

## Mini-Workshop: Designing the Future with Science Fiction

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### Description

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This workshop has been designed to introduce participants to the practice of Science Fiction Prototyping (SFP). SFP is an emerging methodology that uses the process of writing fact-based science fiction to explore how scientific discoveries and technologies can affect the lives of humans in the future. Science fiction prototypes are written with the intention of encouraging discussion. They are not necessarily written in order to propose a solution to a perceived issue with a future technology; rather, they are often written to introduce a topic and begin a dialogue between researchers, designers, and other invested parties about how to plan, design, and prepare for the future.

This workshop will focus on developing SFPs about robotic technologies. Participants will engage in creative writing exercises and work in groups to brainstorm and outline a science fiction prototype about robots in the year 2031. The aim of this workshop is to encourage collaboration and begin dialogues about the future of robotics. Participants will learn the method of science fiction prototyping and be given the opportunity to engage in cross-disciplinary discussions about robotics. The interdisciplinary nature of the activity will expose participants to new and interesting views that will improve their own understanding of their work and help them examine robotics from various perspectives.

### Resources

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Brian David Johnson has written a Synthesis Lecture on Science Fiction Prototyping that will be available through Morgan & Claypool in March 2011. This document will provide workshop participants with detailed information regarding the process of writing a science fiction prototype. Many universities have an institutional subscription to Morgan & Claypool publications. Please check [here](#) to see whether your institution has a license. If you are not able to access Morgan & Claypool publications through your institution, we will make every effort to ensure that registered workshop participants receive access to this publication.

Click [here](#) for a link to the Synthesis Lecture.

# Robots & Art

**Frontiers in Human-Centred Robotics as Seen by the Arts**  
2011 ICRA Workshop on Robots and Art, Shanghai, China, May 13, 2011

## Relevant Links

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Creative Science Foundation [www.creative-science.org](http://www.creative-science.org)

Science Fiction Outreach and Education Association <http://students.washington.edu/scifi>

The Tomorrow Project <http://newsroom.intel.com/docs/DOC-1490>

The Tomorrow Project Seattle <http://www.tomorrowproject.uw.edu>