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Frontiers of Science: Environment and Scientific Rhetorics of the Future

This paper uses popular and long running Australian newspaper comic strip *Frontiers of Science* to investigate the historical context of scientific rhetorics of the future. How is the future imagined in these strips, and how do the strips illuminate our ways of thinking about current scientific popularisation? Why use a comic strip, with its potential for imaginary worlds, to communicate science? Is the purpose one of education, or is it more a public relations exercise, to 'sell' science? Would we use a comic strip to communicate environmental science?

Although these strips originally presented a utopian rhetoric of the future and a particular figuring of the environment (a utopia of the control of the environment or nature by scientific man) it is difficult in hindsight not to view them from a dystopian perspective. It is this disjunction that our paper will address.