

Solarpunk Sci-fi: Storming the Gates of Utopia

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@cprwords



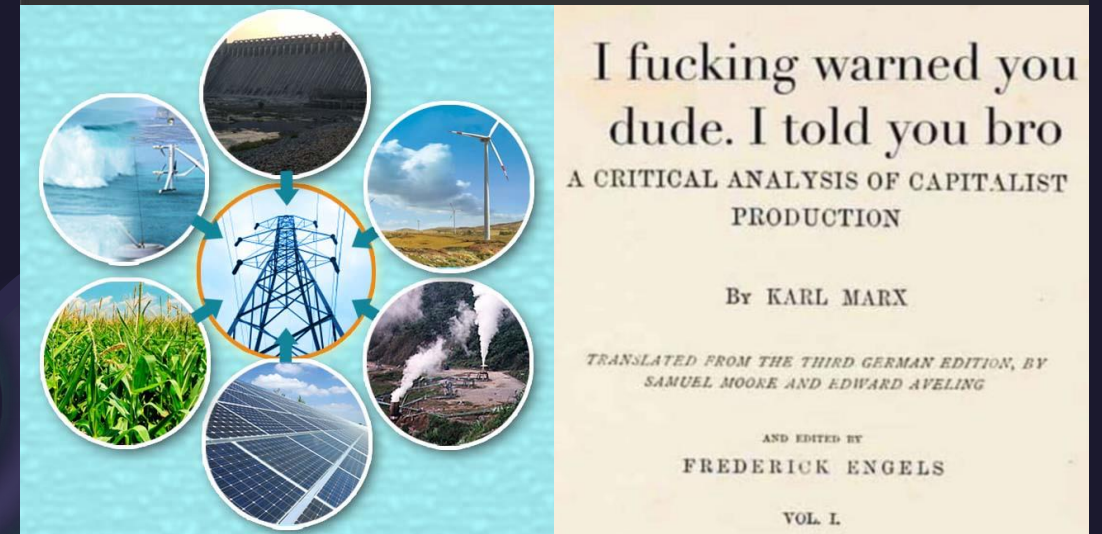
Agenda

- A little about me.
- Icebreaker: Believable Fictions
- Lecturer: Contours of Solarpunk Imaginary
- Ursula K. Le Guin & That Essay About California I'm Betting Some of You Didn't Finish Reading
- Solutions and Their Problems
- Coyote in the Corpse



Solarpunk is an eco-futurist movement which tries to think our way out of catastrophe by imagining a future most people would actually like to live in, instead of ones we should be trying to avoid

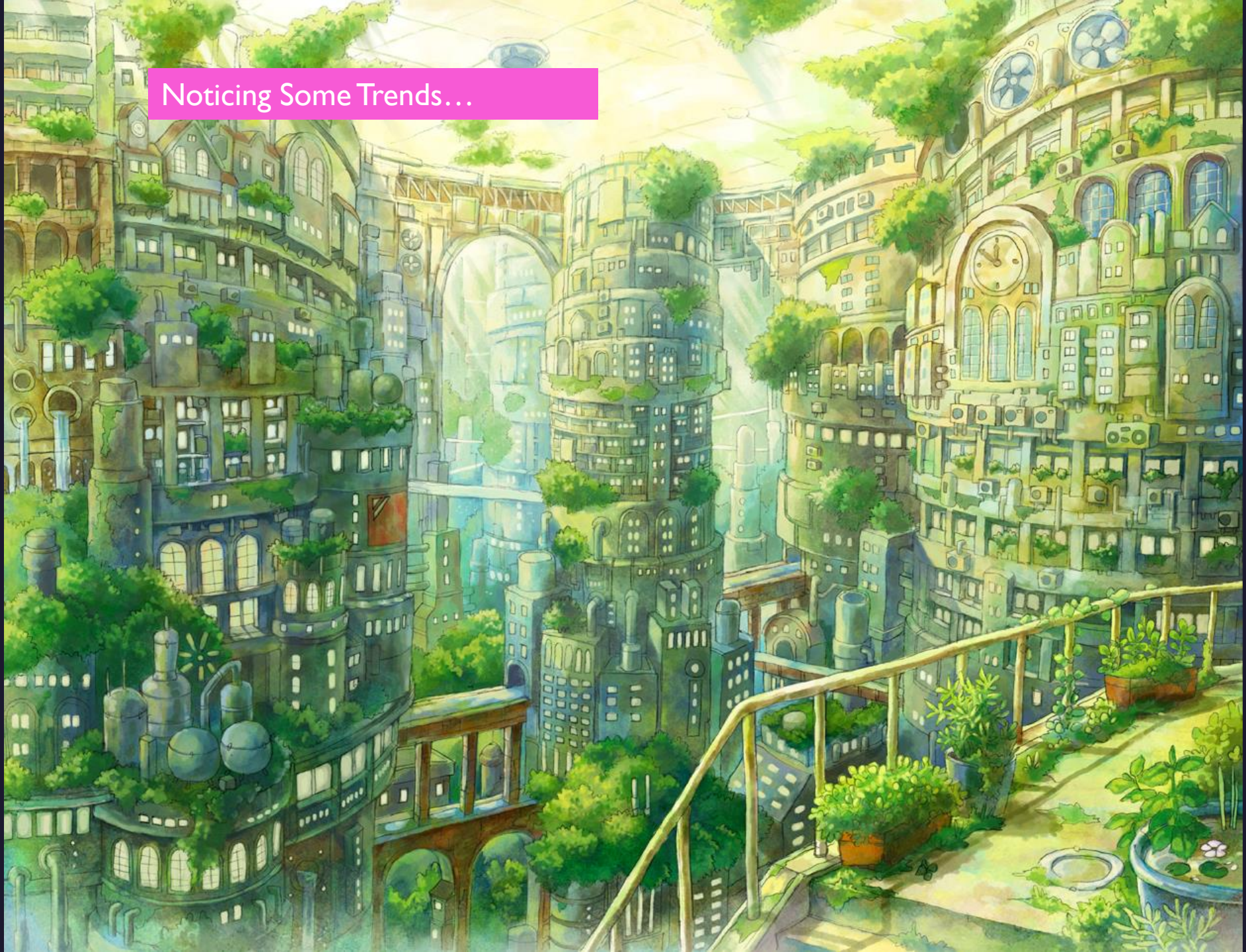
What is Solarpunk? - Solarpunk Anarchists 2016



Popular Solarpunk Imaginings



Noticing Some Trends...



Okay, I see what they're doing here.





NOT

SOLARPUNK

Congratulations. In the future, they discovered...parks?

What's missing?

So, what is solarpunk? And what makes it punk?



My own definition: Solarpunk stories are built around the consequences of good ideas to systemic problems.



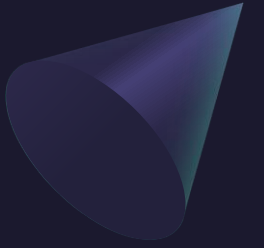
What makes it “punk” is...

Intersectionalism
(reconstructionist)

Beyond post modern
understanding of what
makes us human.

Anti-Neoliberal,
Embracing anti-
exploitation

Viewpoint Characters in Solarpunk stories...



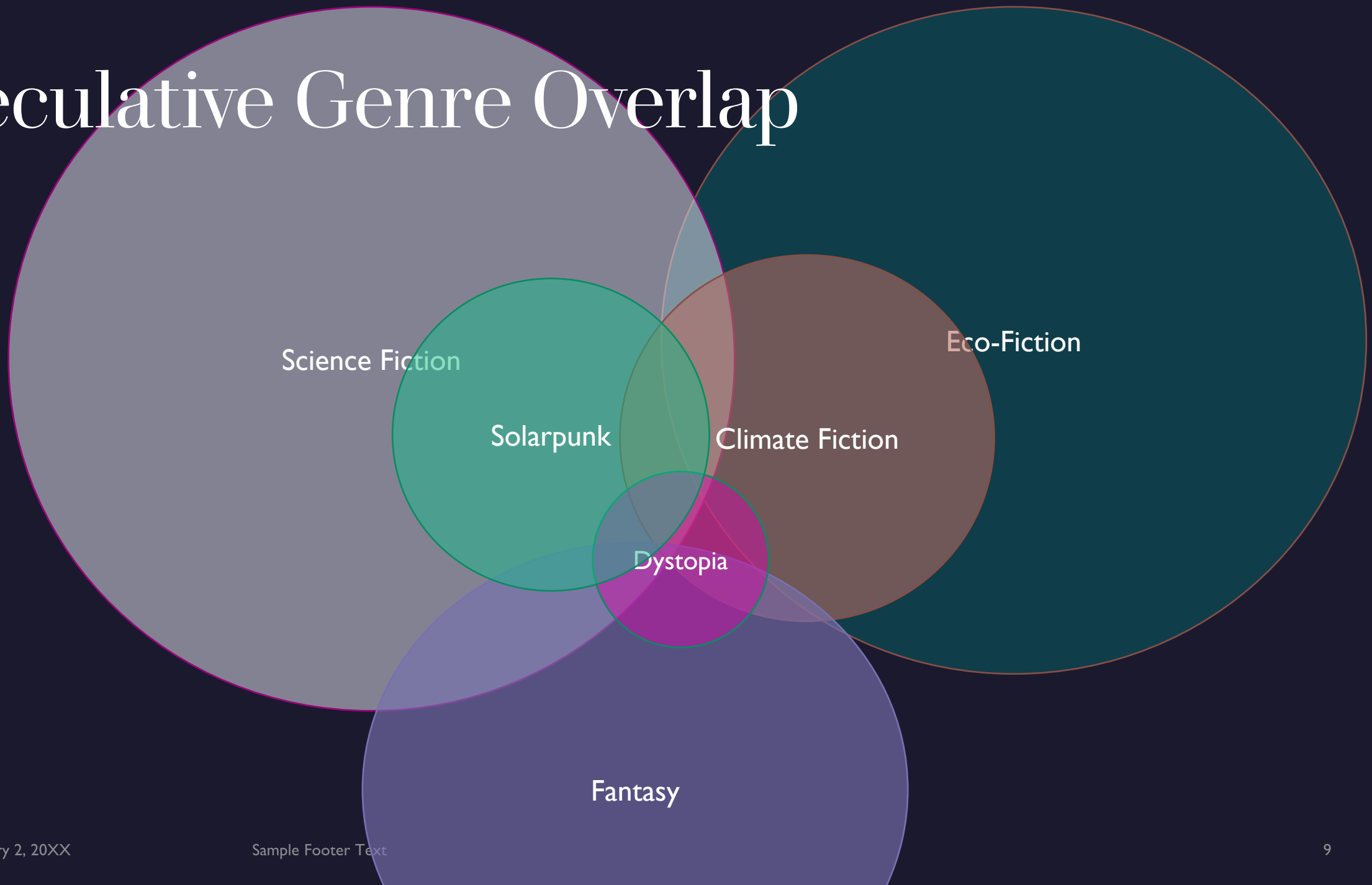
Are ethnically diverse (stepping away from the concept of race)

Delve into political & moral radicalism & reconstruction

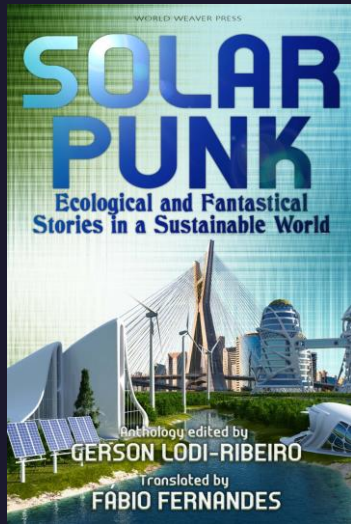
***Know more and often have specific expertise (They may just try to science the fuck out of something)**

Are gender and sexual orientation plurality normalizing

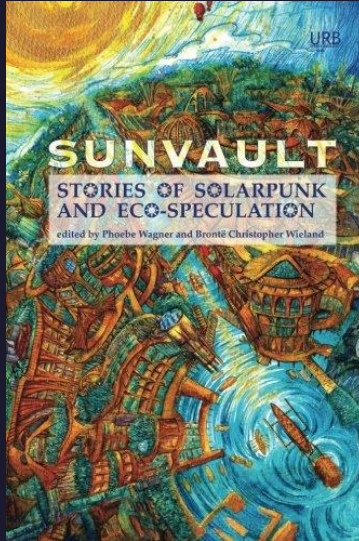
Speculative Genre Overlap



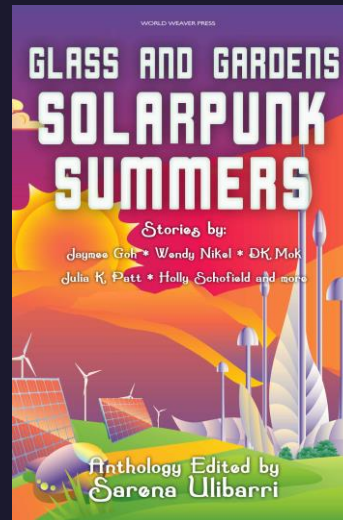
Solarpunk Short Fiction: An Incomplete List



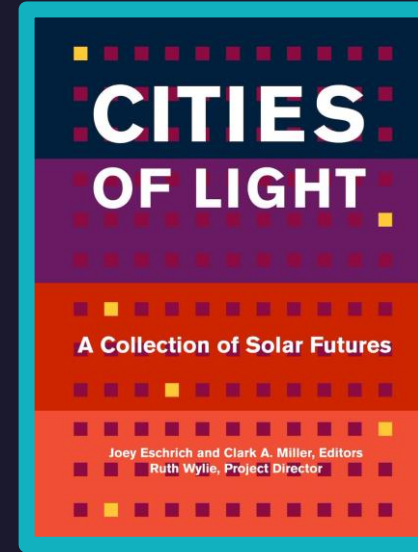
**Solarpunk:
Ecological
and
Fantastic
Stories in a
Sustainable
World**



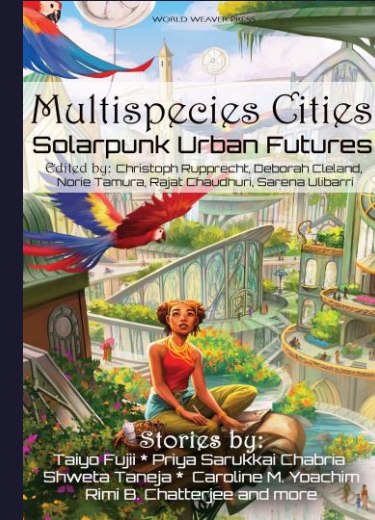
**Sunvault:
Stories of
Solarpunk
and Eco-
Speculation**



**Glass and
Gardens:
Solarpunk
Summers**



**Cities of Light:
A collection
of
Solarpunk
Futures**



**Multispecies
Cities:
Solarpunk
Urban
Futures**

Temporal Settings of Solarpunk

Climate
Disaster

Woulda-coulda-shoulda if we had
dealt with climate issues earlier

Most solarpunk stories tend to fall
into the near future.

Present

Near Future

Distant Future

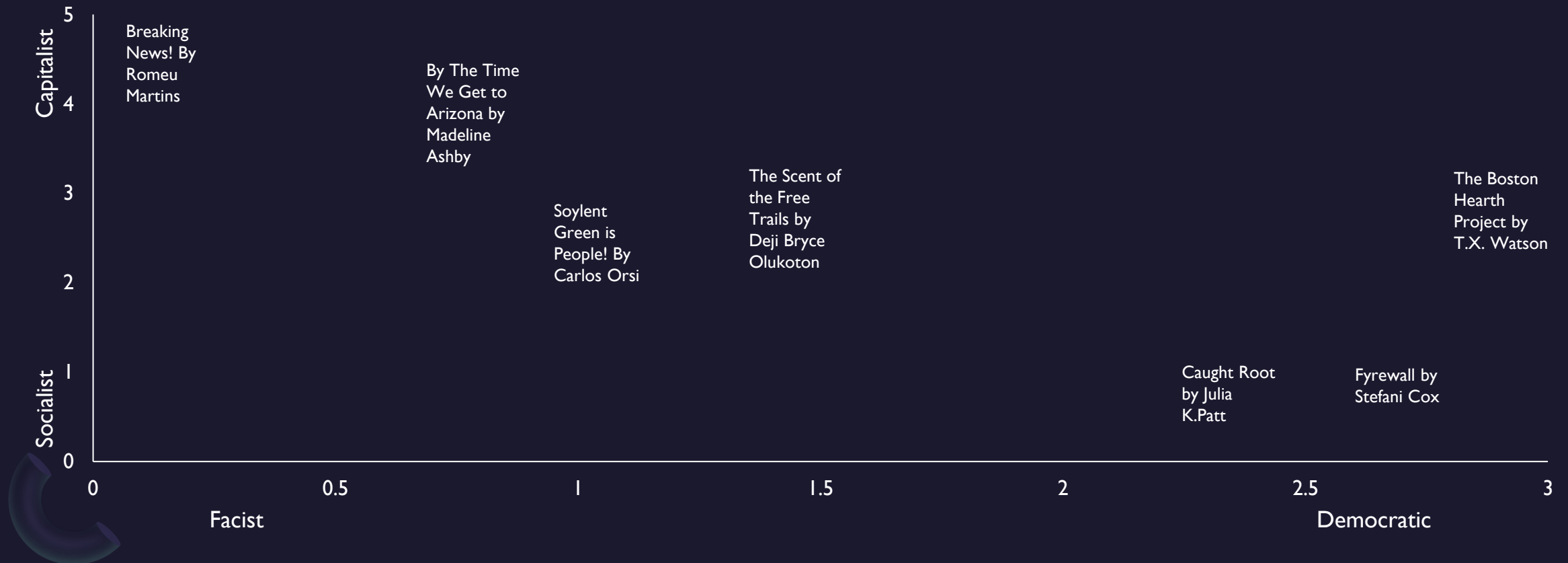
Alternate History

Relative to publication
of the story

Much more inline with classical
science fiction and advanced,
possibly impossible technologies
are featured.

Fantastic
Future/Past

Economic and Political Milieu of Ecological and Solarpunk Stories





So, Let's talk
about Ursula.



AMERICAN
MASTERS

Ursula K. Le Guin has a lot to say. You may not agree with it. She wouldn't necessarily want you to. Answers are made to be questioned.

Ursula K. Le Guin

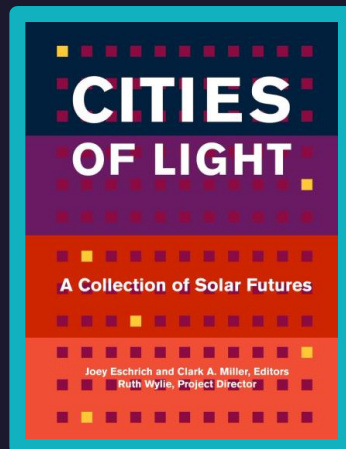
A Non-Euclidean View of California as a Cold Place to Be

Solarpunk tries to answer Ursula's question. How do you balance the yang in our situation? When yang becomes yin, will we be active participants, obstacles, or victims?

Let's Create Something Together.

COMPLICATE THE SOLUTION (MECHANICAL, SOCIAL, PERSONAL)

- San Jose, California becomes plastic recycling center on the West Coast.
- New York City creates a smart solar grid to distribute power throughout the boroughs.



COYOTE IN THE CORPSE

- You will get the intro to a published solarpunk or ecological fiction story.
- You'll continue the story for a certain amount of time.
- Then pass it on to the next person to continue what you started.
- They can take it wherever they want.

Thank You

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