



Contact: press@speculativeliterature.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speculative Literature Foundation welcomes new Portolan Project Director.

Oak Park, Illinois (August 18, 2023) – The Speculative Literature Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of Shaun Duke to the SLF team as he assumes the responsibility of directing the Portolan Project.

The Portolan Project sets out to make post-graduate level writing courses and resources available without the cost of a post-graduate degree. Comprised of modules on various subjects, with study questions and writing exercises, the SLF designed Portolan Project courses to be easy to use for those learning independently, as well as instructors seeking to bring the Portolan Project to their classrooms. In addition to learning modules, the Portolan Project includes interviews and “Deep Dives” by voices that define the speculative genre, including the likes of Paolo Bacigalupi, Nalo Hopkinson, and Scott Woods.

The Portolan Project is still expanding and already covers various subjects related to the craft, genre discourse, the SF/F community, and publishing.

Dr. Shaun Duke is an Assistant Professor of Digital Rhetoric and Writing at Bemidji State University. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Florida and a B.A. in Modern Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz. He studies science fiction, postcolonialism, Caribbean literature, spatial theory, fan cultures, and social media.

In addition to his academic work, he is a writer of genre fiction and a freelance editor at The Duke of Editing. His fiction has appeared in Curiouser Magazine, Stupefying Stories, and elsewhere. He also hosts and produces two podcasts: The Skiffy and Fanty Show, a four-time Hugo Award finalist podcast dedicated to examining the literary, cinematic, and cultural world of science fiction, fantasy, and horror, and The Joy Factory Monthly, a geeky podcast dedicated to joyful conversations about nerd topics. His podcast work has sent him around the world to participate in conventions, conduct interviews, and more.

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Launched in January 2004 to promote literary quality in speculative fiction, the Speculative Literature Foundation addresses historical inequities in access to literary opportunities for marginalized writers. Our staff and board are committed to representing racial, gender, and class diversity at all levels of our organization. This commitment is at the heart of what the Speculative Literature Foundation stands for: equal access to create and advance science fiction, fantasy, and horror literature. We strive to enable writers at any stage of their career and of any age, any ethnicity, any gender expression, from any location and of any economic or social status, who want to learn about, or create within, the speculative arts.

The SLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit, entirely supported by community donations. If you'd like to be involved with our efforts, please consider joining us as a member for \$2/month, at speculativeliterature.org/membership.

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