

Community Analysis and Materials Selection and Fiscal Management

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LS 505: Collection Development

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The J. Paul Leonard Library is part of San Francisco State University (SFSU) which exists within the California State University (CSU) system of public higher education for the state, the “largest system of higher education in the country granting bachelor's and master's degrees” (para. 1, SF.State.Facts.Strategic.Marketing.and.Communications, n.d.). The library consists of six floors built on top of a ground floor. The fifth and sixth floors are home to the Sutro Library which serves as a branch of the California State Library and is home to a collection of “90,000 rare books and 100,000 pamphlets and broadsides” (para. 1, Library.Self_Guided.Tour._SF.State, n.d.). Though the hours for the Sutro Library are more restrictive than the rest of the library, every floor of the library except the sixth is open to the public in addition to the students of SFSU. While the students will be the primary focus of this community analysis, it is still important to look at the demographics for the city of San Francisco since they are also allowed to check out materials by joining the Friends of the Library, and SFSU is home to several programs which non-students might also participate in (Borrowing.Materials.J.Paul.Leonard.Library, n.d.).

According to Data USA, the city of San Francisco had a population of 851,036 in 2022, the most recent number on the Census website is from 2023 and shows a decrease of nearly 50,000 (San.Francisco.CA.Data.USA, n.d.; U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.). Comparing those two data sets again, the median age increased from 39.3 years to 40.7 years from 2022 to 2023. The Census identifies 105.9 males for every 100 females, but this information does not account for those outside of this binary (U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.). The San Francisco Human Services Agency “approximates that 16% of San Franciscans

identify as LGBTQ+” (p. 3, 2023). San Francisco has declared itself a ‘sanctuary city’ for members of the LGBTQ+ community, and given the hateful rhetoric of certain politicians, it seems likely that this population will continue to grow as those who are able move to less hostile environments (Hosseini, 2025). The largest ethnic group in the city is listed as ‘White (Non-Hispanic)’ at 38.3% closely followed by ‘Asian (Non-Hispanic)’ at 34.5% and a Hispanic population of approximately 15.5% (San.Francisco?CA.NData.USA, n.d.). The population density is second only to New York City in the United States, and the poverty rate is listed as 10.5% with the state of California having about seven times as many unhoused people as the state of New York (ibid.). This helps account for the fact that Gini coefficient, a measure of income inequality, is higher in San Francisco than the national average, with a median income of \$136,689 among the population of nearly 500k who are currently employed and a median property value of \$1.35M (ibid.).

The student population of San Francisco State University, who make up the vast majority of the community who the J. Paul Leonard Library serves, is made up of 22,347 students enrolled as of 2024, as well as 3,000 people employed as either faculty or staff, and approximately 280,000 alumni (SF.State.Facts.NStrategic.Marketing.and. Communications, n.d.; About.San.Francisco.State.University.NSan.Francisco.State. University, n.d.). This is in addition to the Friends of the Library which might consist of non-students who are on-campus to attend courses with their Open University program, adults over 50 attending events at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, or community-members teaching courses like the Ethical Hacking Kitchen at the Experimental College (Open. University.at.San.Francisco.State.University.NCollege.of.Professional.™.Global.Education,

n.d.; About.OLLI.NPsher.Lifelong.Learning.Institute, n.d.; Cortes,2023). Of the 22,347 students: 86% are undergraduates, and 14% are postbaccalaureate or graduate; approximately 0.65% identify as nonbinary, 44.5% as male, and 54.8% as female; 37.4% are Latinx, 25.7% are Asian, 16.4% are White, 7.5% are Unknown, 6.3% are Black, 5.9% are Two or More Races, 0.6% are Pacific Islander, and 0.2% are Native American; 32% are First-Generation Students (SF.State.Facts.NPStrategic.Marketing.and.Communications, n.d.).

The J. Paul Leonard Library is open 82 hours a week with 200 computer workstations, a seating capacity of 1,896, and a weekly gate count of 5,271 entries (Library. Facts.™.Figures.NPPaul.Leonard.Library, n.d.). It houses a collection of 989,424 physical items and 2,856,711 electronic items supported by a budget of \$2,611,887 with 89% of that total dedicated to recurring purchases (ibid.). There are approximately 23.43 FTE librarians and 34.44 staff employed by the library. If that number seems a little low given the physical size of the library, it is at least in part due to the fact that 75% of the collection is stored in 20,164 bins accessed by a three-story, robotic, automated storage and retrieval system (Wong, 2023). In addition to the aforementioned Sutro Library, which contains numerous items related to “early Mexican culture, religion and politics (1540–1889), British political and religious pamphlets (almost all pre-1800), Yemenite Hebrew manuscripts (13th–14th centuries), and several hundred Japanese ukiyo-e woodblock prints (pre-1860),” the library is also home to several other special collections (The.Sutro.Library.NPPaul.Leonard.Library, n.d.).

Many of the special collections housed at the J. Paul Leonard Library are directly related to the long history of political activism at San Francisco State University. These

include documents in the SFSU Archives related to the ‘Battle over the Levering Act, 1950’ which involved a fight to prevent the requirement of loyalty pledges during the McCarthy era, the ‘Paul K. Longmore Collection’ named for a disability rights activist, the ‘AIDS Coordinating Committee, 1985-2016,’ the ‘SF State Strike Collection’ which documents a student-led strike that occurred in the late 1960’s and was also called the “Third World strike” (LibGuides;SFSU.Archives;Home, n.d.). In addition to these collections in the SFSU Archives, the J. Paul Leonard Library is also home to the Labor Archives and Research Center (LARC) which was founded in 1985 to document the “deep labor history of the San Francisco Bay Area” (para. 1, Labor.Archives.and.Research.Center.NJPaul.Leonard.Library, n.d.). The nine counties that make up the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward Metropolitan Statistical Area have a population of 4.69 million, so it makes sense that there’s enough primary source material to fill 6,000 feet of historical records (Labor.Archives.and.Research.Center.NJPaul.Leonard.Library, n.d.; San.Francisco_Oakland_Hayward?CA.NData.USA, n.d.).

According to Data USA, the five most prevalent jobs held in 2022 by those holding a degree in the five most specialized majors at San Francisco State University are physicians, elementary and middle school teachers, other managers, postsecondary teachers, and secondary school teachers (San.Francisco.State.University.(788153).NData.USA, n.d.). This reflects the fact that SFSU was initially started as a teacher training school, San Francisco Normal School (Wong, 2024). Despite this, education does not appear in their top ten undergraduate majors on their Strategic Marketing and Communications page. The top five listed are Computer Science, Psychology, Business Administration (Marketing), Business

(General Business), and Cinema (SF.State.Facts.N Strategic.Marketing.and. Communications, n.d.). The top two most specialized majors according to Data USA were English and Visual & Performing Arts (San.Francisco.State.University.(788153).N Data.USA, n.d.). The California State University system, which SFSU is a part of, also announced this week that we will be partnering with OpenAI to provide ChatGPT access to its members (Tribune News Services, 2025).

With all of that information in mind, I'd like to develop a collection related to the radical politics presented in the cyberpunk movement of science fiction with a focus on authors from diverse backgrounds. Much of the cyberpunk movement consists of critiques of capitalism and the status quo which I think is part of the reason you've seen a resurgence in interest over the past few years and fits with the history of protest on the campus. The fiction collection usually isn't prioritized at academic libraries, and when I reached out to a librarian at J. Paul Leonard Library to discuss their collection development policy, I was told that their acquisitions are determined by what the community needs, so these books would need to be showing up in the syllabi of classes that were being taught for them to be purchased (J. Daniels, personal communication, February, 2025.).

Nevertheless, given that the most popular major at SFSU is either Computer Science or English depending on the source you use, and there are events on campus like the Ethical Hacking Kitchen, it's not too much of a stretch to imagine that such a collection might be of some interest to faculty, staff, and students who make up the community that the library primarily serves.

Materials Selection & Fiscal Management

The following 28 books were selected based on the community analysis of the J. Paul Leonard Library at San Francisco State University completed earlier this semester. It is followed by a brief narrative analysis of the process.

Chart:

- 7| Red.Planets;Marxism.and.Science.Fiction, Edited by [Mark Bould](#) and [China Miéville](#). Published by Pluto Press, \$35.95 for Paperback.
<https://www.plutobooks.com/9780745327303/red-planets/>

Rationale: The focus of this collection is leftist thought and analysis of speculative fiction, with a more specific focus on science fiction and cyberpunk where possible based on the combination of their history of radical politics and protest movements at San Francisco State University and their high percentage of English and Computer Science/Engineering majors. Though the publisher is more of the radical political variety than academic variety, both editors have strong academic credentials, and the essays in this book seem relevant to the collection in addition to receiving the following positive review.

Review: "This collection marks a red shift in thinking about the history, form, and impact of science fiction literature and film. In robust dialectical manoeuvres, the essays, by a dynamic mix of scholars, simultaneously revive, critique, and transform the vibrant tradition of Marxist sf criticism. The book is a timely, readable, and incisive intervention in contemporary cultural critique" - Tom Moylan, Glucksman Professor of Contemporary Writing in English and Director of the Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies, University of Limerick.

- 8| Critical.Theory.and.Science.Fiction by Carl Freedman. Published by Wesleyan University Press, (\$21.95) for Paperback from publisher, \$18.65 from Amazon.
<https://www.weslpress.org/9780819574541/critical-theory-and-science-fiction/>

Rationale: An academic analysis of the relationship between science fiction and leftist politics through the lens of critical theory fits the overall themes of this collection. This book is an extremely influential work at the confluence of those two fields of study, it is well-reviewed as demonstrated by the review below, and because it was released nearly 25 years ago, nearly every other book on this list was heavily influenced by it.

Review: "Both those who agree with Carl Freedman's bold claim that there are significant overlaps between Science Fiction and critical theory or Marxist socialism, and those who do not, would do well to ponder his ingenious argument. For it is buttressed by sympathetic

analyses of the masterpieces, from More and Wells right down to a major focus on Lem, Dick, LeGuin, Russ, and Delany." ΩDarko Suvin?McGill University

3. Colonialism.and.the.Emergence.of.Science.Fiction.by John Rieder. Published by Wesleyan University Press, \$24.95 for Paperback.

<https://www.weslpress.org/9780819568748/colonialism-and-the-emergence-of-science-fiction/>

Rationale: This book is more focused on the origins of science fiction as a genre and how colonialism directly influenced the emergence of the genre. While a large part of the reasoning behind this collection is related to how science fiction also reflects current technological trends and political movements, the historical themes of this research are just as important when it comes to what is going on now. Much of early science fiction was based around fears related to the technological progress of the industrial revolution, and much of the movement towards illiberal democracy among the Silicon Valley elite is inspired, at least in part, by what appears to be a misreading of science fiction themes.

Review: "Science fiction exposes what colonialism imposes.'—Rieder's compelling argument is at the forefront of the revitalized Marxist engagement with the fantastic and makes new a genre we thought we already knew. It is essential reading." ΩMark Bould? University of the West of England

4. Green.Planets¿Ecology.and.Science.Fiction, Edited by [Gerry Canavan](#) and [Kim Stanley Robinson](#). Wesleyan University Press, \$21.99 for Paperback.

<https://www.weslpress.org/9780819574275/green-planets/>

Rationale: Though it is more focused on ecology than explicit leftist political thought, the environmental movement is as much a political movement as anything else. When building a collection meant to appeal to both those who are interested in politics and those who are interested in technological advancement through a shared interest in science fiction, the fact that the climate crisis is one of the biggest aspects of the existential polycrisis that humanity is facing makes this an important both read for both groups. Also, as demonstrated in the following review, it was well received.

Review: "The book posits a fundamental opposition in the genre: the future-technological city (Utopia) versus the pastoral Arcadia: each believing the other one to be the true dystopia. Add to this our ecological crisis, and you have the situation all these SF essays confront in so topical and stimulating a way. This seems to me a truly timely and contemporary, innovative collection, breaking new ground for literature and perhaps for reality as well." ~Fredric Jameson, William A. Lane, Jr., Professor of Comparative Literature, Professor of Romance Studies, Duke University

- ❶ The.Black.Imagination?Science.Fiction.and.the.Speculative?Edited By [Sandra Jackson](#) and [Julie Moody Freeman](#). Published by Routledge, (\$53.59) for Paperback, \$35.79 for Paperback from Amazon. <https://www.routledge.com/The-Black-Imagination-Science-Fiction-and-the-Speculative/Jackson-MoodyFreeman/p/book/9781138864511>

Rationale: As discussed in the community analysis assignment, some of the protest movements that occurred at San Francisco State University were directly related to racial issues. One of the reasons science fiction, and speculative fiction more generally, is so important is due to the fact that not only does it exist as a mirror to hold up to the problems currently present in society, but it gives space to imagine a different, better future. This is part of the reason behind the whole collection, and this anthology reflects that as well as the diversity of the student body who would be utilizing and enjoying the collection.

6. Recognize.Fascism;A.Science.Fiction.and.Fantasy.Anthology?Edited by Crystal M. Huff. Published by World Weaver Press (Wholesale Distribution by Ingram). \$15.95 for Trade Paperback.
https://www.worldweaverpress.com/store/p171/Recognize_Fascism.html

Rationale: This is the only work of fiction in this collection. I know most academic libraries have at least a small fiction collection or fiction aspect to their collection, but I tried to keep this collection mostly nonfiction to make it more realistic for what collection development an academic library would be like. This book just fit too perfectly for the purpose of the collection not to include it, though. I also have 28 books listed instead of 25, while still remaining within budget, on the off chance that any of the books get denied or turned down. I imagine this one is part of the reason why since it is fiction instead of nonfiction.

Review: "[T]his timely anthology... will no doubt resonate with politically minded readers."
--[Publishers.Weekly](#)

7. This.Is.Not.a.Science.Fiction.Textbook, Edited by Mark Bould and Steven Shaviro. Published by Goldsmiths Press, \$19.95 for Paperback from MIT Press.
<https://mitpress.mit.edu/9781915983091/this-is-not-a-science-fiction-textbook/>

Rationale: Despite the misleading title, this book does indeed function like a textbook for science fiction, and it as an interdisciplinary examination of modern science fiction, it fits with the overall academic study of how the genre both affects and is affected by politics, culture, and technology as the quote from the description below demonstrates. The description of science fiction as an “early warning system” and the discussion of how the genre has serious tones and diverse voices speaks to the purpose of this collection as well.

Quote from description: “In the new millennium, science fiction has moved from the margins to the mainstream. At the same time, it has undergone massive transformations. No longer can it be derided as indigestible technobabble or escapist trash or a white man's playground—not that it ever really was. Sf is rich and diverse, serious, and fun. A vital bridge between technoscience and culture, it is an early warning system, a method for imagining differently, and a way of experiencing our increasingly science-fictional world. It is the vernacular of the 21st century.”

8. *Extreme.Fabulations;Science.Fictions.of.Life* by Steven Shaviro. Published by Goldsmiths Press, \$24.95 for Hardcover from Penguin Random House.
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/675946/extreme-fabulations-by-steven-shaviro/>

Rationale: This book touches more on how science fiction relates to philosophical and ethical questions about life as a biological concept, which given the large percentage of graduates from SFSU who end up employed in the medical sciences, makes it incredibly relevant to the target population as described in the community analysis. The quote from the description below will also help demonstrate why it is relevant.

Quote from description: “The future is unavoidably vague and multifarious; it stubbornly resists our efforts to know it in advance, let alone to guide it or circumscribe it. But science fiction takes up this very vagueness and indeterminacy and renders it into the form of a self-consciously fictional narrative. It gives us characters who experience, and respond to, the vagaries of unforeseeable change.”

9. *Science.Fiction?Fantasy?and.Politics;Transmedia.World_Building.Beyond.Capitalism*.by Dan Hassler-Forest. Published by Rowman & Littlefield, (\$56.00) for Paperback from the publisher, \$36.92 from Amazon.
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781783484935/Science-Fiction-Fantasy-and-Politics-Transmedia-World-Building-Beyond-Capitalism>

Rationale: This book fits into the theme of building a collection about the overlap between science fiction and leftist politics with a focus on imagining the changes that could be made to society to make a better future. However, I included it because it also tackles the fact that all of these works of science fiction, or at least the largely popular ones that span different forms of media, were created within a capitalist system, and because of their popularity they inspire behavior that perpetuates the system. The fact that this book grapples with that contradiction makes it an important addition to the collection.

Review: *Science.Fiction?Fantasy?and.Politics* explores the intersection between world-building as practiced in speculative fiction and the desire to imagine (or constrain)

alternatives to contemporary capitalism. He writes knowingly, affectionately, yet critically, about franchises as diverse as *Battlestar Galactica*, *Game of Thrones*, *Hunger Games*, and *The Walking Dead*, mapping the ways each embodies contradictions at the heart of neoliberal capitalism -- contradictions that surface in terms of their formal properties as transmedia franchises, their commercial contexts, and the consumer practices they inspire.

— Henry Jenkins, Provost's Professor of Communication, Journalism, Cinematic Arts, and Education, University of Southern California; Author of *Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide*

10. *Political Theory? Science Fiction? and Utopian Literature*; Ursula K. Le Guin and 'The Dispossessed' by Tony Burns. Published by Lexington Books, (\$60.99) Softcover from Rowman & Littlefield, \$54.99 from Amazon.
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780739122839/Political-Theory-Science-Fiction-and-Utopian-Literature-Ursula-K-Le-Guin-and-The-Dispossessed>

Rationale: Unlike almost every other selection in this collection, this piece of research is focused solely on the work of one author as opposed to the genre as a whole.

Nevertheless, if any author is worthy of having a selection based solely on her work, I think Ursula K. Le Guin (and Octavia Butler) would definitely be the ones. Both were hugely influential on the field of science fiction and its overlap with leftist political themes. I'm a huge fan of both of their work, but this choice broadens the realm of leftist thought included in this selection by adding the anarchist thought that Le Guin espoused.

Review: "Burns offers a meticulously researched book that makes a somewhat maverick contribution."— *Science Fiction Studies*, March 2009

11. *Science Fiction and Political Philosophy: From Bacon to Black Mirror*, Edited by Timothy McCranor and Steven Michels. Published by Lexington Books, Distributed by Rowman & Littlefield, \$41.99 for Paperback.
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498586450/Science-Fiction-and-Political-Philosophy-From-Bacon-to-Black-Mirror>

Rationale: Though this one touches on philosophical issues as much as it does political issues, a large part of the reason behind this collection is to help inspire those who study STEM to learn more about the humanities. There's also no harm in helping push those who believe in more left-leaning politics to tackle the philosophical underpinnings of their beliefs. This book pushes both groups to address their respective interests through the lens of philosophy as well as science fiction and because of this is worth adding to the collection. It was also well-reviewed as you can see below.

Review: “Given that nothing is poised to help us explore the pressing political and philosophical issues of our day like science fiction, *Science.Fiction.and.Political.Philosophy* is a much-needed book. It covers nearly everything you want it to cover—dating back to the origins of science fiction (like Bacon’s *New Atlantis* and Shelly’s *Frankenstein*) to modern fan favorites of film and television (like *Star.Trek.TNG* and *Black.Mirror*)—and treats science fiction with the philosophical respect it deserves. I hope and believe it will inspire similar works.” — David Kyle Johnson, author of *Sci_Phi¿Science.Fiction.as.Philosophy*, King’s College

12. *Political.Science.Fiction*, Edited by Donald M. Hassler and Clyde Wilcox. Published by University of South Carolina Press, \$24.99 for Paperback.
<https://uscpress.com/Political-Science-Fiction>

Rationale: Like the entry below this one, the review really captures why it was chosen for this collection. The ability of science fiction to hold up a mirror to “contemporary life and politics” is really the impetus behind so much of this collection. While this selection might deal less with the technological aspects of sci-fi which was one of the reasons behind the collection in general, the fact that it touches on utopian worlds means there will be discussions of how technology can shape the future.

Review: "The essays treat the intersection of politics and fiction, but what emerges as the abiding interest among almost all of the contributors, whether scholars of political science or of literature, was the variousness of science fiction writers' depictions of utopian worlds and what those utopian creations say about contemporary life and politics."—College Literature

79; *Science.Fiction.and.Anticipation¿Utopias?Dystopias.and.Time.Travel*, Edited by Bernard Montoneri. Published by Lexington Books, (\$111) for Hardback from Rowman & Littlefield, \$68.01 for Hardcover from Amazon.
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781666918137/Science-Fiction-and-Anticipation-Utopias-Dystopias-and-Time-Travel>

Rationale: The review below really gives an accurate description of why it was selected for this collection. Though it may be focused more specifically on the themes of utopias, dystopias, and time travel within science fiction, none of which are necessarily technologically feasible, they’re still themes used frequently to address the issues that make science fiction so relevant to leftist politics in general.

Review: “This book is a landmark work of literary studies. Science fiction, as the name implies, usually evokes an impression of a scientific aspect that is far removed from human nature, but this book suggests that this notion is not accurate. In particular, Chapter 3, which deals with dystopian fiction, addresses issues of human rights and

discrimination against African Americans. This book offers a new perspective on the field of literary studies.” — Yoriko Ishida, Oshima College

14. Citizen Science Fiction by Jerome Winter. Published by Lexington Books, (\$111) for Hardback from Rowman & Littlefield, \$94.12 for Hardcover from Amazon.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793621474/Citizen-Science-Fiction>

Rationale: This book is probably the third alternate on this list, mostly because it is the least political of the bunch and is instead focused more on the pedagogical approach to science. I included it, however, because as mentioned in the quote from the description below, it does also touch on themes of civic engagement. Part of the reason for choosing science fiction was due to the impact that genre has on scientific and technological advancement in society in addition to leftist politics, so I appreciate that this is focused on science. Also, while civic engagement shouldn't necessarily be something that is in any way partisan coded, unfortunately, due to the neoreactionary trends currently being espoused by the right, it might read as progressive even if it doesn't fit the more protest-oriented community analysis.

Quote from description: “draws on an interdisciplinary swath of literature and media to make the case that the science fiction genre can help rethink the pedagogical use of citizen science as a tool to interrogate our collective civic engagement with science and the incorporation of science into a rigorous, exciting writing-based curriculum.”

15. Neoliberalism and Cyberpunk Science Fiction: Living on the Edge of Burnout by Caroline Alphin. Published by Routledge, \$43.99 for Paperback.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003044505>

Rationale: The discussion of how neoliberalism and late-stage capitalism exploit human beings and in turn engender protest movements and leftist politics is part of the whole *raison d'être* behind this collection. While the author might have a more accelerationist stance than I do personally, this book would certainly be of interest to the many students at SFSU who pursue careers in the field of medicine, as well as those who are interested more in the technological aspects of STEM, and those interested solely in leftist politics as well.

Review: "Intense burn out is ironically the goal of neoliberal biopolitics – this innovative book on Cyberpunk explores the temporality between the promises and the failures letting people slowly die in the accelerating shadows..." - Geoffrey Whitehall, Acadia University

16. Pandemics, Authoritarian Populism, and Science Fiction: Medicine, Military, and Morality in American Film By Jeremiah Morelock. Published by Routledge \$43.19 for Paperback. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003003779>

Rationale: This is one of two books that tackle pandemic in science fiction in addition to technology and leftist politics, which makes it incredibly relevant in the wake of COVID-19. Unlike all of the other pieces chosen for this collection, which are focused mostly on science fiction novels, or multimedia including books, this one is focused solely on film, which

means there's a chance that it might not ultimately be selected. It's still worth noting that in the community analysis, performing arts was one of the more popular majors, and given that SFSU is located in California, while it may be the other side of the state than Hollywood, this selection does still give us a chance to look at how the topics that drive this collection are represented in film.

17. *The Archive Incarnate: The Embodiment and Transmission of Knowledge in Science Fiction* by Joseph Hurtgen. Published by McFarland, \$27.99 for Softcover.
<https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/the-archive-incarnate/>

Rationale: While this book, with its focus on archival studies, might make it seem like it would be more relevant at a university with an MLIS program, the quote from the description below gives a good explanation for why I chose it for this collection. The fact that this collection is also meant to those who study computer science and participate in hackathons as described in the community analysis, means that the focus on data and the information economy is not outside of the scope of this collection. Also, while it doesn't seem as focused on protest or leftist politics as many of the other books in this collection, it still touches on the importance of questioning power structures that might be exploitative or unfair.

Quote from description: "We live in an information economy, a vast archive of data ever at our fingertips. In the pages of science fiction, powerful entities—governments and corporations—attempt to use this archive to control society, enforce conformity or turn citizens into passive consumers. Opposing them are protagonists fighting to liberate the collective mind from those who would enforce top-down control."

18. *Representations of Political Resistance and Emancipation in Science Fiction*, Edited by Judith Grant and Sean Parson. Published by Lexington Books, (\$129) for Hardback from Rowman & Littlefield, \$110 for Hardcover from Amazon.
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793630636/Representations-of-Political-Resistance-and-Emancipation-in-Science-Fiction>

Rationale: This one really does a good job of connecting the history of protest movements at SFSU with the genre of science fiction in addition to the emancipatory politics of leftist movements. You can also see how well it fits the themes of the collection by looking at the titles of each of the four sections: Collapse and Rebuilding; Resistance and Survival; Reconstructing Our World: Space and Place; Reconstructing Ourselves: Identity and Agency, and how the introduction is titled, "The Future is Unwritten: Political Agency and Radical Change in a Science Fiction." It might not be specifically cyberpunk, or heavily technologically focused, but it still fits nicely with the other titles on this list.

19. *Cyberpunk Women, Feminism and Science Fiction: A Critical Study* by Carlen Lavigne. Published by McFarland, \$29.95 for Softcover.
<https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/cyberpunk-women-feminism-and-science-fiction/>

Rationale: This book fits the theme of the collection near perfectly, with its interdisciplinary focus on cyberpunk, feminism, and queer studies through a critical lens. There are chapters on globalization, ecology, and techno-religion. The book was also well-reviewed as the review below demonstrates.

Review: “Traces the origins of the cyberpunk genre, reviews critical reactions, and outlines the ways in which women’s cyberpunk advances feminist points of view”—Reference.™. Research.Book.News

20. *Between Science and Society: Charting the Space of Science Fiction* by Douglas A. Van Belle. Published by Lexington Books, (\$117) for Hardback from Rowman & Littlefield, \$102.33 Hardcover for Amazon.
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793605733/Between-Science-and-Society-Charting-the-Space-of-Science-Fiction>

Rationale: This book provides a unique addition to the collection as it is based on interviews with both academics who study the field and authors who write within the genre. The description of this work seems to indicate that for all the meaning that academics find in their studies of the genre, the main goal of the authors who actually write the books is primarily just to entertain. Though it isn’t especially political, it does provide a window into how academia seeks to ascribe meaning to things that might not exist in real life, which should be enlightening to students. It is also well-reviewed as the review below indicates.

Review: “[A]lmost anyone with an academic or personal interest in science fiction will find this interview material very compelling. It presents a wealth of source material for future research in the field...and nicely counterbalances other academic works that insufficiently value the authors’ perspectives.” — VoegelinView

21. *Robot Suicide: Death, Identity, and AI in Science Fiction* by Liz W. Faber. Published by Lexington Books, (\$85) for Hardback from Rowman & Littlefield. \$75.71 for Hardcover from Amazon.
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781666910490/Robot-Suicide-Death-Identity-and-AI-in-Science-Fiction>

Rationale: This interdisciplinary work was selected in the hope that it would appeal to the students from SFSU who go on to work in the fields of medicine, as well as those interested in engineering and computer science because it demonstrates the complex relationship between humanity and technology as depicted in science fiction. The description mentions how the work focuses on robots as metaphor in sci-fi to tackle real-world issues like marginalized identities, mental health policy, and the stigma surrounding suicide, which in addition to the positive review mentioned below, makes it relevant to the overall theme of this collection.

Review: “Faber’s detailed, compassionate analysis of the possibility of and reasons for robot suicide reminds us to look at more than the obvious. In reading *Robot.Suicide* we are

transported to a deeper consciousness, where we recognize the humanity of our robot companions--not inherent, but because we created them in our own image. This book is a vital contribution to our understanding of sci-fi, robots, the social conception of suicidality, and transitively, of ourselves.”— Rebecca Gibson, Virginia Commonwealth University

22. *Images of the Anthropocene in Speculative Fiction: Narrating the Future*, Edited by Tereza Dědinová; Weronika Łaszkiewicz and Sylwia Borowska-Szerszun. Published by Lexington Books, (\$41.99) for Paperback from Rowman & Littlefield, \$26.21 for Softcover from Amazon. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793636645/Images-of-the-Anthropocene-in-Speculative-Fiction-Narrating-the-Future>

Rationale: The reviews below do a wonderful job of explaining why this work fits incredibly well with the overall themes of this collection. The purpose of the collection is in part to inspire students to imagine a better future through the lens of science fiction. I’ve discussed leftist political thought a fair amount in these rationale sections, but for the most part what I’m describing is the fight for a more just, equitable, and diverse society where human rights are guaranteed, and inequality is avoided as much as possible. To get to that type of society, students will first need to tackle the ongoing polycrisis which can seem insurmountable. Books like this are one way to possibly inspire hope.

Reviews: “This collection is best positioned for students and those interested in understanding speculative fiction’s diverse approaches to thinking through key challenges of the Anthropocene.” — Science.Fiction.Studies

“This book “examines fictions that represent the “Anthropocene” – the geological age of extreme human impact on the planets. The volume’s introduction and twelve chapters analyze narratives that engage the anthropocene’s most crucial aspects: its economic, social and political dimensions, the relationship between the planet’s human and non-human inhabitants, and its possible apocalyptic consequences. The editors have successfully united high-quality essays from a variety of critical perspectives without sacrificing focus. The essays are both timely and engaging, offering us new ways to think about humanity, the planet, and the complex relations between them, to reimagine ourselves and the future. This volume will no doubt become a scholarly touchstone on this topic.” — Dale Knickerbocker, East Carolina University

23. *Science Fiction? Imperialism and the Third World: Essays on Postcolonial Literature and Film*, Edited by Ericka Hoagland and Reema Sarwal. Published by McFarland, (\$29.95) for Paperback, \$24.85 for Softcover from Amazon. <https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/science-fiction-imperialism-and-the-third-world>

Rationale: Imperialism has long been one of the issues protested against at SFSU, so this book would appeal to the community and fits into the postcolonial themes present in this collection. One of the sections in this book is even entitled “Forms of Protest,” and the science fiction stories analyzed and written about in this collection present a wide range of viewpoints from diverse voices.

Review: “a worthy addition”—Science.Fiction.Studies; “highly recommended...outstanding” —Midwest.Book.Review.

80; The.Postnational.Fantasy; Essays.on.Postcolonialism?Cosmopolitics.and.Science.Fiction, Edited by Masood Ashraf Raja, Jason W. Ellis and Swaralipi Nandi. Published by McFarland, \$31.99 for Paperback. <https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/the-postnational-fantasy/>

Rationale: This book adds to the research on postcolonial analysis of science fiction and features diverse authors which was one of the goals of this collection. The research in this book should also appeal to students at SFSU’s College of Ethnic Studies, which is one of only two in the nation and will thus broaden the appeal of this collection within the community. The review below isn’t as glowing as many of the others, but the themes of this book certainly match well with those of the collection overall.

Review: “Overall, The Postnational Fantasy is a fairly strong and relatively cohesive collection, and should particularly appeal to scholars working at the intersections of the fields of sf and postcolonial studies”—Journal.of.the.Fantastic.in.the.Arts;

25. Alternative.Masculinities.in.Feminist.Speculative.Fiction; A.New.Man by Michael Pitts. Published by Lexington Books, \$39.99 for Paperback from Rowman & Littlefield. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793636621/Alternative-Masculinities-in-Feminist-Speculative-Fiction-A-New-Man>

Rationale: This is the second explicitly feminist book in this collection, though one of the other works was edited by Judith Butler, so it isn’t like it’s lacking in feminist analysis, but in addition to providing a second title that explicitly mentions feminism, this book also discusses masculinity in speculative fiction through the lens of feminism which broadens the scope of its appeal and provides strong justification for adding it to this collection. It is also well-reviewed as demonstrated by the quote below.

Review: “This book is an original and compelling analysis of how major women science fiction writers critique traditional masculinities and posit alternatives. Alternative Masculinities in Feminist Speculative Fiction: A New Man is an important contribution to science fiction scholarship and gender studies that is also fun to read.”— Robin Roberts? University of Arkansas

26. Fractured.Narratives.and.Pandemic.Identities; COVID_70; the.(Post)Apocalyptic?the.Dystopic?and.the.Postcolonial, Edited by Om Prakash Dwivedi and Aleks Wansbrough. Published by Routledge, (\$160) for Hardback, \$153.17 from Amazon. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003422723>

Rationale: This book broadens the analysis of how pandemics affect political thought in speculative fiction as well as providing more postcolonial analysis that would appeal to the College of Ethnic Studies and the long history of protest movements at SFSU. It adds to the diverse range of political analysis from global voices that motivates much of this collection, and also appeals to the many students from the university who enter the field of medicine.

27. .Tech.Anxiety¿Artificial.Intelligence.and.Ontological.Awakening.in.Four.Science. Fiction.Novels by Christopher A. Sims. Published by McFarland, \$29.95 for Softcover. <https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/tech-anxiety/>

Rationale: This book fits perfectly with the themes of this collection. The book is described as a “...project [which] examines the representation of anxiety about technology that humans feel when encountering artificial intelligences...” and explores how by doing so “...something profound can be revealed about what it means to be a person living in a technologically saturated society.” While not as overtly political as many of the books in this collection, it should hopefully appeal to the computer science students and those who participate in hackathons. It also helps demonstrate the importance of this collection in showing how science fiction is a tool for examining society both as it currently exists and also how it might exist in the future.

Review: “unique”—Reference.™.Research.Book.News.

84 Speculative.Modernism¿How.Science.Fiction?Fantasy.and.Horror.Conceived.the. Twentieth.Century.by William Gillard, James Reitter, and Robert Stauffer. Published by McFarland, \$39.95 for Softcover. <https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/speculative-modernism/>

Rationale: While this book is more of a philosophical exploration of the effects of speculative fiction on modernity than anything overtly political, and also isn’t quite as focused on the technological, it still fits with the overall themes of the collection. The review below is by an author instead of an academic, but all four authors who contributed to this book work in higher education, so it is without a doubt a work of scholarly research and would hopefully be of benefit to the English majors who attend SFSU.

Review: “A fascinating study. The authors examine a wide range of works, put them together in interesting ways, and ultimately make a contribution to how we think about the modernist era and these ‘speculative modernist’ texts.”—Michael R. Page, author, *The Literary.Imagination.from.Erasmus.Darwin.to.H¿G¿Wells*

Total Cost: \$1298.07 (When two prices are listed, the least expensive option was the one chosen with the more expensive option indicated by parentheses).

Narrative:

As the collection is for the J. Paul Leonard Library, an academic library at San Francisco State University, the vast majority of the materials selected are works of academic research having to do with the intersection of science fiction, technology, and political theory reflecting the long history of leftwing activism at the school. In addition to a long and storied history of protest movements occurring on campus at San Francisco State

University, it also has a high percentage of English majors, Computer Science majors, and Engineering majors, and many of the students who graduate from the school end up pursuing careers in the fields of medicine.

As a genre, science fiction, and speculative fiction more broadly, does a good job of calling attention to problems that currently exist in society as well as problems that may arise in the future, which makes it relevant to leftist politics and protest movements. Even if the students don't believe in leftist politics, though, one of the major themes of the collection is a focus on what can be done to make the world a better, more just place. This collection was curated to appeal to a broad range of students at the campus, even if they don't necessarily share the same political beliefs, and also to demonstrate how the genre of science fiction can provide insights into their research even if they aren't necessarily familiar with, or fans of, the genre.

I began the process of selecting books for this collection by identifying one or two books about the overlap between radical politics and science fiction. Though the first book listed, *Red Planets: Marxism and Science Fiction* isn't from an academic publisher, one of the editors of the volume is an academic. From there, I researched some of his previous publications and found that some of his previous work was published by Routledge, a reputable academic publisher owned by Taylor & Francis. I was able to find several more books for the collection published by Routledge. I also saw that the editor from the first book had published a paper reviewing a book on *Critical Theory and Science Fiction* which had been published by Wesleyan Press. By searching through the catalog of Wesleyan Press, I was able to find additional relevant academic research. I continued this process of

researching the publications of authors involved to find additional academic publishers who released books that fit the themes of the collection.

The two publishers that contributed the most books applicable to the themes of the collection were Lexington Books, which is part of Rowman & Littlefield and McFarland an independent academic publisher. Lexington Books offered suggestions, which was beneficial, but not nearly as helpful as what McFarland allowed, which was the opportunity to browse by category. McFarland also had an entire series on “Critical Explorations of Science Fiction and Fantasy” that proved to be a tremendous resource. Both of these publishing houses frequently provided reviews for the books from a number of sources as well, which allowed me to select reviews from academic researchers and helped add to the justifications for selecting specific books for the collection. Beyond just looking at the reviews, however, I also found it beneficial to browse through the table of contents for the books that I was selecting to make sure that the material covered actually fit with the themes of the collection.

If I were to continue building this particular collection, or involved in collection management or development more broadly, I would absolutely subscribe to the catalogs for each of the academic publishers that I used in order to keep up with relevant materials that were being published. While looking through the reviews of some of the items that I selected for this collection, I also found a number of resources including academic journals on specific fields like Science.Fiction.Studies to an online journal for the Eric Voeglin Society, which is a nonprofit inspired by the work of a political philosopher who fled Nazi Germany. In addition to publishing academic research, these resources also publish

reviews of academic books related to the fields covered in this collection and as a result served as another valuable resource.

In conclusion, this collection is meant to be of use to courses from multiple departments at San Francisco State University, and appeal to students studying a variety of different fields. Given that collection development purchasing at J. Paul Leonard Library is based primarily on the syllabi of the courses being taught, it might seem like this collection would be more applicable at a university with a science fiction studies program, but by drawing on the information learned while conducting the community analysis, I believe the resources on this list would be beneficial to a number of different courses taught at SFSU and of interest to many students who attend the university.

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