

Looking at the present through the future: Imaginative geographies of science fiction –
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In this paper I argue that the creative writings of science fiction authors concerning the near future provide a cognitive space in which to contemplate present spatialities. Often drawing inspiration from the contemporary social condition and academic and popular non-fiction writings that seek to explain social, economic and political issues, any science fiction writers use strategies such as estrangement, defamiliarization and destabilisation of modernist foundational assumptions to reveal what the future may hold given present trends. Examining the work of cyberpunk writers of the 1980s and 90s, I detail how their works provide informed 'sites of contemplation' from which to examine the present postmodern condition; creative windows on what is happening now and what may become.