

Workshop CES Winter School “Complexity and change: thinking, practices and processes for addressing global challenges (2nd Edition)”

23 November 2021, 14h - 17h (GMT)

Facilitated by

Patrícia Silva & Graça Capinha

Future Presents: Futurological Congress of the Neological Institute

Synopsis:

This 3hr workshop will engage participants of the “Complexity and change” CES-WS in creative writing exercises based on the issues discussed during the school and their notes of the sessions and exchanges. It draws on the reality-making power of language to challenge them to move from the insights they have gleaned during the school to explore, through linguistic play and story-telling, creative ways of resisting obsolescence, preserving extinguishing realities, re-existing through the unfolding Fourth Industrial Revolution, Holocene extinction, climate crisis, and (post-)pandemic. As researchers of the “Neological Institute”, participating in a “Futurology Congress”, they will be involved in wor(l)d-designing tasks and new Lifestories for the future.

It is inspired by the use of language as an instrument to redress the present and mould the future into being, notably in the speculative fiction of Stanisław Lem – particularly his use of new words (neologisms) to actualise hypothetical futures in his fictional works in line with his philosophy of science – and in Charles Bernstein’s experimental poetry, engaging with scientific developments and what he calls “pataqueric” writing.

Structure:

Part I

1. Introduction to some key concepts regarding language and reality-making (*poiesis*);
2. Applied explanation of linguistic devices, neologisms/neosemes: categories and types in Lem’s fictional works, *The Cyberiad*, *The Futurological Congress* (1974);
3. Applied explanation of poetic techniques in Charles Bernstein’s poems: neologisms, agrammatical structures, ellipses, the dismemberment of words into sounds and letters, sound mutations, syntactic doubling, and what he calls “imploded sentences”.

Part II

Creative word-play wor(l)d-building and writing speculative micro-narratives

A – What we wish to preserve.

B – What we wish to (re)create.

Key questions for telling new stories in future wor(l)ds:

How can we Be and Think together?

How can we Know Together?

How can we Live Together?

How can we Learn Together?

How can we Change Together?