



LORETO COLLEGE,  
KOLKATA

I.C.T. SOCIETY  
SEVENTEENTH EDITION

2023 - 2024

IN HOUSE JOURNAL



CONNECT

Science Fiction :  
An Alternative  
To  
Reality

# **CONNECT**

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## **NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL'S DESK**

It gives me immense pleasure to present the compilation of articles on “Science Fiction – Alternative to Reality,” created by the talented students and faculty of the ICT Department at Loreto College, Kolkata. In an age where technology and imagination merge to shape the future, science fiction holds a unique place in both inspiring innovation and challenging our perceptions of reality.

Science fiction, as a genre, has the remarkable ability to stretch the boundaries of the possible. It invites us to explore worlds beyond the constraints of our everyday lives, while often reflecting profound truths about our current society. Through the lens of futuristic technology, artificial intelligence, and speculative worlds, we are encouraged to question the status quo and envision alternative realities that not only entertain but provoke thought and critical reflection.

The articles in this magazine showcase a deep engagement with these themes. From the exploration of utopian and dystopian futures to the ethical dilemmas posed by advanced technologies, the contributors have demonstrated a keen insight into the relationship between science fiction and our ever-evolving reality. Their work serves as a testament to the creative and intellectual potential of our students and faculty.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the ICT Department for curating such an inspiring collection. I am confident that this magazine will not only be a source of enjoyment for its readers but will also ignite new ideas and conversations about the role of science and technology in shaping our collective future.

It is with the hope that the authors and readers of Connect 2023-2024 will think critically and assiduously question the impact of AI that this, the 17th edition of Connect, was envisioned by the staff advisors—Ms. Chandrani Sengupta, Dr. Satyabrota Kundu, Ms. Chinmoyee Ray—and the ICT Society President, Navyaa Agarwal, Vice President, Ishita Samanta, and Treasurer, Chandraboli Majumdar. They have put both heart and mind into this annual journal, and it is due to their foresight and undaunted perseverance that I compliment the authors and the editorial team involved in its publication.

May this edition inspire all of us to continue imagining, questioning, and creating a better world, one where the lines between reality and possibility are constantly redefined.

**Dr. Sr. A. Nirmala**  
**Acting Teacher-In-Charge**  
**Loreto College, Kolkata**

## **NOTE FROM STAFF ADVISORS' DESK**

This year, our ICT Society magazine explores the captivating world of science fiction. This genre, known for its imaginative and speculative nature, explores into the realms of futuristic technology, space exploration, time travel, parallel universes, and the impact of scientific advancements on society.

Science fiction, or sci-fi, is all about using imagination to envision what might be possible with the advances in technology and science. It's where we can think about flying cars, time travel, robots with human-like emotions, and life on other planets. It helps us ask big questions: What if? What's next? How would we handle new discoveries? It's a genre that pushes boundaries and opens our minds to endless possibilities.

This year, we have been amazed by the creativity and enthusiasm of our students. The magazine is filled with exciting stories, intriguing write-ups, and stunning artwork that bring the sci-fi theme to life. From tales of distant galaxies to essays on futuristic technology, the contributions reflect a wonderful mix of curiosity and imagination. The students have done an incredible job exploring how science and technology might shape our future.

Each piece, whether it's a story, a crossword puzzle, a doodle, or a photo, represents the hard work and creativity of our students. They have truly embraced the sci-fi theme and taken it to new heights. We would like to congratulate the ICT president Navyaa Agarwal, Vice-president Ishita Samanta and Treasurer Chandraboli Majumdar for putting everything together...

We invite all to join us on this fantastic journey into the unknown. Let your imagination run wild and enjoy the ride through the fascinating world of science fiction!

### **ICT Staff Advisors**

**Ms. Chandrani Sengupta**

**Dr. Satyabrota Kundu**

**Ms. Chinmoyee Ray**

## **NOTE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL**

The Connect magazine is an annual effort by the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Society and we are extremely pleased to host and encourage the diverse voices of the students. The magazine is truly a white canvas that reflects the creative underpinnings and the invaluable opinion of the talented youth of this college.

The theme for the present issue of Connect is “Science Fiction: Alternative Reality or a representation of society”. Science fiction marries the world of science and technology to the literary world of speculative creation and imaginative discourses in popular culture. Operating within the literary and social science dominated spectra of our college which limits the scope of our society, we have endeavored to select a topic for the magazine that would allow students from each department to engage with the dynamic sphere of technology.

In a world that is increasingly adopting and extensively using AI for creative and social fields like writing, drawing and music which had so far being exclusive to the humankind and the natural tendencies of humans, there is a need to evaluate our experiences in contrast to the predictions of future technology that was put forth by the genre of science fiction. The magazine dares to ask a bold question in face of unprecedented changes and demands answers from the powerful youth of today.

The magazine has benefitted majorly from the invaluable inputs from our Principal and our staff advisors who have supported and guided us in bringing the magazine to its final shape. We are extremely enthused by the response from our college mates who have put forth their resolute opinions and drawn on their inexhaustible creativity and knowledge in their contributions to the magazine.

We sincerely hope that the magazine does not merely entertain its readers but guide and inform them as they negotiate with the digital and technological realm.

**ICT President**

**Navyaa Agarwal**

**ICT Vice-president**

**Ishita Samanta**

**ICT Treasurer**

**Chandraboli Majumdar**

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## **ECHOES OF REALITY: HOW SCIENCE FICTION EXPOSES HUMAN FLAWS AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE**

When we ask the question can any parallels be drawn between science fiction and our society, we picture a dystopian world with every individual having only one trait or talking robots, or maybe even flying cars and think- yes, these things are as insane as the “real” world we live in can be.

There have been authors who have gone beyond producing “entertaining best sellers” to give us masterpieces that use “non-humans” to bring out the faults in us humans. One prime example is Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein,” which debuted in 1818 and is recognised as the first work of science fiction. Shelley was only eighteen when it was published. This piece was so futuristic that we find a semblance of current issues like risks of unbridled scientific ambition, the cost of moral obligation, and the effects of overconfidence. Shelley’s story includes deep social critique in addition to a scientist who, driven by inordinate ambition, unleashes horror.

Victor Frankenstein, a young and driven scientist, pays the ultimate price in his pursuit of knowledge. Shelley wrote her novel during a time of scientific progress, which brought forth new eras of exploration, achievement, and understanding. The monster from Frankenstein stands for uncertainty and the anxiety that accompanies pursuing scientific understanding.

In the character Victor- Shelley considers past successes and makes suggestions about what might be possible in the future. She also makes assumptions about the constraints that scientists must follow in their quest for knowledge, which prompts readers to think critically about the limits of scientific advancement. The ethical responsibility and creator-creation relation are central in the novel. Victor deserts his monster immediately after giving it life, forcing it to survive on its own. The monster seeks his creator for companionship, understanding, and revenge as a result of being abandoned by Victor. The book places a strong emphasis on how ethical responsibility grows with scientific advancements. Despite having complex feelings, ideas, and sensibility, Shelley’s monster is unable to blend in or find comfort. The monster’s aggressive behaviour towards Victor is a result of this exclusion. Shelley comments on society’s view of differences. She emphasizes empathy, compassion, and the need for acceptance.

“To Your Scattered Bodies Go” by Philip Jose Farmer explores societal themes such as poverty and injustice, emphasising the destructive power of neglect on a person. The Creature’s rejection and isolation mirror society’s treatment of the “Other”. This analysis draws parallels to various social issues and how society treats outsiders and the “other”.

Published in 1898, “The War of the Worlds” was a critique of imperialism during British colonial control. It is set in a period when European powers consolidated their dominance over other countries, much like in “Frankenstein.” In “The War of the Worlds,” technologically advanced Martians invade and subjugate humanity. a parable on imperialism in Europe. By inverting power relations, the book helps readers identify with the downtrodden when Earth is invaded by a hostile force. The Martians’ technological prowess and disregard for human life



pose a challenge to human domination. According to Wells' portrayal, sophisticated civilizations are either intrinsically morally decent or virtuous.

He subverts the idea of British cultural superiority used to justify colonization.

The Cold War, from 1945 to 1991, greatly impacted science fiction. In an era of technological advancement and political tension due to the ideological race and nuclear war between the US and the Soviet Union caused fear and uncertainty, science fiction writers created dystopian visions of totalitarianism and surveillance. "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley and "1984" by George Orwell are two significant works from this era. Both pieces criticise surveillance and rigid social structure.

Octavia E. Butler in "Kindred" juxtaposes Dana's contemporary viewpoint with the harsh realities of slavery. The book challenges historical revisionism and sanitised representations of the past. It explores identity, empathy, and the past through Dana's experiences. It challenges readers to face the lasting impact of slavery on current racial relations. In this novel, androids are created to look and act like humans, blurring the line between the two and challenging our understanding of humanity... The Voigt-Kampff test evaluates an individual's capacity for emotion to differentiate humans from androids.

Diverging from the above examples of global power dynamics and systemic exploitation writers like Robinson and Bacigalupi utilise their writing to spark conversations about our relationship with the environment and to imagine futures that reflect ecological calamities.

"The Windup Girl" by Bacigalupi and "New York 2140" by Robinson are two examples. The Windup Girl is set in a future in which biotechnology is unchecked, leading to massive ecological catastrophes and the vertigo of natural ecosystem annihilation. The novel addresses environmental corporate power, genetic engineering, and biopiracy. It also looks at how biodiversity loss and climate change are affecting things like rising sea levels and the extinction of species. We find conflicts over limited resources and the complex human links to genetically modified organisms set against a backdrop of environmental disaster. In exploring moral quandaries and the effects of human interference in nature, Bacigalupi's novel raises concerns about the implications of technological progress. The impact of humanity on the environment and the current system is discussed in the text. It draws attention to how complicated the situation is and how people's actions simultaneously undermine and reinforce the system. Citizens suffer from the corporation's technological advancements since they would rather bargain with their neighbours and cities. The book raises ethical concerns by showing characters exploiting technology to elude surveillance and seize power. It also looks at what happens when people band together to oppose monitoring.

This work examines how individuals confront the unforeseen consequences of their decisions and immorality while challenging the monitoring state. In summary, this fusion of science fiction and social criticism pushes writing above the level of amusement and encourages critical thinking.

Science fiction writers enable us to investigate and consider the intricacies of our reality using their creative narratives and speculative situations. This genre is essential for provoking thought and action, particularly when resolving ethical, environmental, and technical conundrums. Science fiction can be seen as a medium used to show all the human flaws by detaching ourselves from reality. It has often been a medium to put a point across without directly pointing fingers especially when it shows the crevices of the powerful and influential. When it comes to challenging society, it is even more efficient than outrightly displaying everything, after all finding flaws in others is the most human trait to exist.

**Navyaa Agarwal**

**3rd Year**

**Economics Department**

## SCIENCE FICTION AND THE ETHICS AND MORAL DILEMMA OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Science Fiction as a literary genre has shown a lasting obsession with the ethics of scientific research and the responsibility of the scientist. Through speculative narratives, numerous science fiction authors have scrutinized the profound impact of scientific advancement on society and the moral dilemmas faced by those at the forefront of innovation. This examination of the ethical facet of scientific research in fiction acquaints its readers with the callous negligence of morality across numerous scientific laboratories and of the colossal hubris that often fuels scientific research and innovation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The science fiction genre has long been a fertile ground for exploring the ethics, morality, and responsibility of scientists. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, arguably the earliest work of science fiction, provides a classic example at hand. Published in 1818 during the Romantic period, *Frankenstein* effectively predicts the commencement of the thoughtless rush of scientific innovation and creation from 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards that has ultimately resulted in the creation of nuclear warheads capable of obliterating entire cities from the face of earth. The arguments presented in the book through the "monster" that Victor Frankenstein creates are echoed in the contemporary debates on the creation and use of AI and other forms of humanoid technology.

In more contemporary works, like Michael Crichton's "Jurassic Park," the ethics of biotechnology are scrutinized. The recreation of extinct species for commercial gain, without fully understanding or respecting the complexities of the ecosystem, serves as a cautionary tale about the perils of exploiting science for profit. Science fiction has continuously harped on the capitalistic weaponization of scientific research for the means of profit leading to a serious undermining of the ethics and morality of scientific research.

Isaac Asimov's "Foundation" series further delves into the ethical responsibilities of scientists. The psychohistorians, led by Hari Seldon, develop a science that can predict and manipulate the future. This raises questions about determinism and free will, as well as the moral responsibility of those who wield such power. Should scientists use their knowledge to steer humanity's destiny, even if it means making ethically dubious decisions for a perceived greater good? Asimov's work prompts readers to ponder the moral limits of scientific intervention in human affairs.

The portrayal of artificial intelligence in science fiction also raises significant ethical questions. In films like "Blade Runner," based on Philip K. Dick's "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?," and in Isaac Asimov's "Robot" series, the creation of sentient machines forces a re-evaluation of moral and ethical boundaries. These narratives explore the rights of artificial beings and the responsibilities of their creators. If machines can think and feel, what ethical obligations do scientists have towards them? This question becomes increasingly pertinent as real-world AI technology advances.

Science fiction serves as a mirror, reflecting the real-world ethical quandaries faced by scientists and constantly warns against the dangers of unchecked scientific progress,

advocating for a balanced approach where ethical considerations are paramount. Science fiction uses imagination as a predictive tool that draws upon current trends of development in science and technology to simulate and to present to the readers the consequences of the unchecked development of such trends – reminding humanity time and again of that scientific innovations should be essentially beneficial and undoubtedly humane.

**Ishita Samanta**

**3rd Year**

**English Department**

## **TRANSCENDING LIMITS: THE METAMORPHOSIS OF SCIENCE FICTION IN CONTESTING CONVENTIONS OF SEX AND RACE**

The science fiction of the late 20th century serves as a reflective lens through which one may discern the evolving societal paradigms, particularly regarding sex and gender. Historically entrenched in traditional gender constructs, the genre underwent a transformative phase catalyzed by the feminist movement of the 1960s and 70s. Pioneering authors such as Ursula K. Le Guin, celebrated for her seminal “Hainish Cycle” (1966-present), embarked on literary odysseys that navigated realms of gender diversity. Similarly, Joanna Russ, through her groundbreaking work “The Female Man” (1975), dismantled established gender archetypes, reshaping the portrayal of female protagonists in science fiction. These narratives challenged the prevalent depiction of women as damsels in distress or submissive homemakers, as seen in earlier works like Edgar Rice Burroughs’ “Barsoom” series (1912-1948).

While the influence of established feminist voices endured, new thematic currents began to surface. Works such as Samuel R. Delany’s “Stars in My Pocket Like Grains of Sand” (1984) delved into themes of homosexuality, pushing the boundaries of societal norms and advocating for a more inclusive representation of sexuality in science fiction. Despite these strides, the genre’s mainstream narrative in the early 2000s continued to perpetuate stereotypical gender roles, often relegating female characters to conventional roles as love interests or one-dimensional personas.

The turn of the millennium heralded a pivotal epoch in the depiction of race within the domain of science fiction, marked by a discernible shift yet tempered by lingering challenges. Earlier works often propagated racial stereotypes, portraying alien entities as primitive and alienated “others,” while Black characters were either conspicuously absent or relegated to subordinate roles. Edgar Rice Burroughs’ “John Carter of Mars” series (1912-1964) epitomizes this trend, embodying the colonialist ethos prevalent in that era.

Nevertheless, the late 1990s also witnessed notable strides toward more diverse and inclusive representation. Octavia Butler, a pioneering African-American science fiction luminary, emerged as a leading voice, employing her works to confront issues of race and racism. Her novel “Parable of the Sower” (1993), set in a dystopian milieu and featuring a Black female protagonist navigating societal collapse, challenged the prevailing dearth of Black heroes in the genre. Concurrently, authors such as Samuel R. Delany began incorporating a more diverse array of characters of color into their narratives, enriching the tapestry of representation.

Despite these advancements, the terrain of representation in the late 20th century remained uneven. While Black characters achieved greater visibility, other racial and ethnic identities continued to be underrepresented. Furthermore, the portrayal of extraterrestrial beings in certain instances continued to resonate with colonialist power dynamics, highlighting the enduring challenges in realizing a genuinely equitable and inclusive depiction of race in science fiction.

The distinctive capacity of science fiction to construct speculative realms serves as a potent instrument for dissecting and challenging entrenched societal conventions regarding sex and

race. Through the creation of alternative universes, authors wield a narrative tool that illuminates the constraints and inequities of contemporary realities, prompting reflection and examination.

Dystopian narratives, epitomized by Margaret Atwood's seminal work "The Handmaid's Tale" (1985), intricately weave narratives of patriarchal dominance and societal repression to underscore the perils of female subordination. Conversely, utopian visions, such as Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Dispossessed" (1974), envision societies liberated from the shackles of gender-based oppression, prompting readers to critically scrutinize prevailing social paradigms.

The thematic expanse of science fiction frequently extends to encounters with extraterrestrial beings, serving as a canvas to explore issues of racism and colonialism. Octavia Butler's "Dawn" (1987), for instance, deftly portrays alien contact as a prism through which to contemplate the complexities of racial bias and the exploitation of marginalized groups by the dominant hegemony.

While the inclusion of diverse characters is undoubtedly imperative, the genre's potential for impact is magnified when it delves into the nexus of sex and race. Narratives that intricately navigate the intersectionality of these constructs offer a multifaceted and profound examination of societal dynamics.

N.K. Jemisin's notable oeuvre, particularly her "Broken Earth" trilogy (2015-2017), though published beyond our temporal focus, stands as a compelling testament to the potency of exploring these intertwined themes. The trilogy features Black female protagonists whose odysseys unfold in a world ravaged by environmental cataclysm and societal disintegration. Their experiences are inexorably intertwined with their racial and gender identities, serving as a poignant reminder of the inextricable linkages between these societal constructs.

The dawn of the 21st century heralded a seminal epoch for the portrayal of sex and race in the realm of science fiction, marking a pivotal juncture characterized by nascent strides towards enhanced inclusivity and profound social commentary. Despite persistent limitations, the narrative landscape of the genre underwent a transformative shift, laying the groundwork for a more expansive and enlightened discourse.

A conspicuous trend in contemporary science fiction literature is the burgeoning exploration of a diverse spectrum of sexualities and gender identities. Esteemed authors such as N.K. Jemisin, Becky Chambers, and Alex White have spearheaded this movement, crafting narratives that seamlessly integrate LGBTQ+ characters and relationships into their worlds, thereby normalizing their presence. Moreover, the concept of gender fluidity has found poignant expression in works like Ann Leckie's "Ancillary Justice" (2013), wherein characters transcend the confines of a binary gender paradigm, enriching the narrative tapestry with their multifaceted identities.

The genre's trajectory also witnesses a notable surge in the portrayal of protagonists and supporting characters of color, reflecting a conscientious shift towards more diverse representation. Visionary authors like Ted Chiang and Rebecca Roanhorse have adeptly woven intricate cultural narratives into their fictional realms, mirroring the kaleidoscopic complexities of our own society. N.K. Jemisin's seminal "Broken Earth" trilogy stands as a beacon in this

regard, imbuing its narrative with profound themes of social justice and environmental upheaval, narrated through the lens of Black protagonists.

Technology, an ever-present motif in science fiction, assumes a multifaceted role in shaping identities pertinent to sex and race. Genetic engineering, for instance, engenders profound reflections on the future of race and ethnicity, as evidenced in Octavia Butler's prescient "Parable of the Sower," which continues to reverberate in contemporary discourse, catalyzing introspection on the societal ramifications of genetic manipulation. Similarly, cybernetics and body modification blur the demarcations between human and machine, potentially redefining perceptions of sex and gender in a technologically mediated future.

The thematic undercurrents that permeate written science fiction are equally manifest in visual media, with films and television series serving as compelling conduits for these narratives. "Star Trek: Discovery" (2017-present), for instance, showcases a diverse ensemble cast and narratives that challenge prejudicial constructs based on sex, race, and sexual orientation, thereby fostering a more inclusive ethos. Similarly, "Orphan Black" (2013-2017) delves into the intricate web of identity through the portrayal of clones, offering a nuanced exploration of the complexities of selfhood.

The odyssey toward genuine inclusivity in the realm of science fiction stands as an ongoing quest, marked by significant strides yet underscored by the imperative for further exploration. Despite commendable efforts, the horizon of representation beckons with uncharted territories and untold narratives, urging a more profound engagement with the complexities of diversity.

A pivotal facet in this journey is the necessity to transcend superficial inclusion, transcending tokenism to embrace narratives where characters of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those with non-binary gender identities assume central roles, propelling the plot forward and authentically exploring the intricacies of their lived experiences. This shift from periphery to prominence imbues storytelling with a depth and richness that resonates profoundly with audiences, fostering empathy and understanding.

Moreover, the potency of science fiction lies in its capacity to illuminate the interstices of sex, race, class, and myriad other social identities. Narratives that delve into the labyrinthine interplay of these factors offer a nuanced tableau of the challenges confronted by marginalized communities, serving as a mirror to the complexities of our own world and catalyzing critical discourse on issues of social justice and equity.

A notable lacuna in the landscape of science fiction is the historical dominance of Western narratives. The burgeoning chorus advocating for the inclusion of diverse cultural voices heralds a paradigm shift, envisioning a future where stories from a multiplicity of cultural backgrounds converge, enriching the genre and offering fresh perspectives on the nexus of sex, race, and the trajectory of humanity. This mosaic of narratives not only broadens the scope of representation but also fosters a more inclusive and pluralistic vision of the future.

The evolution of science fiction's interrogation of sex and race stands as a testament to its profound metamorphosis, transitioning from a mere mirror reflecting societal mores to a potent force challenging established paradigms. The genre's trajectory towards diversity and critical discourse has been nothing short of remarkable, heralding a new era of narrative complexity

and inclusivity. As science fiction boldly traverses uncharted territories, it assumes a dual role: entertainer and provocateur, capable not only of captivating audiences but also of catalyzing transformative social change by offering novel insights into humanity's most pressing dilemmas.

**Further Reading:**

**Sisters of Tomorrow: The First Women of Science Fiction (Early Classics of Science Fiction) (2016) by Lisa Yaszek and Patrick B. Sharp**

**The Black Imagination: Science Fiction, Futurism and the Speculative: 14 (Black Studies and Critical Thinking) edited by Shannon Gibney and Julie E. Moody-Freeman (2011)**

**The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction (Cambridge Companions to Literature) by Edward James and Farah Mendlesohn (2003)**

**Munazzah Shamim**

**2nd Year**

**English Department**



# SCIENCE FICTION

## ALTERNATIVE REALITY

PARALLEL REALITIES, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.  
REALITY OR ILLUSION?

**Monalisa Kujur**  
**1st Year**  
**Geography Department**

## **EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE REALITIES: THE INTRIGUING WORLD OF SCIENCE FICTION**

In the vast landscape of literature, science fiction stands as a genre that pushes the boundaries of imagination, taking readers on a journey through alternative realities. These captivating tales delve into the realms of what-ifs, presenting worlds that challenge our perceptions of space, time, and the very fabric of existence.

**Diverse Universes:** One of the most alluring aspects of science fiction is its ability to transport us to diverse universes. Whether it's the dystopian landscapes of Philip K. Dick's "Blade Runner" or the expansive interstellar civilizations depicted in Isaac Asimov's "Foundation" series, these narratives offer glimpses into alternate dimensions that spark the curiosity of readers.

**Time Travel:** The concept of time travel is a recurring theme in science fiction that continues to captivate audiences. From H.G. Wells' classic "The Time Machine" to contemporary works like Audrey Niffenegger's "The Time Traveler's Wife," writers have explored the profound implications of altering the past, present, and future. Through these stories, readers grapple with the consequences of temporal manipulation and its impact on the human experience.

**Virtual Realities and Artificial Intelligence:** Advancements in technology have given rise to narratives exploring virtual realities and artificial intelligence. Authors like Neal Stephenson ("Snow Crash") and Ernest Cline ("Ready Player One") present worlds where virtual realms intertwine with our everyday lives. These tales raise thought-provoking questions about the intersection of humanity and technology, pushing readers to contemplate the consequences of creating alternate realities within the digital realm.

**Parallel Worlds:** Parallel universes offer a fascinating lens through which science fiction explores the idea of multiple coexisting realities. Works such as Michael Crichton's "Timeline" and Blake Crouch's "Dark Matter" take readers on mind-bending journeys, challenging the notion of a singular, linear existence. These narratives spark philosophical inquiries about choice, destiny, and the infinite possibilities that lie beyond our immediate perception.

**Social Commentary:** Beyond the fantastical elements, science fiction serves as a powerful tool for social commentary. Authors weave alternative realities that mirror and critique aspects of our own society, addressing issues such as inequality, political strife, and environmental concerns. Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Dispossessed" and Octavia Butler's "Parable of the Sower" exemplify the genre's ability to engage readers in contemplation about the consequences of human actions in both real and imagined worlds.

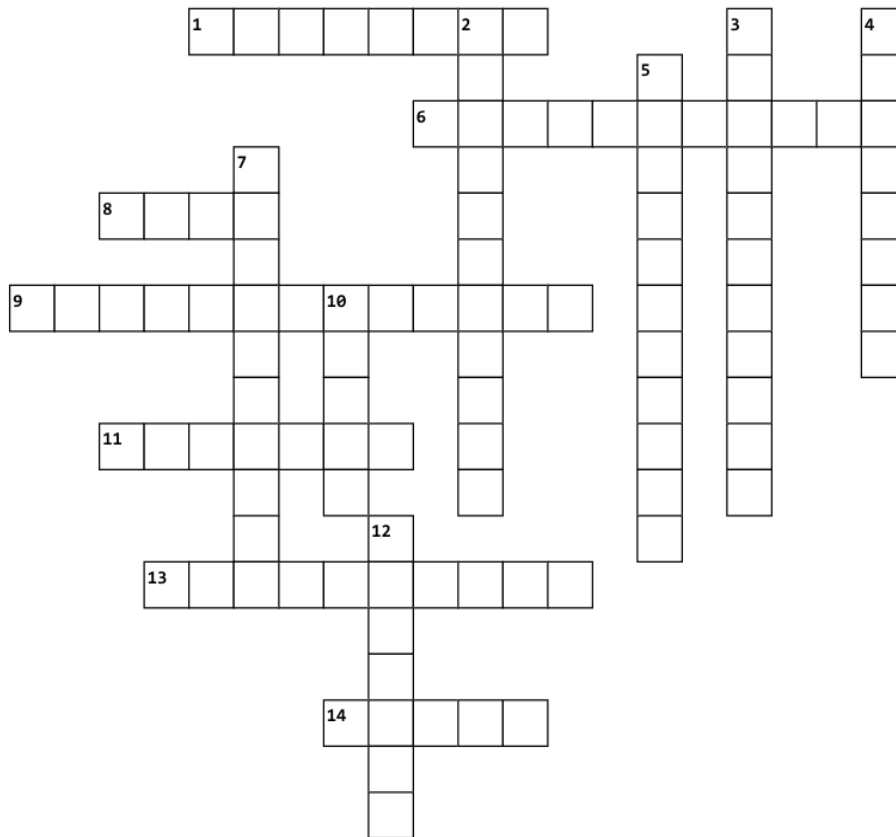
Science fiction continues to offer a mesmerizing exploration of alternative realities, pushing the boundaries of human imagination and challenging our understanding of the world. Through diverse universes, time travel, virtual realities, parallel worlds, and social commentary, the genre invites readers to ponder the limitless possibilities that exist beyond the confines of our own reality. As we delve into these thought-provoking narratives, we not only escape to fantastical realms but also gain fresh perspectives on our own existence.

**Hrishika Biswas**

**1st Year**

**Political Science Department**

## CROSSWORDS 1



### ACROSS

1. The last name of the poet who composed the poem 'There Will Come Soft Rains' in Ray Bradbury's 'There Will Come Soft Rains'
6. The last word of the name of Mr.Cave's shop in H.G. Wells' 'The Crystal Egg'
8. The city from which Margot remembered the sun in Ray Bradbury's 'All Summer In A Day'
9. The municipality in Lisbon from which a military tactics was influenced and used by Mr.Beamish in H.G. Wells' 'The Man Who Could Work Miracles'
11. Mr. Harbinger's name was familiar to the scientific reader in connection to this institute in H.G. Wells' 'The Crystal Egg'
13. The street where the hospital was located in H.G. Wells' 'The Crystal Egg'
14. The colour of the panthers in Ray Bradbury's 'There Will Come Soft Rains'

## **DOWN**

2. The bar where the argument was taking place in H.G. Wells' 'The Man Who Could Work Miracles'
3. The last name of George McWhirter in H.G. Wells' 'The Man Who Could Work Miracles'
4. Gottfried Plattner's father's ethnicity in H.G. Wells' 'The Plattner Story'
5. The first word of the school in which Plattner taught in H.G. Wells' 'The Plattner Story'
7. Where McWhirter worked in H.G. Wells' 'The Man Who Could Work Miracles'
10. The planet in which Margot and the other humans lived in Ray Bradbury's 'All Summer In A Day'
12. The kind of fish Mr. Cave sought to deliver to the hospital school in H.G. Wells' 'The Crystal Egg'

**Anandi Chatterjee**

**1st Year**

**English Department**

# SCIENCE FICTION



**Subhomita Majhi**  
1st Year  
Geography Department

## ALTERNATE REALITY: SCIENCE BEYOND THE WORLD OF FICTION

Writers love to explore the world of unknowns. It's nothing new for sci-fi writers either. They want to wander into the unknown lands of scenarios based on the ideas of alternate realities. In Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar" movie, there is a group of astronauts who travel through a wormhole to search for a habitable planet. Again, Alan Moore's "Watchmen" depicts an alternate reality in which the U.S. won the Vietnam War. The realm of science fiction serves as a bewitching mosaic, entwining together conjectural narratives that extend beyond the bounds of conventional reality.

In the expanded version of science fiction, Alternate Realities, for authors and creators, emerge as a playground of explorations to reimagine the bases of existence. They can let their imaginations dominate their storyline. They can build up scenarios as they wish. Works like "The Chronicles of Narnia," "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," "Through the Looking-Glass," and "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" have explored the idea of multiple realities existing alongside our own. The existence of parallel universes raises questions about the nature of reality, the role of fate and free will, and the possibility of infinite variations of our own existence.

The theory of Alternate Reality was first developed by Hugh Everett when he was still a student at Princeton University. Everett's revolutionary theory broke apart a theoretical logjam in interpreting the how of quantum mechanics. But Everett's many-worlds interpretation of quantum mechanics wasn't conceived to explain the fiction of alternate reality; rather, it was intended to explain the correlation contradictions of quantum theory. The many-worlds idea is by no means universally accepted even today, but his methods in devising the theory presaged the concept of quantum decoherence—a modern explanation of why the probabilistic weirdness of quantum mechanics resolves itself into the concrete world of our experience. The core of the idea was to interpret what the equations of quantum mechanics represent in the real world by having the mathematics of the theory itself show the way instead of by appending interpretational hypotheses to the math. In this way, the young man challenged the physics establishment of the day to reconsider its foundational notion of what constitutes physical reality.

The concept of Alternate reality suggests the existence of a possible number of infinite outcomes, scenarios, and time periods. This idea implements that there can be multiple branching paths led by every action and direction. It questions the deterministic nature of cause and effect and the impact of our past, present, and future. By delving into the concept of the Alternate Reality, science fiction prompts us to reevaluate our understanding of the consequences of our choices. Humanity's ideas about alternate realities are ancient and varied—in 1848 Edgar Allan Poe even wrote a prose poem in which he fancied the existence of "a limitless succession of Universes." But the parallel universe concept really took off when modern scientific theories attempting to explain the properties of our universe predicted the existence of other universes where events take place outside our reality.

"Our understanding of reality is not complete, by far," says Stanford University physicist Andrei Linde. "Reality exists independently of us." But why do authors and scientists think there could be more than one universe? "We cannot explain all the features of our universe if there's only one of them," says science journalist Tom Siegfried, whose book "The Number of the Heavens" investigates how conceptions of the multiverse have evolved over millennia. "Why are the fundamental constants of nature what they are?" Siegfried wonders. "Why is there enough time in our universe to make stars and planets? Why do stars shine the way they

do, with just the right amount of energy? All of those things are questions we don't have answers for in our physical theories.”

“Dark,” a German Netflix series, as well as Robert Frost’s poem “The Road Not Taken,” incorporate symbolism, imagery, and irony to deepen the exploration of parallel universes and the concept of choice. “Dark” uses symbols like the Winden caves, mirrors, and the color yellow to convey meaning and complexity. Meanwhile, Frost’s poem uses the imagery of a fork in the road and the irony of the speaker’s decision to highlight the idea of alternate paths and outcomes.

“We trust that time is linear. That it proceeds eternally, uniformly. Into infinity. But the distinction between past, present, and future is nothing but an illusion. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow are not consecutive, they are connected in a never-ending circle. Everything is connected.” (Dark, Season 1: Secrets)

Michael Moorcock, who actually named the concept of ‘multiverse’ in a 1963 science fiction novel “The Sundered Worlds,” was inspired by the many-worlds interpretation of quantum mechanics by Everett. Alternative universes have been featured in small-scale independent productions such as Kevin Brownlow and Andrew Mollo’s “It Happened Here” (1964), featuring an alternative United Kingdom which had undergone Operation Sea Lion in 1940 and had been defeated and occupied by Nazi Germany. Even Satyajit Ray, in his popular short story series “Professor Shanku,” portrayed the beauty of Alternate Reality. Marvel and DC Comics have done great justice to this concept in the last half of the 20th century and now, the 21st century. There have been numerous other books, comics, and films about this Alternate theory.

The concept of Alternate Reality or parallel universe is a question to modern scientists but is quite natural in Indian mythology. Lord Vishnu’s 8th avatar Lord Krishna shows a scene of multiple cosmic creations and destructions to Arjuna in Mahabharata. He unfolded the truth of parallel universes in Bhagavad Gita. He explained to Arjuna that Brahma is the creator of only this universe and that there are many more powerful universes than this.

The fictional device or premise of alternate dimensions or realities seems so common today that it requires almost no explanation when used in stories. In tandem with the rise of the digital age, science fiction has emerged as a harbinger of Cyberculture. This exploration into Alternate Realities within science fiction transcends the boundaries of speculative storytelling. It becomes a profound journey into the heart of societal reflections, ethical quandaries, and the trajectory of humanity in an era dominated by rapid technological advancement. By critically engaging with these themes, audiences are not merely entertained, but they are prompted to introspect on the implications for their own lives and the collective future. Science fiction, in its ability to serve as a reflective mirror and a visionary compass, emerges as a vital tool for understanding the complex tapestry of the human experience in a world ever more entwined with the threads of innovation and possibility.

**Sanjana Saha**  
**1st Year**  
**History Department**



# SCIENCE FICTION:

An Alternate Reality or A Representation of the society

Science fiction is a genre of speculative fiction, which typically deals with imaginative and futuristic concepts such as advanced science and technology, space exploration, time travel, parallel universes, and extraterrestrial life. It is related to fantasy, horror, and superhero fiction and contains many subgenres

## ALTERNATIVE REALITY

**Imaginative Concepts** – Science fiction introduces imaginative and speculative concepts that push the boundaries of our understanding. It explores futuristic or alternative scenarios, often based on scientific principles which are non existence in reality

**Time Travel** – Time travel is a popular trope in science fiction, allowing characters to journey backward or forward in time. It opens up possibilities for altering events, exploring the consequences of temporal manipulations which is not possible in reality

**Alternate universe or a parallel reality**, is a concept frequently explored in science fiction. It posits the existence of other universes or realities that coexist alongside our own, each with its unique set of laws, physics, and possibilities. These parallel universes can diverge from our reality in minor or significant ways, leading to variations in history, society, or the laws of nature. Exploring parallel universes allows authors to imagine different versions of our world and explore the potential consequences of alternate choices but these are not proved as of yet

## REPRESENTATION OF SOCIETY

**Future or Alternate Settings** – Science fiction commonly takes place in the future or in alternate realities. These settings allow authors to envision unique worlds, societies, and technological advancements shaped by scientific progress. **Scientific Plausibility** – While incorporating fictional elements, science fiction strives to maintain scientific plausibility. It grounds its concepts in established scientific principles or theories, creating a sense of realism and credibility. **Technological Advancements** – Science fiction often showcases futuristic technologies or scientific advancements that significantly impact society. These technologies can range from space travel and artificial intelligence to genetic engineering and time manipulation.

**Exploration of Other Worlds** – Science fiction frequently ventures beyond Earth, exploring distant planets, galaxies, or even parallel universes. It delves into the possibilities of space exploration and encounters with alien life forms. **Prediction and Inspiration** – Science fiction can sometimes predict future technologies or societal changes. It inspires real-world innovations by capturing the imagination of inventors, engineers, and scientists who seek to bring the imagined concepts to life.

ANUSKA MUKHERJEE

Anuska Mukherjee  
1st Year  
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## EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE REALITIES IN SCIENCE FICTION

Science fiction has always been a genre that pushes the boundaries of imagination, inviting readers to explore alternative realities where the rules of our world are bent, twisted, or altogether rewritten. In this vast landscape of speculative fiction, authors craft narratives that diverge from our own reality, presenting scenarios where the laws of nature, society, and even reality itself are subject to reinterpretation. These alternative realities serve as canvases for exploring profound questions about human nature, the consequences of our choices, and the potential trajectories of our collective future.

Philip K. Dick's "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" stands as a seminal work in the realm of alternative realities. Set in a dystopian future, the novel challenges conventional notions of empathy, consciousness, and the essence of life itself. Through Dick's masterful storytelling, readers are transported to a reality where the line between humans and androids is intentionally blurred, prompting contemplation on the ethical implications of technological advancements. The narrative forces us to confront existential questions about identity and agency, inviting us to reconsider our understanding of what it means to be alive. By immersing readers in a world where the distinction between organic and artificial life is intentionally obscured, Dick prompts us to reflect on the nature of humanity and the moral responsibilities that accompany our technological innovations.

Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Dispossessed" offers yet another compelling exploration of alternative realities, this time focusing on the societal consequences of an anarchist utopia on a distant planet. Le Guin crafts a world where individual freedom is paramount, challenging readers to consider the trade-offs between personal liberty and communal well-being. Through the lens of her protagonist, Shevek, who navigates the complexities of life on both his home planet of Anarres and the neighbouring world of Urras, Le Guin prompts us to question the foundations of our own societal structures. By immersing us in a society that operates outside familiar political frameworks, she encourages us to reevaluate our assumptions about governance, economics, and social organization. "The Dispossessed" serves as a thought-provoking exploration of alternative models of society, inviting readers to imagine new possibilities for collective life.

These alternative realities in science fiction serve as mirrors, reflecting back at us aspects of our own humanity that we may overlook or take for granted. Through these narratives, readers are not only entertained but are also challenged to reassess their beliefs, confront societal norms, and consider the implications of the choices we make collectively. Science fiction becomes a playground for thought experiments, pushing the boundaries of our understanding and challenging us to envision worlds beyond the constraints of our current reality.

Moreover, these alternative realities offer a space for exploring diverse perspectives and experiences. Science fiction authors often use their narratives to explore themes of identity, culture, and power dynamics, offering readers insights into the complexities of the human experience. By immersing readers in worlds that are vastly different from their own, authors create opportunities for empathy and understanding, fostering a greater appreciation for the diversity of human thought and existence. Through the exploration of alternative realities,

science fiction invites us to consider the multiplicity of ways in which societies can be structured and individuals can navigate the world.

An alternative reality in science fiction serve as fertile ground for exploring the boundaries of imagination and challenging our understanding of the world around us. Through narratives like “Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?” and “The Dispossessed,” authors invite readers to contemplate profound questions about humanity, society, and the nature of reality itself. By immersing us in worlds that diverge from our own, science fiction encourages us to expand our perspectives, confront our assumptions, and envision new possibilities for the future.

**Payel Roy Chowdhury**  
**1st Year**  
**Economics Department**

## **THE DUAL ROLE OF SCIENCE FICTION: REFLECTION AND SPECULATION**

Science fiction occupies a unique space in literature and entertainment. It is an imaginative and speculative genre that often deals with futuristic concepts such as science, technology, space exploration, time travel, parallel universes, and extra-terrestrial life. At its core, science fiction provides a platform for exploring contemporary issues and the possibilities of the human experience.

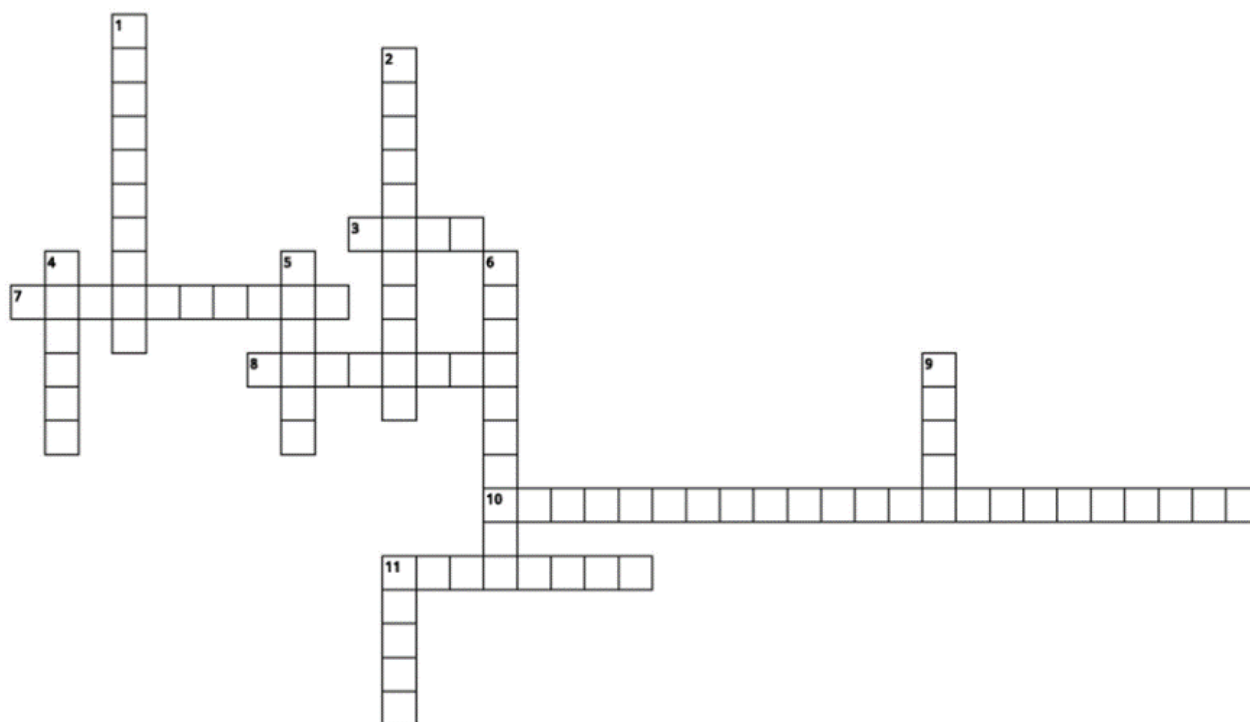
On the one hand, science fiction reflects the society from which it emerges, much like any other creative work. It portrays the society's traditions and beliefs in science and how these can shape the future. Works like "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood invite audiences and readers to confront uncomfortable truths about the present by projecting them into fictionalized futures not often considered in everyday contexts. Additionally, contemporary social and political issues are addressed through allegory and metaphor. For example, the "Star Trek" franchise uses its diverse cast of alien species to address issues of racial and cultural diversity, while Isaac Asimov's "I, Robot" series delves into questions of artificial intelligence and ethics through its portrayal of robots grappling with their autonomy.

However, science fiction is not merely a reflection of present society; it also serves as a gateway to explore alternative realities. By imagining worlds where scientific principles and technological foundations differ from our own, science fiction can provide a playground where different thoughts can be experimented with and explored. It can extrapolate existing facts and findings to consider what might happen in the future, long before technology can actually take us there. This can also prepare society to be more receptive to inevitable changes. Whether exploring the colonization of distant planets, the consequences of genetic engineering, or the possibilities of time travel, science fiction sparks the imagination and encourages critical thinking about the intersection of science, technology, and society. Works like Philip K. Dick's "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" challenge readers to consider the moral and ethical dilemmas we may face with projected advancements in technologies.

Essentially, science fiction operates as a mirror reflecting society while also functioning as a tool to dive deeply and speculate about imagined possibilities that may become reality in the future. In this way, science fiction transcends its role as mere entertainment and emerges as a powerful tool for social commentary, philosophical inquiry, and visionary exploration.

**Prapti Bhattacharya**  
**1st Year**  
**Economics Department**

## CROSSWORDS 2



### ACROSS

3. The smallest unit of matter
7. A region of space having a gravitational field so intense that no matter or radiation can escape
8. It includes all of space, and all the matter and energy that space contains
10. They live in your computer and are created by humans but even exceed the intelligence of their creator
11. A small rocky body orbiting the sun, usually found between Mars and Jupiter

### DOWN

1. The notional environment in which communication over computer networks occurs
2. Using a device to travel across time, past or future
4. A celestial body moving in an elliptical orbit round a star
5. Duplicates
6. Space of more than three dimensions
9. An inorganic humanoid that carries out a set of instructions of instructions
11. They live in space and travel in UFOs

**Vanshika Agarwal**  
**1st Year**  
**Economics Department**

## **BEYOND THE VEIL: SCIENCE FICTION'S REFLECTION OF SOCIETY**

Science fiction stands as a genre like no other, offering readers a ticket to explore the far reaches of the imagination while simultaneously holding up a mirror to the complexities of the society from which it emerges. Within its pages, science fiction dances between the realms of alternative realities and societal reflection, weaving together narratives that captivate, challenge, and provoke thought.

Science fiction, a genre that stretches the boundaries of imagination, has long captivated audiences with its futuristic visions and alternate realities. This article delves into the intriguing question: Is science fiction merely an escape to alternative worlds, or does it serve as a profound reflection of society?

Science fiction often transports readers to distant galaxies, post-apocalyptic landscapes, or technologically advanced futures. It provides an escape from the constraints of our current reality, allowing audiences to explore fantastical realms and ponder “what if” scenarios. Authors create intricate worlds that captivate readers’ imaginations, offering a temporary reprieve from the complexities of everyday life.

One of the hallmarks of science fiction is its ability to envision technological advancements and their societal impacts. From H.G. Wells’ “The Time Machine” to contemporary works like Neal Stephenson’s “Snow Crash,” science fiction serves as a speculative playground for exploring the consequences of scientific progress. In doing so, it provides a lens through which we can evaluate and anticipate the potential societal implications of emerging technologies.

Beyond the allure of otherworldly settings, science fiction often acts as a mirror reflecting contemporary societal issues. Classic works like George Orwell’s “1984” and Aldous Huxley’s “Brave New World” are renowned for their social commentary and dystopian portrayals. By crafting alternate realities, authors can metaphorically address political, social, and ethical dilemmas, inviting readers to contemplate the implications for their own world.

Science fiction is a diverse genre that incorporates various cultural perspectives. Authors draw inspiration from their own societies, infusing their narratives with cultural nuances and diverse characters. This cultural representation contributes to a broader understanding of the human experience and challenges stereotypes by presenting alternative visions of the future.

Furthermore, science fiction reflects cultural diversity, incorporating a myriad of voices, perspectives, and experiences into its tapestry of narratives. Authors draw inspiration from their own cultural contexts, infusing their stories with rich tapestries of identity, language, and tradition. In doing so, they not only enrich the genre but also offer readers a broader understanding of the human experience, challenging assumptions and expanding horizons.

Conversely, the societal context in which science fiction emerges also plays a pivotal role. Authors are influenced by the prevailing ideologies, scientific advancements, and cultural shifts of their time. As societal norms evolve, so too does the nature of the speculative worlds created within the genre.

Science fiction operates on multiple levels—it is a canvas for imaginative escapism, a tool for projecting technological possibilities, a vessel for social critique, and a reflection of cultural diversity. Whether seen as an alternative reality or a representation of society, science fiction remains a dynamic genre that continues to evolve alongside the ever-changing landscape of human experience. As readers explore these fictional realms, they simultaneously engage in a thought-provoking dialogue with the realities of their own world.

**Abigail Chiang**  
**1st Year**  
**English Department**

## **UNVEILING REALITIES: SCIENCE FICTION'S MIRROR TO SOCIETY**

Science fiction stands as an unparalleled genre, granting readers passage to explore the vast expanses of imagination while simultaneously reflecting the intricacies of the society it originates from. Within its pages, science fiction oscillates between realms of alternate realities and societal introspection, intertwining narratives that enthrall, challenge, and ignite contemplation.

Renowned for its ability to push the boundaries of imagination, science fiction has long mesmerized audiences with its visions of the future and parallel universes. This piece delves into the intriguing query: Does science fiction serve merely as an escape to fantastical realms or does it serve as a profound reflection of society?

Science fiction often whisks readers away to distant galaxies, dystopian landscapes, or futures brimming with technological marvels. It offers solace from the confines of reality, enabling readers to traverse imaginative realms and ponder the limitless possibilities. Authors craft intricate worlds that ensnare readers, providing a temporary respite from the complexities of daily life.

A hallmark of science fiction is its capacity to envisage technological advancements and their societal ramifications. From H.G. Wells' "The Time Machine" to contemporary works like Neal Stephenson's "Snow Crash," science fiction serves as a speculative playground for exploring the repercussions of scientific progress. It offers a prism through which we can assess and forecast the potential societal impacts of emerging technologies.

Beyond the allure of fantastical settings, science fiction frequently functions as a mirror reflecting contemporary societal concerns. Classics such as George Orwell's "1984" and Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" are lauded for their social commentary and dystopian projections. By weaving alternate realities, authors can metaphorically grapple with political, social, and ethical dilemmas, provoking readers to contemplate their implications for the real world.

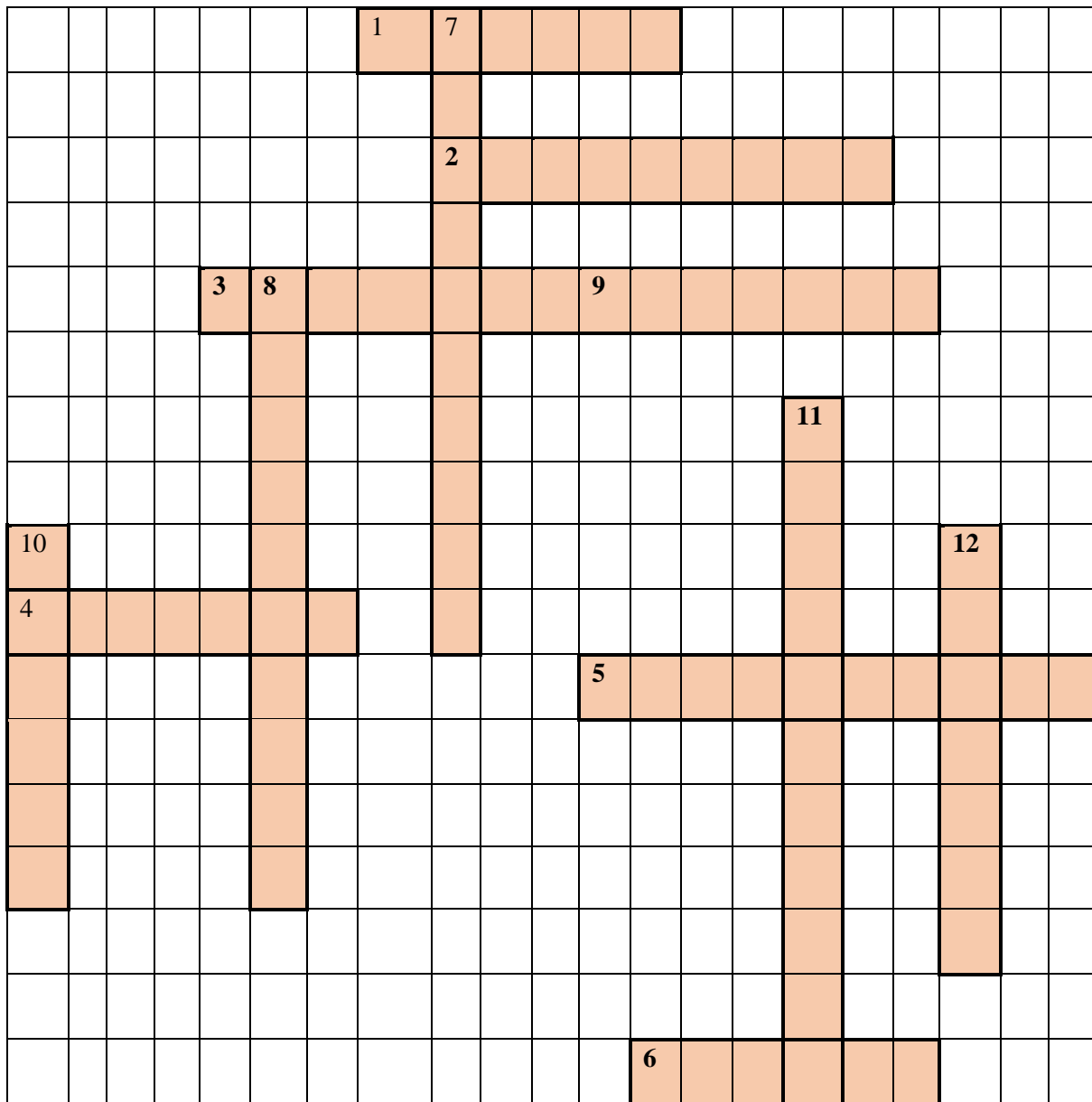
Science fiction embraces cultural diversity, incorporating a myriad of perspectives and experiences into its tapestry of narratives. Authors draw inspiration from their own cultural milieus, infusing their stories with rich layers of identity, language, and tradition. In doing so, they not only enrich the genre but also foster a deeper understanding of the human experience, challenging preconceptions and broadening horizons.

Furthermore, the societal milieu in which science fiction emerges plays a pivotal role. Authors are shaped by prevailing ideologies, scientific breakthroughs, and cultural shifts, which in turn influence the speculative worlds they create.

Science fiction serves as a multi-faceted exploration—it is a conduit for imaginative escapism, a conduit for pondering technological possibilities, a vehicle for societal critique, and a reflection of cultural diversity. Whether perceived as a journey into alternate realities or a reflection of society, science fiction remains a dynamic genre, evolving in tandem with the ever-changing tapestry of human experience. As readers traverse these fictional realms, they embark on a stimulating dialogue with the realities of their own world.

**Nilufar Firoz**  
**1st Year**  
**History Department**

## CROSSWORDS 3



### ACROSS

1. An imaginary place of ideal perfection especially in laws
2. A science fiction term for small, autonomous robots that can work together to perform tasks
3. The manipulation of matter on an atomic or molecular scale to create new materials and devices.
4. A reality not physically existing as such but made by software to appear to do so.

5. A hypothetical environment in which people interact with computers and other digital devices, often depicted as a virtual reality.

6. It is the force that causes things to move and it exist in kinetic, thermal, or other forms

**DOWN**

7. The hypothetical ability to travel through time, either to the past or to the future

8. A type of matter that is composed of particles that have the opposite charge of normal matter particles.

9. A virtual reality room that allows the user to experience a computer-generated environment as if it were real.

10. An epic science fiction which takes us to the amazing world of Na'vi-inhabited Pandora

11. Christopher Nolan's film set in a dystopian future of when Earth becomes uninhabitable

12. The theory which explains nature and behavior of matter and energy on the atomic and subatomic level



## IMPACT OF SCIENCE FICTION IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

Science fiction has played a significant role in fostering positive changes in modern society. For instance, it contributed to easing racial tensions during the Civil Rights movement through influential works like *Star Trek*. Nichelle Nichols, who portrayed Uhura in the series, contemplated quitting until Martin Luther King Jr. convinced her otherwise, recognizing the groundbreaking nature of her role as an African American actor in a non-stereotypical position (Soylent Communications). This representation of racial equality in a widely recognized television show helped affirm the importance of equality in interpersonal relationships, particularly during a time of societal confusion regarding racial matters.

Among all societal facets, technology has perhaps been most profoundly influenced by science fiction. Various fields, including communication, home entertainment, space travel, and transportation, have experienced advancements spurred by the imaginative ideas presented in the genre. Notably, communication witnessed a significant leap with the invention of the cellular telephone, credited in part to the “communicator” device featured in *Star Trek*. Martin Cooper, the inventor of cell phones, attributed his inspiration to the communicator, which enabled wireless communication akin to that depicted in the series (Lawinski). The proliferation of cellular phones has revolutionized communication, becoming an indispensable tool in modern society and surpassing traditional landlines in popularity (Associated Press).

Moreover, science fiction has left its mark on home entertainment, shaping pastimes and leisure activities in society. Large-screen televisions and interactive games, reminiscent of those depicted in Ray Bradbury’s dystopian novel *Fahrenheit 451*, have become commonplace in many households. In the novel, characters were entertained in “parlours” surrounded by large screens, mirroring the prevalence of big-screen televisions today. However, there is a concern that the prevalence of electronic entertainment, including television and video games, may lead to a decline in intellectual engagement, contrasting with the cognitive demands of reading (Bradbury 119; Associated Press).

Additionally, science fiction has influenced advancements in space travel and transportation, fostering curiosity and innovation. Works like George Méliès’ “A Trip to the Moon” and the *Star Trek* franchise have inspired engineers and scientists to pursue space exploration endeavors. NASA even named a space shuttle *Enterprise* after the iconic starship from *Star Trek* (Dumoulin). Similarly, Jules Verne’s “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” sparked the imagination of submarine designers, leading to the development of efficient submarines. The *Star Wars* saga inspired the concept of electric cars, with several automotive brands subsequently introducing electric vehicles following their depiction in the films. These advancements contribute positively to society, particularly in addressing environmental concerns such as global warming (Lawinski).

Science fiction serves as a potent catalyst for both technological and cultural progress in society. While it has undeniably sparked significant advancements in communication, space exploration, and transportation, there remains a pressing concern regarding its potential impact on intellectual engagement and societal values. Despite these apprehensions, the imaginative realms crafted by science fiction persist in inspiring and shaping the trajectory of technological innovation, offering tantalizing glimpses of a future that once existed solely within the realms of fiction. As society continues to navigate the intricate interplay between technological

advancement and cultural evolution, the enduring influence of science fiction serves as a testament to the enduring power of storytelling to shape our collective imagination and drive toward progress.

**Meghna Roy**

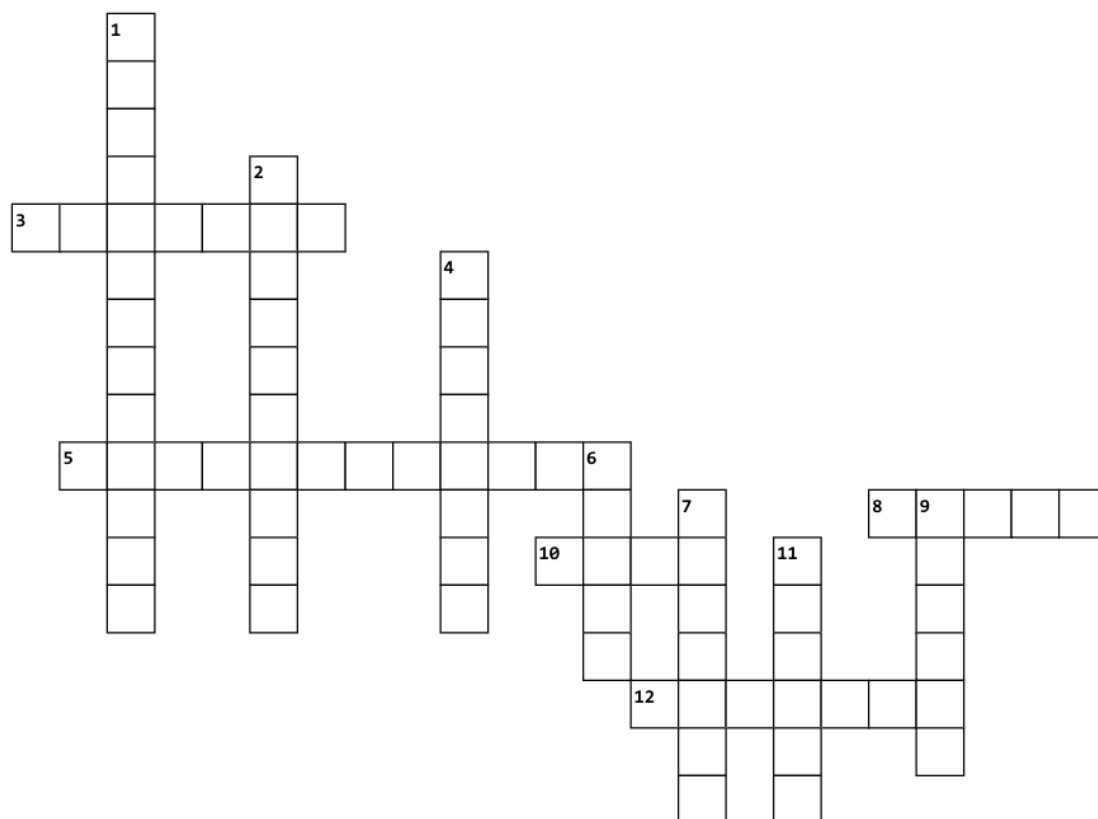
**1st Year**

**Education Department**



**Meenakshi Chatterjee**  
**1st Year**  
**Economics Department**

## CROSSWORDS 4



### ACROSS

3. Philanthropist, playboy, genius...what else do they call me?
5. Alas, even Zendaya couldn't stop me from becoming a ruthless messiah
8. Turns out, vampires are no big deal compared to teenage hormones and high school mean girls
10. I may be the lil green guy, but I'm wise beyond my years(ears)
12. Steel? Iron? Nickel? I can handle it all

### DOWN

1. From Henry Sugar and Sherlock, to a cape wearing magician, what has my life come to?
2. Switching to the dark side requires a costume change after all
4. Konichiwa! Radiation made me the giant I am.
6. Sheldon Cooper might just be my biggest fan #live long and prosper
7. When will the world stop confusing me with Dumbledore?
9. I laugh upon the ashes of Sokovia...oops I'm dead
11. Guys, I just collect stones for a living

**Chandraboli Majumdar**  
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# IS AI THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY?



**Khushi Bakrewal**  
**3rd Year**  
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## ANSWER KEY

### CROSSWORD 1

#### ACROSS

1. Teasdale
6. Antiquities
8. Ohio
9. Torres Vedras
11. Pasteur
13. Westbourne
14. Lilac

#### DOWN

2. Long Dragon
3. Fotheringay
4. Alsatian
5. Sussexville
6. Gomshott's
10. Venus
12. Dogfish

### CROSSWORD 2

#### ACROSS

3. Atom
7. Black-Hole
8. Universe
10. Artificial-Intelligence
11. Asteroid

#### DOWN

1. Cyberspace
2. Time-travel
4. Planet
5. Clones
6. Hyperspace
9. Robot
11. Alien

### CROSSWORD 3

#### ACROSS

1. Utopia
2. Microbots
3. Nanotechnology
4. Virtual

5. Cyberspace
6. Energy

#### DOWN

7. Timetravel
8. Antimatter

9. Holodeck

10. Avatar

11. Intersellar

12. Quantum

### **CROSSWORD 4**

#### **ACROSS**

3. IronMan

5. PaulAtreides

8. Buffy

10. Yoda

12. Magneto

#### **DOWN**

1. Doctor Strange

2. Darth Vader

4. Godzilla

6. Spock

7. Gandalf

9. Ultron

11. Thanos

## **ABOUT I.C.T. SOCIETY**

The Information and Communication Technology society explores the arenas related to computers and technology. In today's world, technology is a tool that has enabled us to venture into various arenas, the internet has connected people across the globe allowing information and today even goods to be circulated. The ICT Society incorporates various activities that allows students to learn and grow their knowledge about technology and its various branches. This society incorporates even those with minimal knowledge of computers and enables everyone to enhance their knowledge in computers. We organize various events at the Inter-college and Intra-college level, where students can showcase their tech-savvy, intellectual and artistic skills. We held Tech Coaction at Samagam 2022 and 2023. The ICT society also has its annual magazine, 'Connect', that allows students to put to use their creativity, writing articles about the tech world and making puzzles, crosswords and many more.

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**Navyaa Agarwal**

**ICT Vice-president**

**Ishita Samanta**

**ICT Treasurer**

**Chandraboli Majumder**



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