

# Contents

---

<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	11
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	13
Challenging Times.....	17
Ethics for the Future: From Humanism to Posthumanism .....	23
Ethical Criticism in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century .....	25
Aesthetics for the Future: Popular Future Fictions.....	26
The Chapters .....	31
<b>2 Ethics for the Future through Fiction</b> .....	35
A Difficult Heritage: Humanism and Beyond .....	36
New Ethics for a New Age: Hans Jonas.....	39
Deconstruction, Ethics, and the Anthropocene: Joanna Zylińska .....	42
Towards Posthumanist Ethics .....	44
Actual Worlds and Possible Futures in Fiction .....	49
Existing Ethical Approaches to Literature .....	50
Ethical Criticism in Film .....	52
Limitations of Existing Approaches .....	54
Future Ethical Criticism: Worlds in the Making.....	56
<b>3 Future World Ecologies: Kim Stanley Robinson's <i>New York 2140</i> (2017) and James Cameron's <i>Avatar</i> (2009)</b> .....	65
A Political World-Ecology Approach: Kim Stanley Robinson's <i>New York 2140</i> .....	71
Back to "Nature" in James Cameron's <i>Avatar</i> .....	85
Conclusion .....	98

<b>4 Transhumanist Futures: Christopher Nolan's</b>	
<b><i>Interstellar</i> (2014) and Wally Pfister's <i>Transcendence</i> (2014)</b> .....	101
Transhumanist Ethics in Christopher Nolan's <i>Interstellar</i> .....	104
Philosophical Essentialism: Futuristic Technologies and The Human	
in Wally Pfister's <i>Transcendence</i> .....	117
Conclusion .....	130
<b>5 Futuristic Digital Neoliberalism: Spike Jonze's <i>Her</i> (2013) and Dave</b>	
<b>Eggers's <i>The Circle</i> (2013)</b> .....	133
The Self and the Other in Digital Neoliberalism: Relationships	
and Identities in Spike Jonze's <i>Her</i> .....	136
The Economy of Attention in Dave Eggers's <i>The Circle</i> .....	149
Conclusion .....	166
<b>6 Biopolitics of the Future: Kazuo Ishiguro's <i>Never Let Me Go</i> (2006) and Don</b>	
<b>DeLillo's <i>Zero K</i> (2016)</b> .....	169
The Biopolitics of Health in an Alternative Past:	
Knowing and Not Knowing in Kazuo Ishiguro's <i>Never Let Me Go</i> .....	172
A Futuristic Present: The Power over Life and Death in Don DeLillo's <i>Zero K</i> .....	188
Conclusion .....	204
<b>7 More than Human?: Threats of AI in Dennis Villeneuve's <i>Blade Runner 2049</i></b>	
<b>(2017) and Alex Garland's <i>Ex_Machina</i> (2014)</b> .....	209
“To Be Born Is to Have a Soul, I Guess.” Reproduction and Human(e)ness	
in Dennis Villeneuve's <i>Blade Runner 2049</i> .....	212
Reflecting the Speculative Spectacle: Alex Garland's <i>Ex_Machina</i> .....	226
Conclusion .....	239
<b>8 Posthumanist Futures: Margaret Atwood's <i>MaddAddam Trilogy</i> (2003, 2006,</b>	
<b>2013) and Paolo Bacigalupi's <i>The Windup Girl</i> (2009)</b> .....	241
Ethics through Metafiction: Storytelling in Margaret Atwood's <i>MaddAddam Trilogy</i> ....	243
Non-human Agents and Posthumanist Ethics in Paolo Bacigalupi's	
<i>The Windup Girl</i> .....	262
Conclusion .....	278
<b>9 Contemporary Imaginaries of the Future</b> .....	281
Ethical Openness versus Closure .....	283
Unmaking Capitalist Futures .....	286

Otherworlds of the Future .....	288
Speculative Realism .....	291
<b>Works Cited</b> .....	<b>295</b>

