

Women of Color in Speculative Fiction: An Annotated Bibliography of Authors

Project Parameters

Scope:

- *Definitions:* For some background, “speculative fiction” can be considered as an umbrella term for science fiction, fantasy, and some horror (Urbanski 2007). The authors, literary motifs, and works presented in the bibliography reflect this definition.
- *Format:* This project only lists novellas or novels written for either young adult or adult audiences; it does not include any bibliography of poetry, short stories, music, or alternative media by these authors.
- *Genre:* Many of these authors have written in other genres, such as crime, mystery, or romance; however, this project seeks only to examine works of speculative fiction and thus only presents those novels or novellas within the bibliography.
- *Ethnicity / Nationality:* Whenever the information is available, the author’s nationality and ethnicity is included within the annotated entry. The authors listed are from, or have emigrated to, a nation in North or Central America.
- *Data Sources:* Much of the data presented in the bibliography stems from an array of genre-specific magazines, publications, and websites (such as *Asimov’s Science Fiction*, *Strange Horizons*, and *Analog*); from reader’s advisory platforms such as Goodreads.com and *Publisher’s Weekly*; and from personal author websites and interviews.

Intended Audiences:

This project is intended for several audiences who operate within, or use, North American libraries (regardless of library type). The following audiences are:

- *Scholarly Audience:* This project provides ample opportunities to examine how artifacts of popular culture – film, art, and books – reflect the underlying social and cultural processes inherent in our society. Speculative fiction has long since provided a unique lens into human society precisely because the transformative fictional landscapes can serve as powerful allegories or similes for the human experience. Thus, an annotated bibliography of women who specialize in speculative fiction – many of whom write about race, gender, and other dimensions of identity – may serve as an important resource for scholars and collegiate students interested in the genre.

- *Fans and Library Patrons:* Fans of the genre will particularly enjoy reading about favorite authors, and discovering new ones.
- *Library Professionals:* This resource will serve as an electronic exhibit that library professionals can use to supplement their work in several areas: Ethnicity and Women's Awareness Months, Banned Books Week, and Celebrate Speculative Fiction exhibits.
- *Authors/Writers:* Authors of speculative fiction may find this bibliography a useful guide for discovering new authors (and colleagues) in the field.