

WYRMTONGUE NEWSLETTER



ΨΦ IMPERIAL COLLEGE
SCIENCE FICTION &
FANTASY SOCIETY

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From the Editor

ANOTHER year, another *Wyrm tongue* newsletter! If you're new around these parts, fear not, this caffeine-addicted editor shall explain the nature of these digital pages laid before your eyes...

The *Wyrm tongue* is the official publication brought to you by the nerds at Imperial's Science Fiction and Fantasy Society. This newsletter is one of three issues released each year under this title. The other two being a collection of short stories and artwork written and designed by our wonderful members (more on that later), and a magazine created for an inconspicuous gathering of **actual sci-fi authors** happening some time next term[†]. This issue contains society news, some book recommendations from our committee, and information about our upcoming sci-fi convention happening in Spring term.

For those more interested in creating something related to the genre, our annual *Wyrm tongue* anthology features short stories, artwork and poetry produced by our members in conjunction with said convention. These will have to be related to this year's theme (announced in the **Picocon** section), and submissions will be open from the **start of Spring term**, but feel free to ruminate on your ideas in the meantime and message icsfwyrmtongue@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Read on to find out more about our society, committee, some future events and our library of books and movies in **Beit's West Basement**. Have a great year, and I hope to see you soon! ΨΦ



Clifford Chan

Editor

[†]Check out the Picocon section to find out more :)

Captain's Log



Hazel Wright
Chair Entity

CITIZENS of Imperial College, greetings and be welcome! I, your humble Chair Entity, extend a grand welcome to you all—both newcomers and seasoned travellers alike. Whether you arrived on the wings of a dragon, in a TARDIS, or merely took the Central Line, it is my honour to guide you through the gateway into the realm of the *Imperial College Science Fiction and Fantasy Society*.

As the dawn of a new academic year rises, we invite you to join us in our sanctum: the *Sci-Fi Library*. Nestled within the depths of the West Basement of Beit, it is a sanctuary crammed with a veritable dragon's hoard — ten thousand books and three thousand DVDs spanning the farthest reaches of fiction, fantasy, and speculative worlds. Here, from *12 to 2 pm on weekdays*, the doors stand open for all manner of activities: socialising, browsing, or simply relaxing before afternoon studies.

But that is not all! On *Friday evenings*, we gather for legendary movie marathons, epic game nights, and seasonal festivity. For the cinema enthusiasts, our *subsidised trips* to the latest film releases are the perfect chance to witness epic battles, interstellar voyages, and super-heroic deeds on the grandest of screens. And then there is *Picocon* — our very own annual convention held in the second term!

To join this community of adventurers and time-traveling renegades, all you need do is purchase a membership, which grants you access to our subsidised cinema trips and the right to borrow from our vast collection.

So come, join us and be part of a fellowship that spans genres, galaxies, and realms — welcome, one and all, to the Imperial College Science Fiction and Fantasy Society! ΨΦ

Welcome to the Library!

Hi, this is Kai, head librarian of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Society for the upcoming academic year. Our sci-fi library is great – located in Beit's West Basement, we have basically any fantasy or sci-fi series you'd want to read (our collection boasts just over 10000+ books), and if we don't, you can request it and we can have it added. You need membership to borrow books, but not if you are just reading in the library.

We are open 12-2 on weekdays with a pretty friendly atmosphere and a lot of comfy beanbags you can lounge on, though it's good to come just for the books :D. We also hold various events, sporadically with pizza. On some Fridays, we pick out something to watch from our wall of 3000 DVDs. ΨΦ



Kai Lam

Head Librarian

Book Recommendations

If you're looking to dive into the library's collection but are having trouble deciding where to start, here are some recommendations from the committee:

Ash Robson

— **The Expanse Series** by James S A Corey

Hard Sci-Fi with brilliant action, tense interplanetary politics, a hard-boiled detective, and of course a spooky alien virus. Couple that with some great writing and you can understand why I read the first book in a day and a night (sleep is for the weak!)

Clifford Chan

— **The Three Body Problem** by Liu Cixin

The first of a mind bending hard sci-fi trilogy that won the Hugo Award in 2015. Also has a decent Netflix adaptation!

Clifford Chan

— **The Way of Kings** by Brandon Sanderson

Beginning with the assassination of a king, this is a tale of a slave breaking free of his chains. One of Sanderson's greatest works to date, and the beginning of the Stormlight Archives. You're in for a storming treat.

Clifford Chan

— **The Grace of Kings** by Ken Liu

Described as silkpunk fantasy, two brothers lead their separate rebellions against the emperor of Dara. Inspired by real historical events, namely the Chu-Han Contention, this is a must-read for fans of epic fantasy.

Clifford Chan

— **The Wheel of Time series** by Robert Jordan

At times tedious, this 14-book spanning story is one of gargantuan proportions. While rather trope-y, the series boasts great characters and a plot that, despite its meandering nature, reaches heights of awesome I didn't know was possible.

Kai Lam

— **The Fifth Science** by Exurb1a

A whimsical look at the effects "the fifth science" has on the future of humankind. So good I'm giving my copy to the library so more people read it.

Kai Lam

— **His Dark Materials** by Philip Pullman

Not a high-concept fantasy but with interesting philosophy and a great adventure.

Kai Lam

— **The Long Earth series** by Terry Pratchett and Stephen Baxter

Great concept and execution, where it's possible to step into parallel worlds.

Kai Lam

— **Keys to the Kingdom Series** by Garth Nix

A boy saves the universe story that I found a fun read.

Events

TIRED of the Central Library? Come visit our second, smaller library in Beit's West Basement! As one of the university's oldest societies, we can boast amenities like no other.

Lunchtime Showings — Want to kick up your feet and nerd out on a Friday night? We've always got plans - anything from games night, silly powerpoints, karaoke, or just putting on a movie from our extensive collection.

Cinema Trips — Want to visit the cinema but find movie tickets too expensive? With our membership, cinema trip attendees pay less than £5. Follow our instagram or mailing list to see if anything interests you (see the **Getting Involved** section)!

A Chill Time — Desperate for any opportunity to relax in Imperial's high-stress atmosphere? Me too, bestie.

As this year's Chair Of Vice, I hold responsibility for events - and what can I say? I believe in democracy. Stay engaged with ICSF through our various social media platforms or just pop by in person occasionally, and your opinions and suggestions for activities will be honoured. Enjoying science fiction and fantasy is for all, and we aim to step away from the boy's club stereotype to include all consumers of media, from the cultural phenomenon that is Twilight (marathon date TBD!) to yet another racially insensitive Dune adaptation (yes, we'll be organising a cinema trip when the next one comes out).

I'm also planning to rekindle a Sci-Fi tradition of yore: **the Sci-Fi annual trip**. Would you be interested in a weekend trip to "The Woodstock of the Mind" in Haye-on-Wye? Or would you prefer to rent a castle to live out your gothic dreams and nightmares over a long weekend? Let us know your thoughts!

I've run out of things to say. Goodbye. Swing by Sci-Fi and visit us sometime. ΨΦ



**Juairiyah
Raqib**

Chair of Vice
(Events Officer)

Picocon



Ash Robson

Picocon Sofa

HELLO there. I'm sure as many of you will know, we have a notable Picocon this year. Forty-Two! Most of you will recognise this number from Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy* (If you haven't yet, do give it a read! It's Sci-Fi Monty Python in book form). While we won't be answering any questions of life (or will we?), me and my wonderful assistant, our Picocon Beanbag Kiron Dutton, will be in charge of Picocon this year, and we hope not to disappoint.

In any case, what does it mean for the theme of this year's Picocon? Well, why does the meaning of life even matter? What makes us ask such questions? In fact, how can we even *think* about anything? What do Gollum, Luke Skywalker, Sam Vimes and Skynet all have in common? They are self aware. As such, the theme for **Picocon 42** is **Sentience**, the ability to experience feelings and sensations. The theme crops up all over Science Fiction and Fantasy, from eldritch beings that defy all understanding, to a cute little garbage compactor with a crush!

Before I get too far ahead of myself, the freshers among us probably want to know what I'm actually talking about. Picocon is our society's annual convention, with talks from assorted authors and creators within the genre, charity fundraising, socialising, and fun activities. What other event in the year has baguette duels, insightful talks from guests of honour[‡], destruction of dodgy merchandise, and the recitation of cursed literature in the dreaded turkey talks[§]? It's all there, over just one day! And that day will be the **First of March**, don't miss it!

And with that, my Wyrm tongue entry comes to a close, enjoy the term, and try not to let Imperial's eldritch knowledge drive you insane! ΨΦ

[‡]Guests of Honour to be announced in the coming months, stay tuned

[§]no guarantee your psyche will leave unharmed

Getting Involved

Mailing Lists

ICSF maintains the following mailing lists, to which all members are welcome to subscribe:

- `icsf-list` is the society's core mailing list, which communicates announcements of ICSF events and important news about the society. This list does not generate an overwhelming amount of traffic, and subscription is a must if you would like to hear about film trips and other activities.



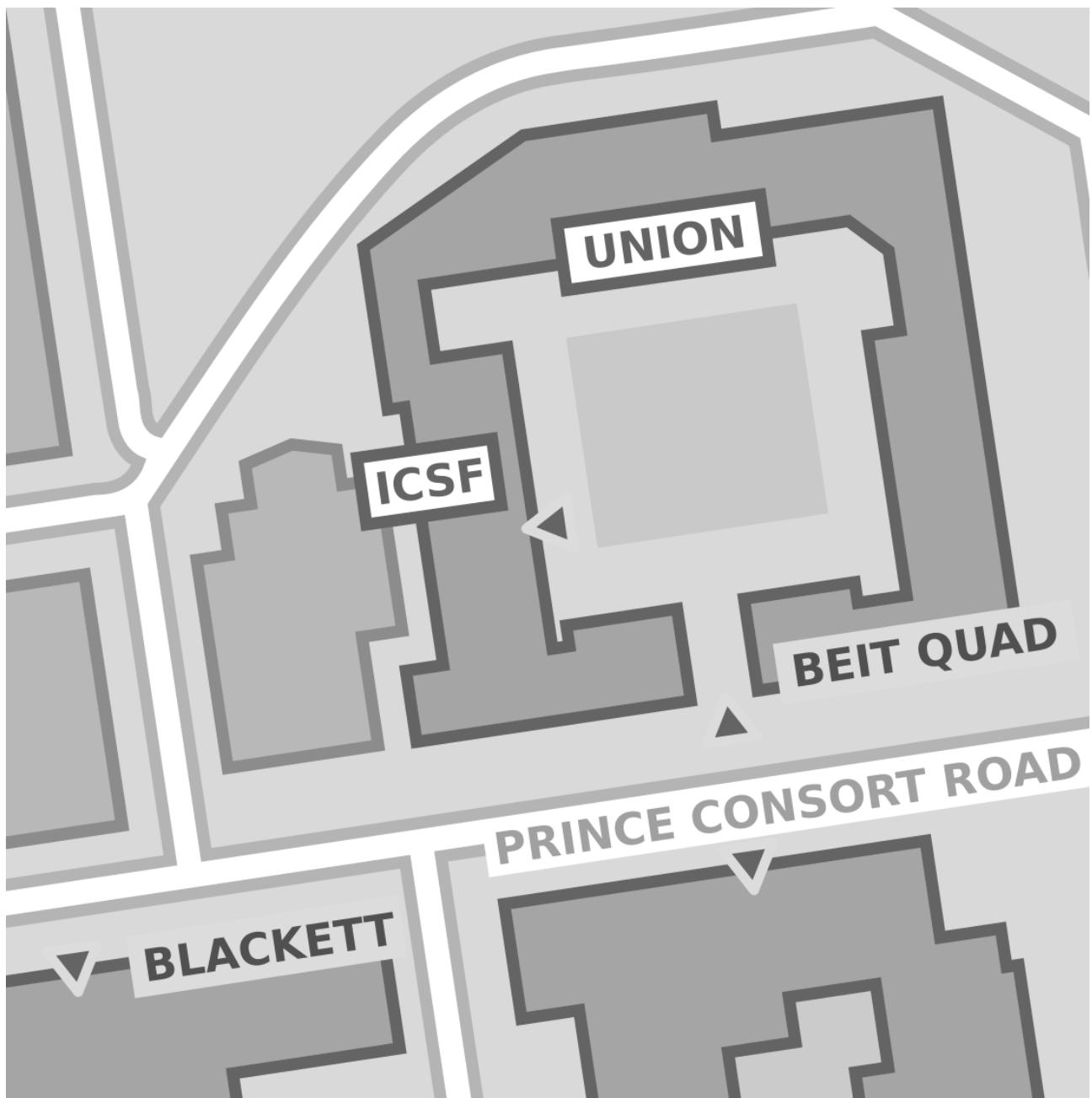
Join our mailing list by scanning the QR code. Alternatively, subscribe automatically by signing up for membership at:
www.imperialcollegeunion.org/activities/a-to-z/science-fiction-and-fantasy.

Social Media

For those who welcome our social network overlords, behold continuations of the Library into the realms of cyberspace:

-  facebook.com/groups/ICSF.imperial
Sci-fi talk, news and events, amusing links.
-  [@Imperial_SciFi](https://twitter.com/Imperial_SciFi)
Sci-fi and fantasy, 280 characters at a time.
-  [@imperial_scifi](https://instagram.com/imperial_scifi)
Visions from the library, visions from the future (event announcements).

Map to the Library



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