“That Buck Rogers Stuff”: The Rhetoric of Science Fiction

Preconference at RSA, May 28, 2010, Minneapolis Marriott City Center Hotel, Pine Lake Room, 8:30-11:30 am.

The Presentations

Session 1 (8:30 am-9:20 am) Rhetoric as Science Fiction
- The Fictions We Write: Historiography and Rhetorics of Science (Graham)
- Laboratory Life 30 Years On: Reviewing the Claim that Science Turns Reality into a Story with Facts as Characters (Baake & Wainscott)
- The Rhetorical Metaverse: The Science Fiction of Sophism (Durst)
- When Science Fiction Becomes Science Fact: Will We Recognize It? (Holmquest)

Session 2 (9:30 am-10:20 am) Science Fictional Discourses
- Militarism and Mechatronics: The Veil of Science Fiction Cool in United States Air Force Advertisements (Maradin)
- Leon Kass, Repugnance, and a Brave New World (Klein)
- Carl Sagan’s Narrative Character in Cosmos (Sorenson)
- Big Science in Science Fiction: CERN Seen In Angels & Demons (Taylor)

Session 3 (10:30 am-11:20 am) Rhetoric and Science in SF
- Translating Apparent Progress into Insanity: C. S. Lewis’s Satirical Portrayal of J. B. S. Haldane and J. D. Bernal in Out of the Silent Planet (Sullivan)
- Demo Men: The Operator in Science Fiction and Computer Science (Hamilton & O’Gorman)
- Science and Politics in Michael Crichton’s State of Fear (Johnston)

Closing Comments: Prospects for a Rhetoric of SF