

Gulf Futurism

As part of The Radical Outside course
presented by Qiao Lin for SFPC fall 2017

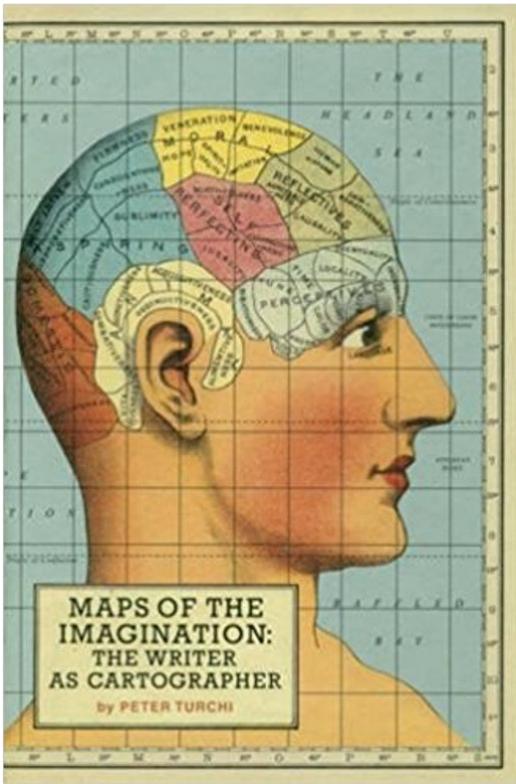
Middle East and Other Futurisms: Imaginary Temporalities in Contemporary Art and Visual Culture - Jussi Parrikka

"People were having so many boyfriends on the phone." These days, anonymous teenage sexting means you're just as likely to get an explicit Bluetooth picture at the mall as a scribbled phone number, which might be why Saudi Arabia banned Bluetooth in malls in 2007. "Back (in the 90s) we'd send pre-internet viral videos, these really primal and bizarre moments," Al-Maria says, remembering her clandestine teenage communications. "The Gulf is such an extreme place of disconnection that the only thing to do was send videos of other people or animals doing things that you wish you could."

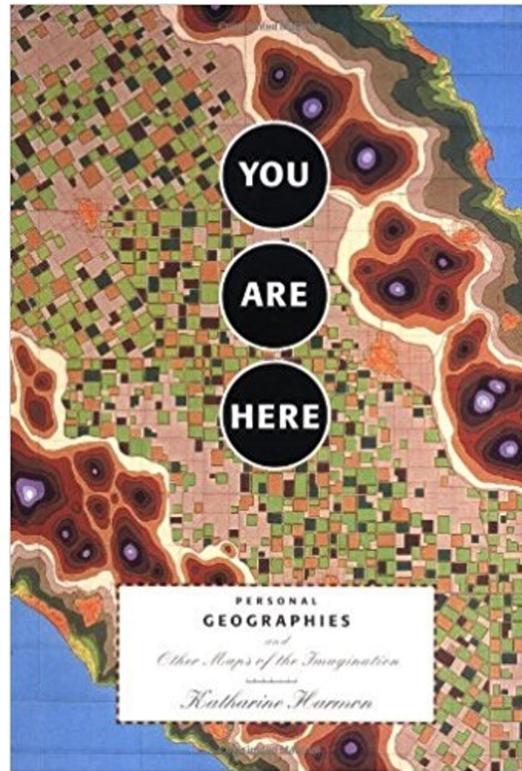
Human & Personal Geography

[Work of Imaginary futures and cartographies of time.](#)

a platform to discuss nothing less than *time* in its infrastructured, experienced and generative forms.



Maps of the Imagination: The Writer as Cartographer



You Are Here: Personal Geographies and Other Maps of the Imagination

SF - Speculative Fiction , Science Fiction

It's like you're on the surface of another planet . . . the starkness creates this post-apocalyptic feel. Where you're surrounded by sand and the sky, there are no limits to the gargantuanism you can dream of - the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Tower of Babel, these are all Arab ideas! And now it's the space race for skyscrapers - Fatima Al Qadiri



Hanging Garden of Babylong w/ Tower of Babel in the background



Kingdom Tower, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia - Worlds Tallest Tower



Abraj Kudai - World's largest hotel

VICE

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ROM NEWS

Bowe Bergdahl Will Reportedly Plead Guilty for Deserting His Post

The Rules Are Different for the Rich

The VICE Morning Bulletin

This Anti-Trump H Display Turns the I Russian Pirate Shi

'Gulf Futurism' Is Killing People

Migrant workers are paying the ultimate price for the *Blade Runner* fantasies of oil princes.

[2011 May 27 - Dubai Migrant Workers Death \(theguardian\)](#), [2014 March 13 - More Than 900 Workers Have Already Died Building Qatar's World Cup InfrastructureRead \(smithsonian\)](#), [2014 May 19 - Migrant Labour Qatar Cleaning Up its act \(theguardian\)](#)

Gulf Countries: Bid to Protect Migrant Workers

Construction Firms Should Adopt New Guidelines



(Beirut) – Human Rights Watch today issued a set of [guidelines](#) to protect migrant construction workers. International and domestic companies operating in Gulf Cooperation Council countries should

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/12/22/gulf-countries-bid-protect-migrant-workers>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Migrant_workers_in_the_Gulf_region

Haram Extension



MASTER PLAN

M'alayah (معالية) Arabic Dance at a Wedding



M'alayah (معلب) Dance at a Wedding

GCC - Gulf Cooperation Council



Heads of states of the GCC in Abu Dhabi on 25 May 1981

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia & the United Arab Emirates

ALL monarchies: 3 constitutional, 2 absolute, 1 federal monarchy

Crown Princes on Social Media



@faz3 Crown Prince of Dubai

cricket 10:58 PM @ 100%
mohamedbinzayed ...
1.558 posts 1,4 M followers 0 following
Message
Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan ✅
الحساب الرسمي لصاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن زايد آل نهيان
باشراف ديوان ولي عهد أبوظبي
www.cpc.gov.ae
SEE TRANSLATION
...

@mohamedbinzayed Crown
Prince of Abu Dhabi

Escapism: Anime & Video Game

ultra violence, reflected existing political conflicts



Dessert Strike - release at the end of Gulf War aka The Video Game War 90-91



Fatima Al Qadiri - Vatican Vibes



Dislocations, diaspora and dyschronia

Disaspora - the dispersion of the Jews beyond Israel.

Dyschronia - a lack of comprehension, awareness, and ability to manipulate concepts of time

Spatial & Temporal dislocation

Placelessness & Territory

IN THE FUTURE THEY ATE FROM THE FINEST PORCELAIN



In the Future they ate from the Finest Porcelain (2015) - Palestinian artist-filmmaker Larissa Sansour

Placelessness and territory

"Write future into existence as ways to tell a story where time is now being infrastructured as it was earlier in historiographical sense of Western modernity as a hegemonic project"

instead of merely accepting the notion of a cancellation of future, the cancellation of future becomes quickly shifted into a tactical multiplication;

Multiplied forms of Apocalypse

PostHumanities Series - University of Minnesota Press

- Anthropocene: Climate Change, Carbon & molecular exchanges (Biogeo - Michel Serres)
- Terrorist Attacks (Welcome to the Dessert of the Real - Slavoj Žižek)
- Islamic Eschatology - Signs of the End of Time
- Capitalocene: Financial, Subprime mortgage crisis y2008
- Cthulucene: Human population escalations y2100 (Staying with the Trouble - Haraway)

instead of mourning a lost future, the practices turn to looking at conditions of time and temporality as central to function of power, mapping the situations in which futurity is important for current practices of living, and where an analysis of dislocations of identity and time can also turn into more than mere dystopic representations.



GCC Local Police find fruit with spells (WhitneyBiennale 2017)

<http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/crime/sharjah-police-find-yellow-watermelon-with-spells-1.1920731>

Sinofuturism

Science Fiction embrace and amplify Stereotypes as forms of critique on the present.

In Western media and Orientalist perceptions, China is exotic, strange, bizarre, kitsch, tacky, or cheap. In its domestic media, China portrayed as heroic, stable, historic, grand, and unified. Rather than counteract these skewed narratives, Sinofuturism proposes to push them much further. - Lawrence Lek



Sinofuturism (1839 - 2046 AD)

from [Lawrence Lek](#)

