

Special Issue

Post-Utopia in Speculative Fiction: The End of the Future?

Message from the Guest Editor

Until the current pandemic, it was widely believed that we had entered the period of paralysis in the collective historical imagination. This paralysis was reflected in the inability to imagine a future radically different from the present, which was the prerequisite for the traditional genres of utopia and dystopia. Utopia, a literary depiction of an ideal society, and dystopia, its dark double, postulated a historical teleology toward an extreme social and ontological transformation, whether perceived positively or negatively. But with the spread of globalism, both utopia and dystopia seemed to have faded away, supplanted by post-utopia, presentism, or nostalgia. As Zygmund Bauman described it in his book *Retrotopia*, contemporary narratives of history are located in “the lost/stolen/abandoned but yet undead past, instead of being tied” to the future.

Guest Editor

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