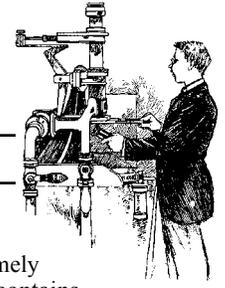


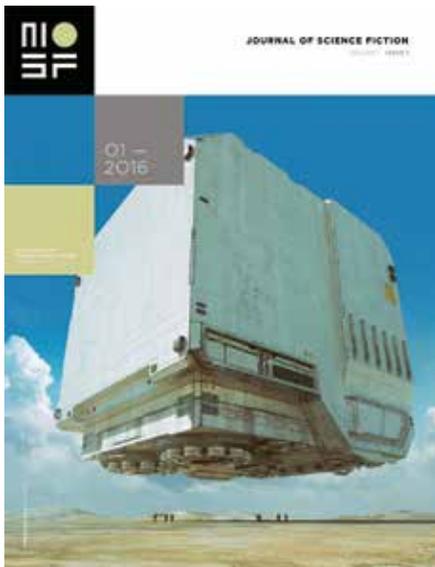
# Decoder Ring — Museum of Science Fiction Launches Scholarly Journal



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Washington D.C.'s **Museum of Science Fiction (MOSF)** published the first issue of their new scholarly journal in January.<sup>1</sup> The **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** is available online for free download in PDF format. Content is available under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported license. Each peer-reviewed article begins with an abstract and list of keywords. The journal's editorial board includes scholars **Rachel Lazarus**, **Heather McHale**, and **Barbara Jasny** (also Deputy Editor of *Science*), as well as prominent sci-fi authors **Nancy Kress** (*Yesterday's Kin*, *Beggars in Spain*) and **Ben Bova** (*Orion*, *Mars*).

**Figure I: MOSF Journal of Science Fiction, Image: MOSF**



Volume 1, Issue 1 begins with a letter from editor (and M.L.S.) **Monica Louzon** welcoming both readers and submissions from authors:

The prospect of creating an academic journal for the **Museum of Science Fiction** filled me with elation and trepidation. My months of research

and planning would be for naught if I couldn't assemble the necessary teams of editors, peer reviewers, and — most importantly — authors who would breathe life into the **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction**. My vision was — and still is — not to replace the other well-established academic journals of science fiction studies that already exist, but to complement them.<sup>2</sup>

Introductions to the journal are furthered with reflections on the nature and importance of Science Fiction from *Science Fiction Studies* editor **Veronica Hollinger** and **Science Fiction Research Association Pioneer Award** winner **Allison de Fren**. The articles in the inaugural issue are indeed widely varied and deliciously well grounded in critical theory. It is wonderful to see references that list not only the likes of **Herbert** and **Zelazny** but also **Derrida** and **Marx**. It's hard to beat a table of contents that includes titles like these:

“Biogenetics, The Nation, and Globalization in Paolo Bacigalupi's *Critical Dystopias*” by **Derrick King**

“Gods of War Toke While Riding a Vimana: Hindu Gods in Three Indian Science Fiction Novels” by **Sami Ahmad Khan**

“Loving the Other in Science Fiction by Women” by **Karma Waltonen**

“Paul's Empire: Imperialism and Assemblage Theory in **Frank Herbert's Dune**” by **Amanda Rudd**

The collection is not only well rooted in Sci Fi's past but quite contemporary, even prescient, as befits the genre. **King's** exploration of the complex trappings of globalization, Neoliberalism, climate catastrophe, and the perils of privatization in **Bacigalupi** could almost come from 2016 U.S. election headlines (if we actually discussed issues instead of theatrics, but I digress).<sup>3</sup> **Waltonen's** discussion of the dynamics of sex and power in the works of **Octavia Butler**, **Marge Piercy**, and others is also riveting, and is tagged with “inter-species sex” as a keyword.<sup>4</sup> **Khan's** study of the represen-

tation of Hindu gods in English-language Indian works is extremely interesting. Plus, it contains subheadings like “Flying Saucers Battle Al Qaeda: Hindu Gods as Ancient Astronauts” and “Stoned Gods versus Brain-dead Zombies.”<sup>5</sup> Are you reading this? Why aren't you reading this?

You could even be writing this, if you have the chops. The journal invites submissions of 5,000 to 8,000 words, plus a 150-200 word abstract, via its Website: <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/about/submissions#onlineSubmissions>.

But get on that. **Louzon** notes in her introduction to this first issue that, “we are thrilled to say we already have many more manuscripts under consideration for our next issue.”<sup>6</sup>

I can't wait to read them. 🌍

## Endnotes

1. **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** 1, no. 1 (January 2016). Accessed March 9, 2016. <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/index>
2. **Louzon, Monica**. “Letter from the Editor.” **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** 1, no. 1 (January 2016): 1. Accessed March 9. <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/index>
3. **King, Derrick**. “Biogenetics, The Nation, and Globalization in Paolo Bacigalupi's *Critical Dystopias*.” **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** 1, no. 1 (January 2016): 4-16. Accessed March 9. <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/index>
4. **Waltonen, Karma**. “Loving the Other in Science Fiction by Women.” **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** 1, no. 1 (January 2016): 33-44. Accessed March 10. <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/index>
5. **Khan, Sami Ahmad**. “Gods of War Toke While Riding a Vimana: Hindu Gods in Three Indian Science Fiction Novels.” **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** 1, no. 1 (January 2016): 17-32. Accessed March 10. <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/index>
6. **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction**.