Call for Papers
NEW DEADLINE: **March 1, 2018**
NEW PRIZE: **$250 from Heinlein Society**

Academic Track at the 76th World Science Fiction Convention — August 16-20, 2018
San José McEnery Convention Center (San José, California)

Science fiction always plays a part in recreating our world and directing civilization's progress. While much SF takes place in a hypothetical "future," the entire body of speculative literature influences and interacts with our world—suggesting potentialities, solutions, organizational methods, alternative cultures, and paths to follow or avoid. In that spirit, the 76th World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon) in San José, California has chosen "**Make the Future**" for its overarching theme.

The Academic Track Committee welcomes proposals for scholarly presentations, especially those that study content tied to our "**Make the Future**" convention theme, such as the following examples:

- Any and all utopian or futurist novels, short stories, comic books, or other media
- Classic SF works that changed the direction of their era
- Dystopian novels, comic books, and other media that portray catastrophic scenarios to prevent them from happening in reality (*1984*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Water Knife*, *Bitch Planet*, etc.)
- SF groups as progressive communities ("slan shacks," writers' colonies, online communities, etc.)
- Ties between SF literature and socio-political movements
- Ties between maker culture and science fiction, including DIY art and music, steampunk, dieselpunk, and any other design aesthetics
- Major movements in the SF genre's history

The Heinlein Society has generously approved at $250 prize for "Best Academic Track Paper at 2018 Worldcon." Additionally, we are interested in proposals incorporating Worldcon visiting authors, timely content, or regional interest (such as California/Western authors or settings). Such topics might include:

- Guests of Honor Spider Robinson and Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, or Ghost of Honor Edgar Pangborn
- Works and influence of Robert A. Heinlein
- Other authors planning to attend Worldcon 76
- Silicon Valley in SF
- Science fiction in Wild West dime novels and pulps
- Mill Valley and San Francisco in *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (book and/or films)
- Philip K. Dick's writing during his years living in Point Reyes Station
- Kim Stanley Robinson's "Three Californias" trilogy and related works
- Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* at its 200th anniversary

As part of Worldcon programming, academic-track audiences often include a blend of scholars, writers, artists, readers, and fans. Presentations should be academically rigorous, but also accessible to a wide variety of interests and backgrounds. We welcome papers from scholars at all stages of their research careers, including advanced undergraduate students and independent scholars. Panels or roundtables that **include SF creators (writers, directors, game designers, etc.) are highly encouraged** as well.

In many ways, Worldcon's academic track offers an ideal opportunity for scholars to reach audiences they might not see at exclusively academic conferences.

The committee is seeking three kinds of proposals:
- **Paper** – one 20-minute long presentation
- **Panel** – a group of 3 to 4 related presentations of 15- to 20-minute length each
- **Roundtable** – a group of speakers on a specific topic moderated by one individual for an hour plus question/answer period

WHAT TO SUBMIT:

For INDIVIDUAL PAPERS, include the following items (clearly labeled) in a single document:
1. Your **name** and **contact information**
2. Maximum 300-word **abstract** summarizing the focus and concept of your presentation
3. Maximum 100-word **biographical note** including academic affiliation (if applicable), sample prior publications/presentations, and any other connections to SF community

For PANELS, include the following items (clearly labeled) in a single document:
1. **Name** and **contact information** of panel's chair
2. **Title** of panel and a maximum 200-word statement describing its **focus**
3. Maximum 300-word **abstract** summarizing the focus and concept of each presenter's paper
4. Maximum 100-word **biographical note** for each speaker, including academic affiliation (if applicable), sample prior publications/presentations, and any other connections to SF community

For ROUNDTABLES, include the following items (clearly labeled) in a single document:
1. **Name** and **contact information** of roundtable's organizer and moderator
2. **Title** of roundtable, its **topic**, and a maximum 300-word statement describing its focus
3. Short list of **sample discussion topics**
4. Maximum 100-word **biographical note** for each speaker, including academic affiliation (if applicable), sample prior publications/presentations, and other connections to SF community

We will accept only one presentation per scholar, although presenters are welcome to moderate or chair one other session.

HOW TO SUBMIT:

All proposals should be sent as **Word or PDF email attachments** to **callforpapers@worldcon76.org** by midnight PST, on our <u>new</u> deadline, **March 1, 2018**. Please provide a subject line that identifies the type of presentation using this format: **"[Panel** or **Paper** or **Roundtable] Proposal: [your title]**
> **Example:** Paper Proposal: Invasion of the Body Snatchers and the Bay Area

Note: All selected speakers will be responsible for their own Worldcon membership, travel, and all related expenses. For more information on purchasing membership, see the Worldcon 76 convention website. Membership includes access to the entire convention, not just the academic track.

For more on the Worldcon's history and theme, visit http://www.worldcon76.org/about-worldcon
For questions, contact Dr. Nathaniel Williams, Worldcon 76 Academic-Track Coordinator at nathanielwms@worldcon76.org