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The Science-Fictionalization of Cultural Studies

The science-fictional world is not only one different in time or place from our own, but one whose chief interest is precisely the difference that such difference makes.— Carl Freedman, *Critical Theory and Science Fiction*.

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Our working assumption is that science fiction has the potential - whether or not this potential is fulfilled - to undertake the kind of substantial cultural-political critique that is also the goal of many projects identified as/with cultural studies. We will take up some key ideas common to both sf and to cultural critique, including defamiliarization (through sf's alternative chronotopes); historicity (situating the present as the past of a contingent future); self-reflexivity (as individual texts participate in the ongoing dialogue often referred to as the "sf mega-text"); and subject construction (in contemporary technoculture). Our presentations will focus on some of the potentially rich critical intersections between sf texts and critical methodologies at a historical moment marked by radical transformations in technoscience.