



Wyrmtongue



# Welcome

Hello there! Welcome to Wyrmtongue, the newsletter of the Imperial College Science-Fiction and Fantasy (ICSF) society. You'll probably end up with a lot of random free stuff from Fresher's Fair, but let this be the thing you keep (or be like my flatmate and stuff it all in a bag under your bed for the rest of eternity). Inside this issue you will find society news and information about the exciting things happening this term. We're a really cool society so don't be intimidated - we only bite when there's a full moon!

As the editor, I am responsible for both this newsletter and our termly fanzines, which are a chance to showcase the talent of the many budding authors in the society. You will probably hear from me again nagging you to write for one of them!

See you in the library :)

– Amelia Owens, Editor



## Captain's Log

Hi Everyone! Let me start off by welcoming you all to a new year at ICSF. Freshers, let me be the latest in a *long* line, I'm sure, to congratulate you and welcome you to Imperial. Summer's over and now the society can go back to doing what it does best; providing a lunch time respite from a hectic day of lectures/labs/whatever. Without fail, we'll be in there watching something, socialising, and just having a great time in general. Everyone's super friendly, newcomers are always welcome, and they don't bite. I have ways of making sure.

Now, as chair, I have the unenviable task of trying to entice you into joining with only these little paragraphs of writing. Unenviable, mind you, only because two years of technical lab report writing have flattened what little capacity for creative writing I had. I'll start off by talking about our biggest draw, the lending library. We have a huge selection of movies, books, comics, even tapes (god, remember those?) available for members to borrow. I'll let the librarian go into more detail about that. As for events, we have something for everyone. Subsidised cinema trips to go see the latest topical blockbusters, fantastic bar-nights which are popular with both drinkers and non-drinkers. Not to mention our Halloween and Christmas events. The former of these involves costumes, classic film and TV (both cheesy and otherwise), copious Pizza (both cheesy and otherwise), bad sing-a-longs, and Dr. Frank N. Furter. Really, I couldn't possibly hope to do it justice here; you've should definitely see it for yourself. Similarly, the Christmas event involves more Christmas-y things. Mince pies, a Muppet Christmas Carol, etc... Like I said, more Christmas-y stuff. Again, just go see it. Finally, we have our huge in-house yearly convention. Yep, it's a real convention, with famous guests and everything. Check out our leaflet for more information on that. Hopefully, this little booklet should give you a good idea of the societies' activities and, as my predecessor put it, 'philosophies'. I'll finish with a classic; live long and prosper. Chair out.

– Anurag Deshpande, ICSF Chair Entity



# Welcome to the Library!

Welcome to the Library!

Hi! I am the Head Librarian this year and as such I want to welcome all of you to our Science Fiction and Fantasy Library.

If you were at our stall during Fresher's Fair you probably already know how to get to the Library but here are some brief instructions just in case: once you enter the Beit Quad turn left immediately and you'll get to the entrance to the West Basement. You'll need your student ID to gain entry. The Library is located down the corridor to the right. There is also a map at the back of this Wyrmtongue.

The Library is open every weekday from 12 to 2pm so you can come in your lunch hour to pick up a book or sit down with our excellent members to chat or watch an episode or two (or three...) of your favourite sci-fi series. If you find that only being in the Library during lunch hours is not enough, you are welcome to check our webcam (link on our web page: [www.icsf.org.uk](http://www.icsf.org.uk)) to see if someone is in at some other time. You'll find that this is mostly the case, especially on Friday evenings when we celebrate the end of the week with our favourite films and pizza. Occasionally we also leave the Library for events like Bar Nights or the 'Bookcrawl' (our version of a pub-crawl where we visit mostly bookshops and comic shops).

Our Library has an extensive collection of science fiction, fantasy and gothic horror (along with some other genres) including over 9000 books, over 200 DVDs and almost 600 graphic novels. In the improbable case that we don't have a particular book you wanted to read you can add it to the wish-list and I will promptly add it to our shelves. To profit from this collection all you have to do is join our society on the union website and visit the Library when it is open. There should always be a Duty Librarian present if I am not there myself to help you take out books and DVDs. Don't know what to read first? Check out the recommendations section of the Wyrmtongue for a selection of books handpicked by our members.

I look forward to meeting all of you and I am here for you if you have any questions.

— Laura Beseler-Maxwell, ICSF Librarian

# Book Recommendations

To give you some ideas about what to take out of the library, here are some recommendations from the committee members of books to borrow.

Anurag Deshpande

- **Batman: Year One** by Miller and Mazzucchelli *“I shall become the bat”*

Henry Leventhorpe

- **Temeraire** by Naomi Novik *Dragons in the Napoleonic Wars*

Noor Mulheron

- **Mortal Engines** by Phillip Reeve *Post-apocalyptic future London on wheels*

Laura Beseler-Maxwell

- **The Lies of Locke Lamora** by Scott Lynch *Ocean’s 11 in alternate renaissance*

Vin Shankar

- **Kraken** by China Mieville *Occult London: an unsafe place*

Dobbin Thomas

- **Snow Crash** by Neal Stephenson *1992 cyberpunk accidentally invents MMOGs*

Amelia Owens

- **Name of the Wind** by Patrick Rothfuss *guy attends magical university*

Sanchit Sharma

- **Ready Player One** by Ernest Klein *virtual 80s Easter Egg hunt*

Saad Ahmed

- **Locke and Key** by Hill and Rodriguez *magic, mystery, craziness, suspense*

– The Committee



# Picocon

And now a message from our Sofa...\*

Hello all! I have the honour and burden of being this year's Picocon Sofa. Picocon is our annual convention, which is organised and run completely by our illustrious society, aided, abetted and prodded into action occasionally by myself!

This year's Picocon has the theme of 'origins', where I am attempting to trace the origins of Picocon itself along with the Guests of Honour (see opposite spread) who will talk along this theme. However, because something in me feels this lacks some pretentiousness, we also have the tagline 'in media res', because what's an event without some dubious Latin! Signifying that we are exploring the origins of things how they are now, and also indicating the second theme I wish to explore in this year's Picocon - that of the interrelation between different types of media, where the genres seem to be indeed 'in media res' and provide a theme and story which can join the forms of media in the telling.

Picocon 33 will also continue our many traditions, some of which are a tradition of definitely not happening (feel free to ask about what definitely doesn't happen back in the library anytime!), and some of which are old classics like the destruction of dodgy merchandise and the turkey readings. I also hope to repeat the now proven principle of a cinema showing - but more details are yet to come! While Picocon 33 has a brief outline, it is still baking, so join us by mailing list and in person in the library at lunchtimes to find out more about Picocon 33 and our lovely society! Finally, I hope you have a lovely time at Imperial, and make the most of all the chances you get. You won't regret it.

— Noor Mulheron

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\* More comfortable than a chair

# **PICOCON 33: ORIGINS**

In media res

## **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Febuary 2016**

Our very own student-run science  
fiction and fantasy convention

Featuring guest speakers, turkey  
readings, quizzes, RPGs, and  
Destruction of Dodgy Merchandise  
for charity!

**Enter in this year's art  
competition to make us a  
logo!** To be used on all

publicity material and  
merchandise. The image  
must be black and white.

Send any finished entries to  
icsf.picoconsofa@gmail.com  
with subject header 'Art  
Competition Entry'.

The closing date will be  
towards the end  
of November.

Our Guests of Honour speaking at  
Picocon 33, exploring storytelling and  
the theme of 'origins' across various  
forms of media, will be:

### **Michelle Paver**

Author of 'The Chronicles  
of Ancient Darkness',  
'Dark Matter' and more.  
With a first class degree in  
Biochemistry, she unites  
the sciences with creativity in her writing  
and on the panel.



### **Paul Cornell**

Previous screen-writer for  
Doctor Who, he has written  
for several comics and is  
now the author of the  
Shadow Police series and  
several standalone novels. He brings  
unparalleled variety of writing and  
experience to the panel.



### **Carrie Hope Fletcher**

With her debut fantasy  
novel 'On The Other Side'  
to come out in March, and  
her role as Beth in the War  
of the Worlds Musical tour,  
she brings a new aspect of storytelling and  
media. She is currently playing Eponine in  
Les Miserables in the West End.





# Events Timetable

Hi Everybody! I'm your Chair of Vice for the SciFi society this year, which means I have the pleasure of organising all the events for you. We have a few exciting things coming up for the first term so make sure you keep checking! You can find the timetable of the first few weeks somewhere in this Wyrmtongue.

Me? I'm an EEE student in my fourth year, and have just come back from an industrial placement in Guildford. I've been in the SciFi society since my second year and last year had the pleasure of being Picocon Beanbag. Which is another thing. Come to Picocon in February, it's great! Hope to see you around!

## Lunchtime Showings

Most lunchtimes (12 - 2pm) you will find the library full of people watching various TV shows and movies.

## ICSF Barnights

Barnights are a great opportunity to meet and discuss everything SFF related, and many other things too! The first Barnight this term will be announced via the mailing list.

## Back to the Future

Get out your hoverboards everyone! To celebrate the day Marty and Doc land in 2015 in Back to the Future 2, Wednesday October 21st, we're holding a Back to the Future Marathon!

Come along to the library where we'll be putting on all three films to celebrate.

## Halloween

On Friday 30th October (a day early!) we will be having an all-singing all-dancing party in the library with showings of horror classics such The Rocky Horror Show and Dr Horrible's Sing-Along Blog. Also to look forward to are costumes and a table in the bar!

## Cinema Trips

Outings to see genre films are arranged throughout the year. This term we hope to go and see **The Martian** and **Star Wars: The Force Awakens**.

Arrangements for tickets will be circulated using the `icsf-list` mailing list.

Peter Dawson, Chair of Vice

# ICSF Autumn Term Events

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat*
Week 1 5th October		Freshers Fair!	<b>Viewing:</b> <i>9 (film)*</i>	<b>Viewing:</b> <i>Firefly: Jaynestown, Out of Gas†</i>	<b>Viewing:</b> <i>Futurama: Roswell That Ends Well and other episodes*</i> <b>6pm:</b> Meet the Committee	
Week 2 12th October	<b>Viewing:</b> <i>Doctor Who: Remembrance of the Daleks†</i>	<b>Viewing:</b> <i>The Twilight Zone: Nightmare at 20,000 Feet, Time Enough at Last and others*</i>	<b>Viewing:</b> <i>Star Trek TOS: The City on the Edge of Forever</i> <b>12-6pm:</b> Book Blind Date	<b>* Viewing:</b> <i>Game of Thrones: Winter is Coming, The Kingsroad†</i>	<b>Viewing:</b> <i>Adventure Time†</i> <b>6pm:</b> Friday Night Series	<b>Film Trip:</b> <i>tbc</i>
Week 3 19th October	<b>Viewing:</b> <i>Battlestar Galactica†</i>	<b>Viewing:</b> <i>Supernatural†</i>	<b>6pm:</b> Back to the Future Evening		<b>6pm:</b> Friday Night Series	
Week 4 26th October					<b>6pm:</b> Halloween Night	

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To make sure you hear about later events in the year and for more details on Steampunk events, subscribe to our mailing list. Not shown on here are our regular lunchtime viewings (every day!) and the regular Friday night film/series night.

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\* There are currently no events planned on Sundays, but members are always welcome to get the key out and enjoy the library.

† These are our usual lunchtime viewings, taking place in the library. They are 12-2pm (the whole of lunchtime) unless otherwise stated.



# Steampunks



For those of you who would rather drink tea than mead and would rather wear goggles than armour, ICSF has a Steampunk daughter society. Events can be arranged subject to interest. Check out the facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/icsps/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/icsps/).

## Getting Involved

### Mailing Lists

ICSF maintains two mailing lists, which all members are welcome to subscribe to. Like all official Imperial mailing lists, they use mailman. **icsf-list** is the society's core mailing list, which contains announcements of ICSF events and important news about the society. This list gets quite a low volume of traffic, and *is a must if you want to hear about film trips and other events*. **icsf-committee** is our 'management' list — but it gets used a lot more widely than that. Here you'll be able to contribute your opinion to the running of the society. You can manage your subscriptions at [mailman.imperial.ac.uk/mailman](http://mailman.imperial.ac.uk/mailman).

### Social Networks

For those who welcome our social network overlords, we also have a Facebook group, which is pretty much a continuation of the library into the realms of cyber space — [facebook.com/groups/ICSF.Imperial](http://facebook.com/groups/ICSF.Imperial) (or search for 'Imperial College Science Fiction').

# Jokes

## Star Wars

***What do Jedi use to view PDF files?***

*Adobe wan Kenobi!*

***What's the body temperature of a Taun-Taun?***

*Lukewarm*

*Chewbacca started a website to leak Empire secrets - it's called Wookieeleaks*

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## Star Trek

***What did Spock find in Kirk's toilet?***

*The Captain's Log!*

***What does Captain Kirk have in common with toilet paper?***

*They both try to wipe out klingons!*

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## Lord of the Rings

***What did the hobbit say when he bumped into a wizard?***

*Saruman, I didn't see you there.*

***What did Pippin do when he got drunk?***

*He began to feel Merry!*

***How did the hobbit ruin the boxing match?***

*He tried to destroy the ring.*

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## Superheroes

***What does Batman put in his drinks?***

*Just ice*

***What is Iron Man without his suit?***

*Stark naked!*

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The editor would like to thank the internet and various people in the library, excluding Joseph, who was so surprised that someone was *actually asking* him to tell bad jokes for once that he couldn't provide any.

