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## Decoder Ring--Museum of Science Fiction Launches Schoarly Journal

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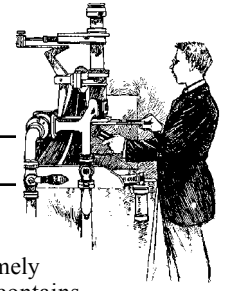
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# Decoder Ring — Museum of Science Fiction Launches Scholarly Journal



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Washington D.C.'s **Museum of Science Fiction (MOSF)** published the first issue of their new scholarly journal in January.<sup>1</sup> The **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** is available online for free download in PDF format. Content is available under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported license. Each peer-reviewed article begins with an abstract and list of keywords. The journal's editorial board includes scholars **Rachel Lazarus**, **Heather McHale**, and **Barbara Jasny** (also Deputy Editor of *Science*), as well as prominent sci-fi authors **Nancy Kress** (*Yesterday's Kin*, *Beggars in Spain*) and **Ben Bova** (*Orion*, *Mars*).

Figure I: MOSF Journal of Science Fiction, Image: MOSF



Volume 1, Issue 1 begins with a letter from editor (and M.L.S.) **Monica Louzon** welcoming both readers and submissions from authors:

The prospect of creating an academic journal for the **Museum of Science Fiction** filled me with elation and trepidation. My months of research

and planning would be for naught if I couldn't assemble the necessary teams of editors, peer reviewers, and — most importantly — authors who would breathe life into the **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction**. My vision was — and still is — not to replace the other well-established academic journals of science fiction studies that already exist, but to complement them.<sup>2</sup>

Introductions to the journal are furthered with reflections on the nature and importance of Science Fiction from *Science Fiction Studies* editor **Veronica Hollinger** and **Science Fiction Research Association Pioneer Award** winner **Allison de Fren**. The articles in the inaugural issue are indeed widely varied and deliciously well grounded in critical theory. It is wonderful to see references that list not only the likes of **Herbert** and **Zelazny** but also **Derrida** and **Marx**. It's hard to beat a table of contents that includes titles like these:

"Biogenetics, The Nation, and Globalization in Paolo Bacigalupi's *Critical Dystopias*" by **Derrick King**

"Gods of War Toke While Riding a Vimana: Hindu Gods in Three Indian Science Fiction Novels" by **Sami Ahmad Khan**

"Loving the Other in Science Fiction by Women" by **Karma Waltonen**

"Paul's Empire: Imperialism and Assemblage Theory in **Frank Herbert's Dune**" by **Amanda Rudd**

The collection is not only well rooted in Sci Fi's past but quite contemporary, even prescient, as befits the genre. **King's** exploration of the complex trappings of globalization, Neoliberalism, climate catastrophe, and the perils of privatization in **Bacigalupi** could almost come from 2016 U.S. election headlines (if we actually discussed issues instead of theatrics, but I digress).<sup>3</sup> **Waltonen's** discussion of the dynamics of sex and power in the works of **Octavia Butler**, **Marge Piercy**, and others is also riveting, and is tagged with "inter-species sex" as a keyword.<sup>4</sup> **Khan's** study of the represen-

tation of Hindu gods in English-language Indian works is extremely interesting. Plus, it contains subheadings like "Flying Saucers Battle Al Qaeda: Hindu Gods as Ancient Astronauts" and "Stoned Gods versus Brain-dead Zombies."<sup>5</sup> Are you reading this? Why aren't you reading this?

You could even be writing this, if you have the chops. The journal invites submissions of 5,000 to 8,000 words, plus a 150-200 word abstract, via its Website: <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/about/submissions#onlineSubmissions>.

But get on that. **Louzon** notes in her introduction to this first issue that, "we are thrilled to say we already have many more manuscripts under consideration for our next issue."<sup>6</sup>

I can't wait to read them. 🌱

## Endnotes

1. **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** 1, no. 1 (January 2016). Accessed March 9, 2016. <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/index>
2. **Louzon, Monica**. "Letter from the Editor." **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** 1, no. 1 (January 2016): 1. Accessed March 9. <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/index>
3. **King, Derrick**. "Biogenetics, The Nation, and Globalization in Paolo Bacigalupi's *Critical Dystopias*." **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** 1, no. 1 (January 2016): 4-16. Accessed March 9. <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/index>
4. **Waltonen, Karma**. "Loving the Other in Science Fiction by Women." **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** 1, no. 1 (January 2016): 33-44. Accessed March 10. <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/index>
5. **Khan, Sami Ahmad**. "Gods of War Toke While Riding a Vimana: Hindu Gods in Three Indian Science Fiction Novels." **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction** 1, no. 1 (January 2016): 17-32. Accessed March 10. <http://publish.lib.umd.edu/scifi/index>
6. **MOSF Journal of Science Fiction**.

## Both Sides Now ... from page 78

**Pearl Bailey** and **Louis Armstrong** in 1952. It was a bestselling song that was not about trade shows, but it sure was about two parties getting together and after all, isn't that what trade shows are all about? 🌱

*Mike is currently the President of **Gruenberg Consulting, LLC**, a firm he founded in January 2012 after a successful career as a senior sales executive in the information industry. His firm*

*is devoted to provide clients with sales staff analysis, market research, executive coaching, trade show preparedness, product placement and best practices advice for improving negotiation skills for librarians and salespeople. His book, "**Buying and Selling Information: A Guide for Information Professionals and Salespeople to Build Mutual Success**" is available on Amazon, Information Today in print and eBook, Amazon Kindle, B&N Nook, Kobo, Apple iBooks, OverDrive, 3M Cloud Library, Gale (GVRL), MyiLibrary, ebrary, EBSCO, Blio, and Chegg. [www.gruenbergconsulting.com](http://www.gruenbergconsulting.com)*