SCIENCE FICTION & COMMUNISM CONFERENCE
MARCH 1–3, 2019
MARCH 1

4:30 p.m.  Buses leave for Blagoevgrad
An AUBG van will be waiting at the Alexander Nevski Cathedral parking lot

7:00 p.m.  Keynote speech by Miglena Nikolchina, Sofia University
Andrey Delchev Auditorium, Balkanski Academic Center

8:00 p.m.  Opening cocktail
Restaurant, America for Bulgaria Student Center

MARCH 2

8:30 a.m.  Registration and coffee
Lobby, Balkanski Academic Center

9:00 a.m.  Opening remarks by Emilia Karaboeva, Sofia University
Andrey Delchev Auditorium, Balkanski Academic Center

9:30 a.m.  COLD WAR SCIENCE FICTION AND COMMUNISM
Panel chair: Ivana Damnjanović, University of Belgrade

Lunatic Revolutions: Utopian Representations of the Moon in Science Fiction Literature and Cinema
Alexander Popov, Sofia University

Living in a Marxist Sci-Fi World. A Phenomenological Analysis of the Power of Science Fiction in Le Guin’s ‘The Dispossessed’
Matias Graffigna, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Cold War Masculinity and Whiteness in ‘Star Wars’ and ‘Star Blazers’
Christopher Leslie, South China University of Technology

11:00 a.m.  Coffee break
Lobby, Balkanski Academic Center
11:30 a.m.  CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE FICTION AND COMMUNISM  
Panel chair: Emilia Karaboeva, Sofia University  
Visualizing Gold, Surveillance and Ideological Control  
Virginia Conn, Rutgers University  
The Quest for New Cinematic Grammar in Denis Villeneuve’s ‘Arrival’ (2016)  
James Keyes, University College Dublin  
Utopian Communism in Becky Chambers’ ‘Record of a Spaceborn Few’  
James McCoull, Newcastle University

1:30 p.m.  Lunch break

2:30 p.m.  SPACE EXPLORATION AND CULTURAL IMAGINATION  
Panel chair: Ralitsa Konstantinova, Independent scholar  
Pierangelo Castagneto, American University in Bulgaria  
Reconciling the Space Race and Space Age: Soviet and American Imaginations of the Future  
Reynolds Hahamovitsch, Central European University  
Space/Self-exploration: The Travelogues of Doncho and Julia Papazovi  
Nadezhda Galabova, Independent scholar

4:30 p.m.  Bulgarian Space Exploration Exhibition Opening  
Lobby, Balkanski Academic Center

7:30 a.m.  Dinner  
Tsarski Klub Restaurant

9:00 a.m.  Coffee  
Lobby, Balkanski Academic Center

9:30 a.m.  WORLDS BEYOND WORLDS  
Panel chair: Alexander Popov, Sofia University
Michael Bulgakov’s ‘Master & Margarita’: Lexical and Spiritual Symbolism
Serguey Ivanov, American University in Bulgaria

Utopia in the Novels by H. G. Wells, Olaf Stapledon and Ivan Yefremov
Iren Boyarkina, Independent scholar

Fully Automated Luxury Gay Space Communism: Artificial Intelligence as the Road to Communism in Ian Banks’ Culture Series
Ivana Damnjanović, University of Belgrade

11:30 a.m. Coffee break

11:30 a.m. BETWEEN COMMUNISM AND COSMISM
Panel chair: Miglena Nikolchina, Sofia University

‘Anarchy Land’: Techno-fiction, Terror of Obliteration and Non-Kantian Worlds of the third type
Eugene Kuchinov, Minin University

‘For They Lived Without the Slightest Surplus’: Existentialist Utopia in Platonov’s ‘Chevengur’
Ioanna Zlateva, Independent Scholar

The Concept of Immortality in the Russian Cosmism
Martin Jabůrek, Palacky University

1:00 p.m. Lunch break

2:00 p.m. Closing discussion

3:30 p.m. Buses leave for Sofia
Vans depart from AUBG’s Skaptopara Campus