



Fafnir – Nordic Journal of Science Fiction and Fantasy Research

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Editorial 2/2017

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We are pleased to announce Issue 2/2017 of *Fafnir – Nordic Journal of Science Fiction and Fantasy Research*. This issue consists of a new prefatory section, a guest article, and three research articles, a study on the economics of resource scarcity in science fiction texts, an article on Justin Cronin's apocalyptic novel *The Passage*, and an article that highlights the Finnish Reaalifantasia movement. We also have book reviews of *Science Fiction and Futurism* by Ace G. Pilkington and *Terraforming* by Chris Pak.

This is a time of exciting developments at *Fafnir*. With this issue we are happy to announce a new regular prefatory section for our journal. In this section, distinguished scholars in the field of science fiction and fantasy will discuss ideas and concepts central to their own work. We introduce this section in the hope that the journal will not only be an exciting place for the publication of cutting edge research in these fields, but also inspire new ways of thinking with and through genre literature. We start in this issue with Merja Polvinen, the head of the *Fafnir* Editorial Board, who discusses the concept of “estrangement” central to theorization of science fiction, its origins in the work of the Russian theorist Viktor Shklovsky, and the continuing relevance of this concept in her work - as well as for the forthcoming academic track at the 2017 Worldcon in Helsinki.

We also have a special guest article in this issue: an article on the Science Fiction Collection at the Science Library, University of Oslo, the largest public collection of science fiction in the Nordic region. Line Nybakk Akerholt, Tone Charlotte Gadmar & Kyrre Traavik Låberg, all librarians in charge of managing the collection, present a brief history of the collection, its purpose, current state of development, as well as past, current and future projects.

The guest article is followed by three research articles. Maria Lindgren Leavenworth and Van Leavenworth in their article “Fragmented Fiction: Storyworld Construction and the Quest for Meaning in Justin Cronin's *The Passage*” explore how readers' and characters' experience of reconstructing the storyworld of the novel seem to parallel each other, but ultimately lead in different distinct directions as the characters operate within one kind of temporality (pre- or post-apocalyptic), while the readers' reconstruction requires constant negotiation of the multiple temporalities, especially the pre-apocalyptic cultural memory in the post-apocalyptic terrain of the events in the novel.

Jesper Stage's “Not long before the end? SF and the economics of resource scarcity” looks at scarcity stories written during the commodity boom in the 1970s and 2006-2014. Stage surveys a large number of texts to show how SF produced more recently has a more realistic approach to social factors influencing resource scarcity, as opposed to technoscientific explanations in the previous phase.

Finally, Minttu Ollikainen's article “Dreams and Themes in the texts of the ‘Reaalifantasia’ group” looks at a contemporary movement in Finnish science fiction and fantasy, focusing on two novels from the framework of “unnatural narratology.” Ollikainen's discussion of this movement

will be of particular interest to researchers interested in different ways of conceptualizing genre in the global SFF space, especially in those cases where genre boundaries are more fluid.

With this issue we also welcome our new sub-editor, Hedda Susanne Molland, from the Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo, and Research Assistant at the “Synchronizing the World” project at the same university. Hedda received her BA in the History of Ideas and is currently writing her MA on the meeting of climate research with public discourse and science communication. She also has previous editorial experience with the ideahistory journal *Molo*. We also wish to take this opportunity to thank our previous sub-editor (*locum*), Tanja Välisalo, for her help with the publication of the last two issues of *Fafnir*.

The next *Fafnir* issue 3/2017 will be a themed issue on “reception, audience/s and fandom studies”. More information and the CFP can be found here: <http://journal.finfar.org/call-for-papers-fafnir-32017/>. We would also like to welcome submissions of research articles, overviews of science fiction and fantasy research projects around the world, interviews, and academic book reviews and review essays, for our regular issues.

Remember to join *Fafnir*'s Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fafnirjournal>

Best regards,

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