



MONDAY / FEBRUARY 22, 2016 / 10AM - 4PM

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

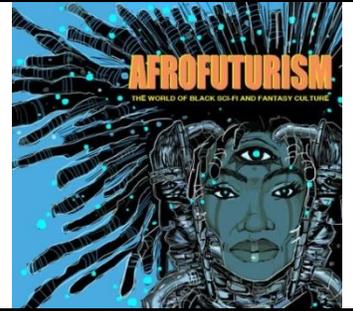
Ytasha Womack

Author, *Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci Fi and Fantasy*

~ CAU Alumna ~

Keynote Panelist | 10:00 am

“Black [W]holes: Afrofuturist Consciousness, Creativity, & Cultural Production”

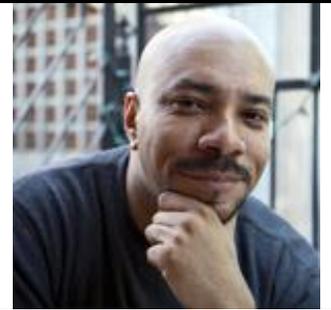
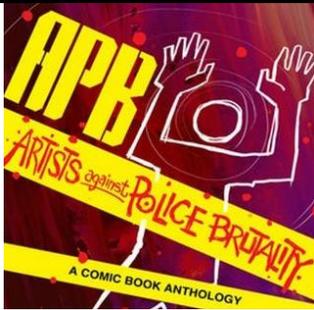


John Jennings

Associate Professor
University of Buffalo Department of Art

Keynote Panelist | 2:00 pm

“New Suns: A Celebration of Black Speculative Arts”



FEATURING



Britt Rusert

UMass-Amherst Assistant Professor, AfroAm. Co-editor W.E.B. Du Bois's fantasy story, "The Princess Steel" (ca. 1905)



Jarvis Sheffield

Founder, Black Science Fiction Society. Owner, TheDigitalBrothers.com



Lisa Yaszek

Georgia Tech Professor, Literature, Media, and Communication. Past Pres., Science Fiction Society



Clinton Fluker

Co-Founder, LiFT Art Salon. American Studies, Emory University PhD Student



James Eugene

Founder, NeoArtStyleDesign. Illustrator, Digital Media Designer, Photographer

12:00 Noon | Open Reception and Book signing hosted by CAU Office of Alumni Relations



Hosted by African American Studies, Africana Women's Studies, and History (AWH Department)

Co-sponsors: CAU School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office and CAU Office of Alumni Relations

Supported by ASALH-Atlanta (Branch meeting immediately following panel)



ANCIENT & NEW STE(A)M: ROOTS AND FUTURES OF BLACK SPECULATIVE ARTS AND SCIENCE FICTIONS

Clark Atlanta University | February 22, 2016

Panelist Bios

[Ytasha L. Womack](#) is an author, filmmaker, dancer and innovator. Her book *Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci Fi and Fantasy* explores black sci fi culture, bleeks, black comix, and the legacy of futurism. She is author of the critically acclaimed book *Post Black: How a New Generation is Redefining African American Identity* and *Rayla 2212*. She is also the coeditor of the hip hop anthology *Beats, Rhyme & Life: What We Love and Hate About Hip Hop*. Her films include *Love Shorts* (writer/producer) and *The Engagement* (director). *Ytasha is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University* and studied media management at Columbia College in Chicago. She resides in the Windy City.

[John Jennings](#) is Associate Professor in the Department of Art at University of Buffalo. His research and teaching focus on the analysis, explication, and disruption of African American stereotypes in popular visual media. His research is concerned with the topics of representation and authenticity, visual culture, visual literacy, social justice, and design pedagogy. He is an accomplished designer, curator, illustrator, cartoonist, and award-winning graphic novelist. His work overlaps into various disciplines including American Studies, African American Studies, Design History, Media Studies, Sociology, Women and Gender Studies, and Literature.

[Britt Rusert](#) is an Assistant Professor in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at UMass Amherst and Visiting Assistant Professor of English at Princeton University. She is currently finishing a book titled *Fugitive Science: Empiricism and Freedom in Early African American Culture*. Her edition of W.E.B. Du Bois's little-known fantasy story, "The Princess Steel," co-edited with Adrienne Brown, was recently published in PMLA.

[Jarvis Sheffield](#) is owner of TheDigitalBrothers.com multimedia company and is founder of BlackScienceFictionSociety.com an international web social network devoted to Black Science Fiction. He is also editor for Genesis Science Fiction Magazine, Genesis Anthology of Science Fiction and creator of the Genesis Science Fiction Radio Show. He is a member of Lake Providence Missionary Baptist Church and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He has been involved in various forms of multimedia for over 20 years including; graphic design, web design, video and animation and has written technical articles for various publications.

[Lisa Yaszek](#) is Professor and Associate Chair in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication at Georgia Tech and past president of the Science Fiction Research Association. Her areas of expertise include science fiction, cultural history, critical race and gender studies, and science and technology studies. Professor Yaszek's essays on science fiction as a global language appear in journals including *Extrapolation*, *Rethinking History*, and *Paradoxa*. She is the author of books including *Galactic Suburbia: Recovering Women's Science Fiction* (Ohio State University Press 2008) and co-editor of collections including the *Configurations* special double issue on science fiction author Kim Stanley Robinson (Winter-Spring 2012). She is currently completing an edited anthology, *Sisters of Tomorrow: The First Women of Science Fiction* for Wesleyan Press (forthcoming May 2016) and serving as associate producer for the independent Afrofuturist film *Rite of Passage*.

[Eugene James](#) is a native of Elizabeth, New Jersey, and the founder of NeoArtStyleDesign. His digital work as well as traditional art is about communication and transition. The ultimate goal of his work is to bring all people together. After graduating from the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Art, he was selected to illustrate his first book. His first work was a children's book about 100 inventors. James received a fellowship from the New Jersey Council of the Arts from the governor of New Jersey then graduated from the Atlanta College of Art, and has been one of the most sought after illustrators in the southeast.

[Clinton Fluker](#) is Co-founder of LiFT Art Salon, an organization dedicated to bringing emerging artists, professionals, and social activists together to foster solutions to some of Atlanta's most pressing issues. As a PhD student in American Studies at Emory University, Fluker's research focuses on contemporary movements in black speculative fiction with an emphasis on black comic book culture. He also serves as an editorial associate at Southern Spaces, a digital journal housed at Emory University. Fluker manages a blog series dedicated to highlighting special collections in Emory's Manuscripts, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL).

Panel Chairs: [Stephanie Y. Evans](#), CAU Professor, Chair AWH Department & [Candy Tate](#), Atlanta Branch ASALH Historian



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