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**Tales of Tomorrow: Comparing Speculative Landscapes in the South Pole, Dubai, and in the Writings of Octavia Butler**

Drawing off of recent art photography projects I've done both at the South Pole, Antarctica and in Dubai, U.A.E. the first part of my paper will focus on the construction of future imaginaries in these locals in context of a shifting global economy. In particular I'll be discussing the polar work in terms of US claims to the future and the ability to master alien climates, both on earth and off planet, as being situated in the kind of (seemingly utopic) mainstream science fiction blend of technological and military prowess. This will be followed by a discussion of the speculative landscapes in African American science fiction writer Octavia Butler's post apocalyptic near futures and the ways in which she prefigures debates around ayurvedic science, bio politics and new global economies, and the human-scale sense of urgency, possibility, reality, and immediacy generated by her constructions of near futures.