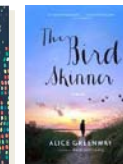
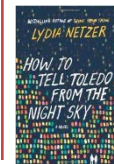
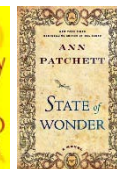
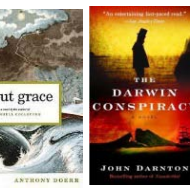
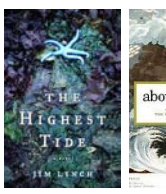
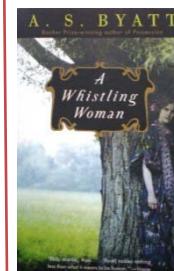
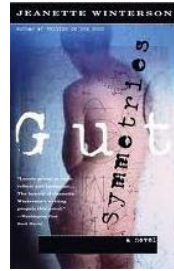
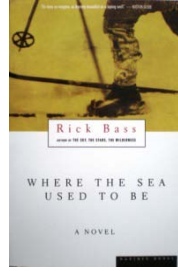
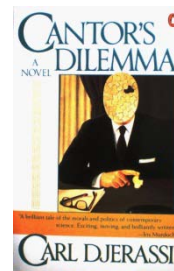
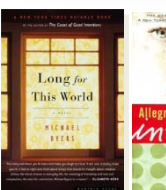
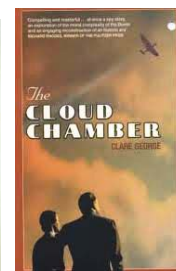
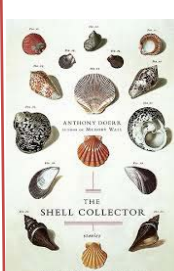
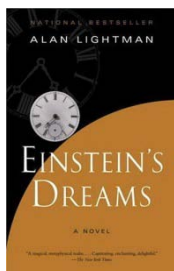
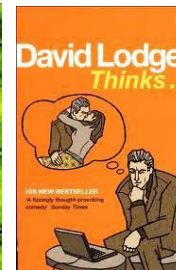
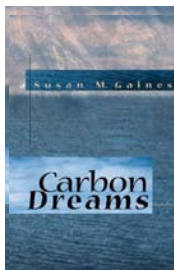
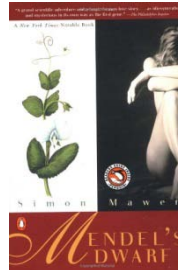
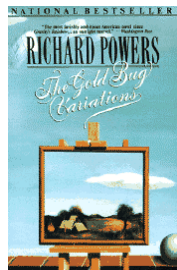
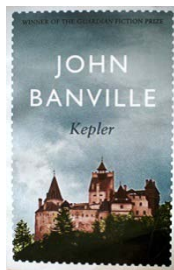
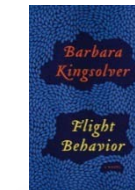
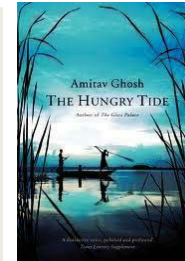
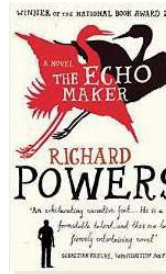
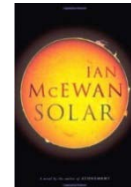
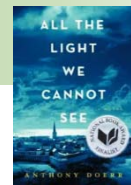
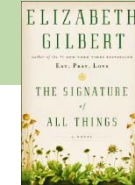
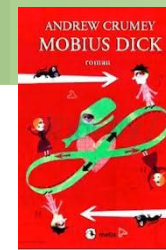
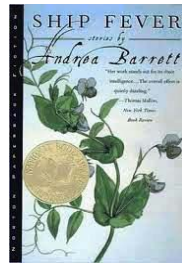
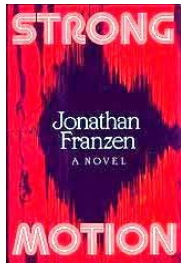


Authenticity After Postmodernism: Expert Knowledge, Formal Innovation, and Literary Contexts for the Science Novel

A Fiction Meets Science Workshop

SCIENCE NOVELS



1995

2000

2004

2009...

The Emergence of the Science Novel in the 1990s

“In recent years, there have been signs that **science, having eluded serious literary scrutiny for much of the 20th century**, has finally come under the lens of one of our more powerful, malleable, and popular tools of explication and reflection on the human condition—that familiar purveyor of empathy, the novel.”

“**In recent decades [...] science has moved toward center stage in a number of novels that elude classification as science fiction, even by the broadest definitions.** The recognition, both within and beyond the scientific community, that the objective framework of science must function within individual, social, economic, and political spheres, and that **our collective well-being and future relies on understanding how it functions**, may have opened the door to **literary innovation.**”

The *Fiction Meets Science* Concept Paper
(www.fictionmeetsscience.com)

What has ‘Literature’ been up to since the 1990s???

- Post-postmodernism
- Neo-realism
- New Sincerity
- Aesthetics of Authenticity
- Aesthetics of Trust
- Reconstruction

Authenticity in the OED

1. The fact or quality of being **true or in accordance with fact**; veracity; correctness. Also accurate reflection of real life, verisimilitude.
2. The fact or quality of being **authoritative or duly authorized**; authority.
- 3 a. With reference to a document, artifact, artwork, etc.: the fact or quality of being authentic
- b. The quality of truthful **correspondence between inner feelings and their outward expression**; unaffectedness, sincerity.
- c. The quality or fact of **accurately reflecting a model or exemplar**, or of being traditionally produced or presented.
- d. orig. *Philos.* A mode of existence arising from **self-awareness**, critical reflection on one's goals and values, and responsibility for one's own actions; the condition of **being true to oneself**.
4. The fact or quality of being **real; actuality, reality**.

Authenticity as Heuristic

- For FMS, it has helped to distinguish science novels from, for example, science fiction. Related to *plausibility* of the content.
- In other types of fiction, it contrasts to the irony and cynicism associated with postmodernism. Related to formal/representational strategies.

Task: To put different definitions of literary authenticity on the table for analysis in order to contextualize the science novel within its literary-historical moment.

Can the science novel be seen as part of the general aftermath of postmodernism? Or is it part of a separate trend altogether?

Workshop Structure

Four key bundles:

- Literature of Authenticity (Funk)
- Reconstructive Fantastic Literature (Huber)
- The Nerd Novel (Gaines & Hegland)
- The Science Novel (FMS Members Roundtable)

Other bundles to consider:

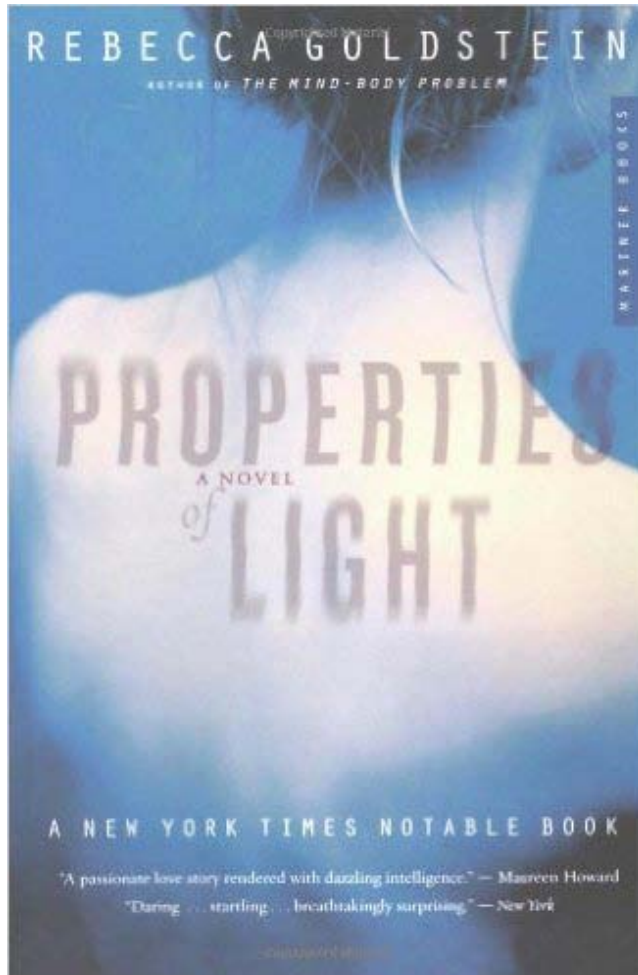
science fiction
speculative fiction
cyberpunk
slipstream
crime fiction
historical fiction
non-Anglophone fiction
neo-Victorian fiction

Roundtable Discussion

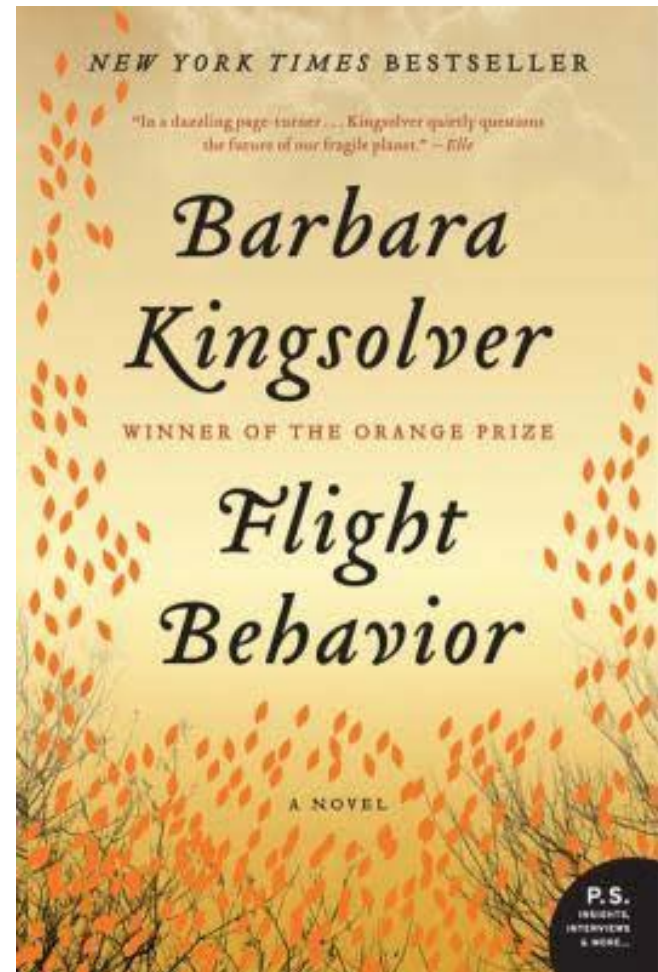
FMS Project Groups

1. Invention: Novelists and Scientists
2. Texts: Structures and Strategies
3. Reception: Readers and Media
4. Interpretation: Societal Context

Common Texts



2001



2012

Some Discussion Questions

- Who uses the term *authentic*? How and why does this matter?
- What is the relationship between realism and authenticity?
- Does integrating certain types of knowledge at the level of content put pressure on or determine literary form?
- Are science novels – and nerd novels – part of a larger trend or are they indicative of fragmented reading publics?