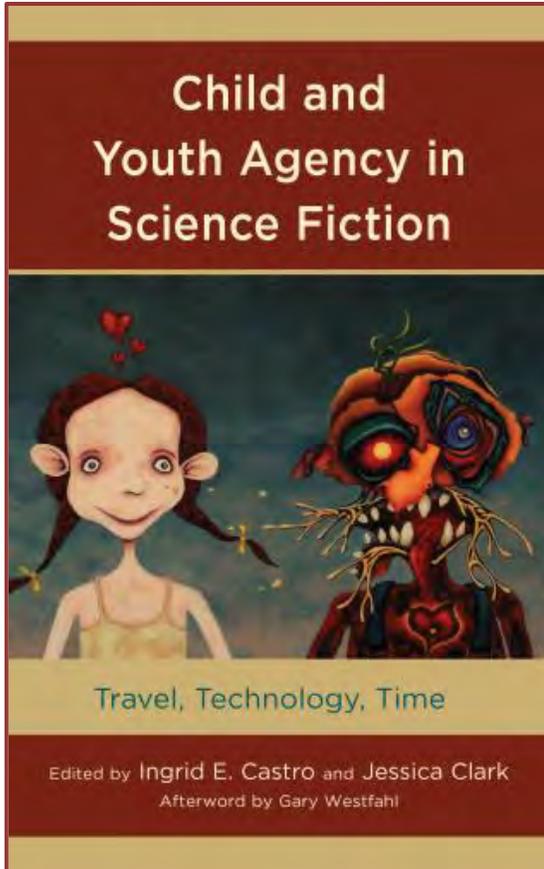




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Child and Youth Agency in Science Fiction: Travel, Technology, Time



EDITED BY INGRID E. CASTRO AND JESSICA CLARK

Afterword by Gary Westfahl

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This is a wonderful collection of essays which triumphantly prove the importance of integrating childhood and youth studies and children's literature. Exploring notions of time, agency, and futurity through the lens of science fiction, this book provides intriguing and fascinating insights into children and young people's worlds and into the ways adults imagine children's futures and understand their own pasts.

— **Heather Montgomery**, The Open University, UK

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Child and Youth Agency in Science Fiction: Travel, Technology, Time intersects considerations about children's and youth's agency with the popular culture genre of science fiction. As scholars in childhood studies and beyond seek to expand understandings of agency in children's lives, this collection places science fiction at the heart of this endeavor. Retellings of the past, narratives of the present, and new landscapes of the future, each explored in science fiction, allow for creative reimaginings of the capabilities, movements, and agency of youth. Core themes of generation, embodiment, family, identity, belonging, gender, and friendship traverse across the chapters and inform the contributors' readings of various film, literature, television, and virtual media sources. Here, children and youth are heterogeneous, and agency as a central analytical concept is interrogated through interdisciplinary, intersectional, intergenerational, and posthuman analyses. The contributors argue that there is vast power in science fiction representations of children's agency to challenge accepted notions of neoliberal agency, enhance understandings of agency in childhood studies, and further contextualize agency in the lives, voices, and cultures of youth.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Ingrid E. Castro is professor of sociology and chair of the Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work Department at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

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