Ed Finn

Center for Science and the Imagination

Arizona State University

Po Box 876511

Tempe AZ 85287-6511

Email: [edfinn@asu.edu](mailto:edfinn@asu.edu)

Phone: (480) 727-0710

Web: [www.edfinn.net](http://www.edfinn.net)

Twitter: @zonal

**Education**

2011 Ph.D., English, Stanford University

­­­­­

2007 M.A., English, Stanford University

2002 A.B., *summa cum laude*, Comparative Literature with certificates in Applications of

Computing, Creative Writing and European Cultural Studies, Princeton University

**Appointments**

2019 - present Associate Professor, School for the Future of Innovation in Society / School of Arts, Media and Engineering

2018 - present Associate Professor, School of Arts, Media and Engineering / Department of English

2012 - present Founding Director, Center for Science and the Imagination

2012-18 Assistant Professor, School of Arts, Media and Engineering / Department of English

Arizona State University

2011-12 University Innovation Fellow

Arizona State University

**ASU Faculty Affiliations**

Senior Sustainability Scholar, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability

Affiliate Faculty, Department of English

Affiliate Faculty, Center on the Future of War

Affiliate Faculty, Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes

Affiliate Faculty, Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing

Affiliate Faculty, Biosocial Complexity Initiative

**Honors and Awards**

Roden Crater Field Lab Leader, ASU and Skystone Foundation, 2019

Most Significant Futures Works, Association of Professional Futurists, 2015

Alden Dissertation Prize, Department of English, Stanford University, 2012

**Other Professional Positions**

Academic Director, Future Tense, ASU/Slate/New America Foundation 2015 -

Co-Director, Imagination and Climate Futures Initiative, ASU 2014 -

Co-Director, Emerge, ASU 2013, 2014, 2017 -

**Books**

Ed Finn, Bob Beard, Joey Eschrich, and Ruth Wylie. *Imagining Transmedia*. MIT Press, under contract.

Kirsten Berg, Torie Bosch, Joey Eschrich, Ed Finn, Andrés Martinez, and Juliet Ulman, editors. *Future Tense Fiction: Stories of Tomorrow*. Unnamed Press, 2019.

David H. Guston, Ed Finn, and Jason S. Robert, editors. *Frankenstein: Annotated for Scientists, Engineers and Creators of All Kinds*. MIT Press, 2017. This book has been published in Spanish (Ariel) and Chinese (Ryefield) editions.

*What Algorithms Want: Imagination in the Age of Computing*. MIT Press, 2017. This book has been published in Spanish (Alpha Decay), Italian (Einaudi), Turkish (Tellekt), and Korean (Hanbit) editions as well.

Ed Finn and Kathryn Cramer, editors. *Hieroglyph: Stories and Visions for a Better Future*. William Morrow, 2014.

*Non-Commercial Anthologies*

*Space Futures (NASA)*

Ed Finn and Joey Eschrich, eds. *Visions, Ventures, Escape Velocities: A Collection of Space Futures*. Center for Science and the Imagination, December 2017.

*Overview (Knowledge Enterprise Development, ASU)*

Michael G. Bennett, Joey Eschrich and Ed Finn, eds. *Overview: Stories in the Stratosphere*. Center for Science and the Imagination, August 2017.

*Tomorrow Project (Intel)*

Ed Finn and G. Pascal Zachary, editors. *Living Tomorrow.* Intel Corporation, 2015.

Ed Finn and G. Pascal Zachary, editors. *Journeys Through Time and Space*. Intel Corporation, 2015.

Ed Finn and G. Pascal Zachary, editors. *Dark Futures*. Intel Corporation, 2014.

Ed Finn and G. Pascal Zachary, editors. *The Future—Powered by Fiction.* Intel Corporation, 2014.

Ed Finn, editor. “Green Dreams” section of *Cautions, Dreams & Curiosities: A Tomorrow Project Anthology*, 2013.

**Scholarly Publications**

**(peer-reviewed unless noted otherwise; student co-authors underlined)**

A. Mawasi, P. Nagy, E. Finn, R. Wylie. “Narrative-Based Learning Activities for Science Ethics Education: An Affordance Perspective.” *Journal of Science Education and Technology* 31 (1): 16-26.

Nagy, P., A. Mawasi, K. Eustice., A Cook-Davis, E Finn, R. Wylie. “Increasing Learners’ Self-Efficacy Beliefs and Curiosity through a Frankenstein-Themed Transmedia Storytelling Experience.” *British Journal of Educational Technology*. 2022.

Andrew Dana Hudson, Ed Finn, and Ruth Wylie. “What Can Science Fiction Tell Us About the Future of Artificial Intelligence Policy?” *AI and Society* September 2021. DOI: 10.1007/s00146-021-01273-2.

Ed Finn and Ruth Wylie. “Collaborative Imagination: A Methodological Approach.” *Futures* Vol. 132, September 2021.

Ed Finn. “Imagining Futures Together: On Science Fiction and Resilience.” *Science Fiction Research Association Review*. Vol. 51 (1), Winter 2021. (Invited essay.)

Mawasi, A., Nagy, P., Finn, E., & Wylie, R. “Using Frankenstein-themed science activities for science ethics education: An exploratory study.” *Journal of Moral Education*, 2021, 1-17.

Ed Finn. “Imagining Better Futures: Harnessing Stories to Contend with Risk.” *Technology, Ecology, and Risk Assemblages* no. 1, November 2020, pp. 9-17.

Peter Nagy, Joey Eschrich, and Ed Finn. “Time Hacking: How Technologies Mediate Time.” *Information, Communication and Society* 2020, pp. 1-15. DOI: 10.1080/1369118X.2020.1758743.

Ed Finn. “The Black Box of the Present: Time in the Age of Algorithms.” *Social Research*, vol. 86, no. 2, 2019, pp. 557-579. (Invited article).

Peter Nagy, Ruth Wylie, and Ed Finn. “Facing the Pariah of Science: The Frankenstein Myth as a Social and Ethical Reference for Scientists.” *Science and Engineering Ethics* 2019, 1-23.

Jonatan Lemos, Ed Finn. “Babel VR: Multimodal Virtual Reality Environment for Shelf Browsing and Book Discovery.” *International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction* 2019, pp. 30-38. (Poster).

Peter Nagy, Ruth Wylie, Joey Eschrich, and Ed Finn. “The Enduring Influence of a Dangerous Narrative: How Scientists Can Mitigate the Frankenstein Myth.” *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, vol. 15, no. 2, 2018, pp. 279-292.

Pat Pataranutaporn, Todd Ingalls, Ed Finn. “Biological HCI: Towards Integrative Interfaces between People, Computer, and Biological Materials.” *Extended Abstracts of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. April 2018. DOI: 10.1145/3170427.3188662. (Conference abstract).

Erin Walker, Ruth Wylie, Andrea Danielescu, James P. Rodriguez III, and Ed Finn. “Balancing Student Needs and Learning Theory in a Social Interactive Postdigital Textbook.” *End-User Considerations in Educational Technology Design*, edited by Rod D. Roscoe, Scotty D. Craig, and Ian Douglas, IGI Global, 2018. (Invited chapter).

“Monster Mythos: *Frankenstein* as Network Text.” *The Rightful Place of Science: Frankenstein*, edited by Megan Halpern, Joey Eschrich, and Jathan Sadowski. Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes, 2017, pp. 81-93. (Invited chapter).

Michael Simeone, Advaith Gundavajhala Venkata Koundinya, Anandh Ravi Kumar, Ed Finn. “Towards a Poetics of Strangeness: Experiments in Classifying Language of Technological Novelty.” *Cultural Analytics*, 2017. DOI: 10.22148/16.015.

Peter Nagy, Ruth Wylie, Joey Eschrich, and Ed Finn. “Why Frankenstein is a Stigma Among Scientists.” *Science and Engineering Ethics*, vol. 24, no. 4, 2018, pp. 1143-1159.

Megan K. Halpern, Jathan Sadowski, Joey Eschrich, Ed Finn, David H. Guston. “Stitching Together Creativity and Responsibility: Interpreting *Frankenstein* Across Disciplines.” *Bulletin of Science, Technology and Society* Vol. 36, no. 1, 2016, pp. 49-57.

“Field Notes from the Future of Publishing,” *electronic book review*, October 5, 2014.

“Revenge of the Nerd: Junot Díaz and the Networks of American Literary Imagination,” *Digital Humanities Quarterly* Vol. 7, no. 1, 2013.

“New Literary Cultures: Mapping the Digital Networks of Toni Morrison.” *From Codex to Hypertext: Reading at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Anouk Lang, University of Massachusetts Press, 2012, pp. 177-202.

“Becoming Yourself: The Afterlife of Reception.” *The Legacy of David Foster Wallace: Critical and Creative Assessments,* edited by Lee Konstantinou and Samuel Cohen, University of Iowa Press, 2012, pp. 151-176. (Invited chapter).

*A modified version of the above has also been published as:*

“Becoming Yourself: The Afterlife of Reception.” *Pamphlets of the Stanford Literary Lab* #3. September 15, 2011. (Invited).

**Selected General Audience Publications**

Ed Finn. “How We Practice Hope,” Review of *Artificial Life After Frankenstein* by Eileen Hunt Botting. *Issues in Science and Technology* [Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1, Fall 2021](https://issues.org/issue/38-1).

Celina Osuna, Ed Finn and Osvaldo E. Sala. “What *Dune* Should Teach Us about the Beauty of ‘Wastelands,’” *Scientific American*, October 21, 2021.

“A Smarter Way to Think About Intelligent Machines.” New York Times, November 15, 2018.

“Phoenix Will No Longer be Phoenix if Waymo’s Driverless-Car Experiment Succeeds.” *MIT Technology Review*, June 26, 2018.

Ed Finn and David Guston, “’Frankenstein’ Has Become a True Monster.” *Wall Street Journal*, December 29, 2017.

“Art by Algorithm.” *Aeon*, September 27, 2017.

“Facebook Trending story: The Wizard of Oz algorithm.” *CNN*, May 14, 2016.

“Algorithms Aren’t Like Spock.” *Slate*, February 26, 2016.

“We Can Build the Future.” *Computer*, IEEE Computer Society, November 2015.

“The Internet of Slow Things.” *Slate*, September 21, 2015.

“The Inspiration Drought: Why Our Science Fiction Needs New Dreams.” *Slate*, September 16, 2014.

“What if Computers Know You Better than You Know Yourself?” *Slate*, March 4, 2014.

“Thought Experiments: Dreaming Up a Center for Science and the Imagination.” *Asimov’s Science Fiction.* October-November 2013.

**Keynotes, Invited Lectures and Refereed Talks**

“Extended Imagination: AI and Collaborative Aesthetics.” TechArt Conference, Chung-Ang University (May 2021)

“What Algorithms Want.” AI For Humanity Conference, IULM AI Lab, Milan, Italy (February 2021).

“How to Imagine AI: Cultural Frames for Thinking with Machines” AI/IA: Promises and Perils of Augmented/Artificial Intelligence, Society for Literature, Science and the Arts (October 2020)

“Science and Imagination: A Blueprint for Better Future.” NISE Network Earth & Space Partner Meeting 2019. Tempe, AZ (February 2019)

“The Algorithmic Imagination.” Digital Studies Speaker Series, University of Kentucky (November 2018)

“Art in the Age of Algorithms.” Seminars presented at the Sass-Fee Summer Institute of Art, Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, CA (May 2018)

“Unstoppable Frankenstein: Science, Imagination, and the Next 200 Years.” University of Indianapolis Communiversity Lecture, Indianapolis, IN (September 2017)

“What Algorithms Want.” Summit on Women and Information Technology, National Center for Women and Information Technology, Tucson, AZ (May 2017)

“Illusions of Progress: Visualization and the Politics of Stylized Time.” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia (January 2017).

“Making the Future – Foresight Thinking to Motivate and Innovate.” Plenary Panel at Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities, University of Colorado, Denver (November 2016)

“Frankenstein Digital Museum.” Frankenstein’s Shadow: A Bicentennial Assessment of the *Frankenstein* Narrative’s Influence, Fondation Brocher, Geneva (June 2016).

“MegaCity: Stories and Visions for a Better Future.” Keynote at Mad Scientist, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Arizona State University (April 2016)

“Engineering Imagination,” College of Engineering Distinguished Lecture Series, California State University at Long Beach (March 2016)

“The Black Box of the Present: Computational Time in the Age of the Algorithm,” The Contemporary at Princeton University (March 2016)

“How to Build a Dream Machine,” Keynote at Chabot Science Center (May 2015)

“Moving the Goal Posts,” Panel on Alternative Careers, University of California, Los Angeles (May 2014)

“Networking the Monster: The Frankenstein Myth as Cultural Linking Structure,” Cinema and Interdisciplinary Interpretation, University Seminars, Columbia University, New York (April 2014)

“Thinking Big: A Conversation with Neal Stephenson,” Keynote at Association of Science-Technology Centers, Albuquerque (October 2013)

“The Science Fiction of Science: Collaborative Lexicons and Project Hieroglyph,” Digital Humanities (June 2013)

“Getting There: Designing Better Dreams for Better Futures,” Keynote, International Conference on Automated People Movers and Transit Systems, Phoenix (April 2013)

“Mobile Futures,” Opening Keynote, Knight Foundation Mobile News Challenge, Cronkite School of Journalism (January 2013)

“Future of the Nano-City,” Science Café, Arizona Science Center (September 2012)

“American Networks, American Nerds.” Lecture, Digital Scholarship Commons,

Emory University (November 2011)

“Literary Networks: A Field Guide.” ACLx (American Comparative Literature Experimental) Conference, Pennsylvania State University (September 2011)

“Reading, Writing and Reputation: Literary Networks in Contemporary American Fiction.” for “Networks, Literature, Culture” panel, Digital Humanities, Stanford University (June 2011)

“The Social Lives of Books: Mapping the Ideational Networks of Toni Morrison.” Digital Humanities, King’s College, London (June 2010)

“Cultural Capital in the Digital Era: Mapping the Ideational Networks of Toni Morrison.” American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans (April 2010)

**“**Cultural Capital in the Digital Era: Mapping the Success of Thomas Pynchon.” Digital Humanities, University of Maryland (June 2009)

**Research Awards**

Sloan Foundation. *Applied Sci-Fi*. 2022. $50,000. Principal Investigator.

ClimateWorks. *COP26 Climate Imagination Project*. 2021-23. $98,393. Principal Investigator.

World Bank. *Evoke Fall 2021*. 2021-22. $35,154. Co-Investigator.

National Endowment for the Humanities. *Artificial Intelligence in Digital Culture: Undergraduate Certificate Program in Intelligent Media and Society*. 2021-24. $100,000. Co-Principal Investigator.

N Square. *Nuclear Futures Anthology Project*. 2021-22. $64,245. Co-Investigator.

N Square, *Foresight and Futures Learning Experiences*. 2020-2021. $27,750. Principal Investigator.

Spencer Foundation, *Developing Theories and Practices for Applied Imagination*. 2020-2021. $46,910. Principal Investigator.

National Endowment for the Humanities, *Technological Anxiety and Hope: Artificial Intelligence in Digital Culture.* 2019-2020. $34,999. Co-Principal Investigator.

Hewlett Foundation and Google, Inc., *Imaginarium AI: Using Science Fiction to Explore the Real-World Challenges and Opportunities of AI.* 2018 – 2019. $150,000. Principal Investigator.

Sloan Foundation, *The Living Frankenstein*. 2017 – 2019. $248,648. Principal Investigator.

National Science Foundation. *Increasing Learning and Efficacy about Emerging Technologies through Transmedia Engagement by the Public in Science-in-Society Activities.* 2015 – 2019. $2,999,999. Principal Investigator.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration. *Narrative Projections for Commercial Space Futures.* 2015-2016. $140,000. Principal Investigator.

National Science Foundation. *EAGER: Towards Knowledge Curation*. 2014 – 2016. $299,034. Co-Principal Investigator.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration. *Workshop on Understanding Literature and Art Cultures for Transformative Research*. 2014-2016. $49,548. Principal Investigator.

Department of Defense - National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. *The Foresight Initiative*. 2014-2015. $3,993,560. Co-Principal Investigator.

World Bank. *Evoke Creative Framework and Network Development*. 2014. $25,000. Principal Investigator.

National Science Foundation. *Informal Learning and Scholarship in Science and Society: A Multi-Disciplinary Workshop on Scientific Creativity and Societal Responsibility.* 2014 - 2015. $49,997. Principal Investigator.

Intel Corporation. *Sprint Beyond the Book*. 2013-2014. $102,500. Principal Investigator.

**Teaching**

ENG 294: Literature, Science, and Imagination, Spring 2020 (UG)

AME 494/598: Approaches to Light, Spring 2019 (UG/G)

AME 494/598 | ENG 494: Science Fiction Studio, Spring 2016 (UG/G)

ENG 469: After the Book, Fall 2014 (UG)

AME 310: Media Literacies and Composition, Fall 2013 - present (UG)

AME 130: Prototyping Dreams, Fall 2012 - present (UG)

**Service**

*University Service*

Beyond director and co-director roles in CSI, Future Tense, Emerge, and Climate Futures, service roles have included search committees, ad-hoc departmental committees and the *Leonardo* journal publications committee.

*Site Visits and Organizational Reviews*

Science Foundation Ireland, Social Science Research Council

*Manuscript Reviews*

Big Data and Society; Journal of Cinema and Media Studies; MIT Press; University of Chicago Press; Routledge

*Funding Proposal Reviews*

National Endowment for the Humanities; European Research Council

*Advisory Boards*

Member, N Square Forum 2021 -

Board Member, Arizona School for the Arts 2020 -

Advisory Board Member, Sparks & Honey 2019 -

Advisory Board Member, Humanities Lab, ASU 2019 -

**Languages**

French (reading and spoken)

Latin (reading)

Spanish (reading)