral student in Comparative Literature at the University Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand since September 2011. Her thesis topic concerns time machines in late-19th to mid-20th century European literatures. Her research will focus on genre poetics, mythology and narratology.

Tony Thorström

Tony Thorström is a doctoral student in French Literature at the University of Uppsala, and his thesis concerns the ontology of the posthuman in contemporary francophone science fiction literature. His main research interests deal with the hybridization of the body and new colonial fictional projections, with a dissertation entitled "Colonial ideology and mythical imagination: the magazine 'Kolonie und Heimat' from 1909 to 1914" (1997).

Frederick Waage

Frederick Waage is Professor of Language and Literature, East Tennessee State University. Ph.D., English and French, Princeton U., 1971. He has specialized in Renaissance literature, environmental lit, and creative writing. Published books on George R. Stewart, Ross Lockridge, Jr. (Raintree County); edited one of the early works in the new env. lit. movement, *Teaching Environmental Literature* (1985), and coedited its much expanded successor (2006).



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