

# From Pandora's Box to The City of the Sun: Utopia and Dystopia in Turkish Science Fiction Literature



## The Editorial Collective

Utopias are imagined, idealized paradises that offer visions of alternative power relations. Dystopias, on the other hand, express a negative worldview characterized by domination, punishment, and oppressive practices. Utopias and dystopias alike offer a literary, political, and philosophical synthesis of political thought, techno-scientific narratives, and naturecultures. In doing so, dystopias may present subterranean civilizations, class relations, and the domination of high levels of technology in an ideological and ecocritical manner, whereas utopias are more likely to explore non-existent, lost, or imagined paradises.

The possibility of utopian thinking is, however, shaped by dystopian realities and foresight. In this context, utopias can be considered “some variation on an ideal present, an ideal past and an ideal future, and the relation between the three” (Gregory Claeys, 2020: 13). Utopian and dystopian fictions therefore hold a prominent place in science fiction literature. While science fiction genres in the 1970s focused on freedom, peace, climate change, and political and economic problems, today, influences such as critical theory, feminism, gender studies and posthumanism have an important impact on science fiction literature. In recent years, the increasing number of literary works (novels, short stories, translations, etc.) in the field of Turkish science fiction literature indicates a growing interest in these issues among Turkish writers and scholars. We present the theme of utopia and dystopia in Turkish science fiction literature with the concept of “disedebitopia.” This concept features the term *edeb* at its core, which is an abbreviation of *edebiyat*, the Turkish word for literature. *Edeb* also refers to *edep*, meaning decency or decorum, which holds significant importance in literature and represents respect for aesthetic and ethical values.

This CFP aims to expand research in Turkish science fiction literature from past to present. This issue aims to create an interdisciplinary anthology by bringing together studies focusing on the theme of disedebitopia.

This special issue of the *SFRA Review* is dedicated to an interdisciplinary review of utopia and dystopian fiction and their various subgenres and intersections in Turkish science fiction literature, as well as the humanities, social sciences, psychology, philosophy, and science and technology. *SFRA Review* is an open access journal published four times a year by the Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA) (eISSN 2641-2837; former ISSN 1068-395X). We encourage established and emerging scholars or graduate and postgraduate students interested in this special issue to submit abstracts related to, but not limited to, the following areas and topics within Turkish science fiction:

- Solar/Bio/Cyberpunk Subgenres and Utopia/Dystopia
- Cyberfeminism, Cyborg Feminism and Cyber Utopia/Dystopia
- Feminist Utopia / Dystopia
- Disability Studies in Utopia / Dystopia Fictions
- Robotic, Design and Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Utopia/Dystopias
- Futuristic, Artistic and Aesthetic Designs of Literary Utopia/Dystopias
- Gods, Heroes and Disasters: Mythological Connections of Utopia/Dystopias in Literature
- Spaces of the Future: Symbolic Use of Space in Utopia/Dystopias
- Utopia/Dystopia in the Framework of Transhumanism/Posthumanism
- Psychological Reflection of Social Structures: Family, Society and Power Dynamics in Utopia/Dystopias
- The Collapse of Time: Fictional Time of the Future in Literary Utopia/Dystopias
- Critical Posthumanism, New Materialism and Posthuman and Non-Human Being/Becoming in Literary Utopia/Dystopian Fiction
- Back to Nature: Ecocriticism and the Redesign of Human-Nature Relations in Green Utopias
- Queer Utopias and Gender
- Humanity in the Age of Surveillance: Digital Totalitarian Systems of Dystopias
- Panopticon and Dystopia: The Role of Space in Totalitarian Regimes
- Capitalism and the Future: Dystopias, Marxist Critique and Political Economy
- The Post-Apocalyptic World and Humanity: Philosophical Foundations of Dystopias

### Submissions

This CFP is addressed to academics, science fiction lovers, Turkish literature researchers, and anyone interested in science fiction literature. Those interested can send 250-word abstracts in both Turkish and English to Meltem Dağcı ([dagci.meltem@gmail.com](mailto:dagci.meltem@gmail.com)) and Duygu Küçüköz Aydemir ([duygumbs@gmail.com](mailto:duygumbs@gmail.com)), cc-ing managing editor Virginia L. Conn ([vconn@stevens.edu](mailto:vconn@stevens.edu)). However, the full text of accepted abstracts must be submitted in English. Otherwise, it is recommended that manuscripts submitted in Turkish be translated into English after the initial review, after editorial corrections, and, if necessary, after being returned to the author with suggestions. However, we would like to remind interested applicants that any submissions will be subjected to an editorial review again after translation.

Following submission of a ~200-word abstract and 200-word bio, authors will be notified if their abstracts have been accepted and will be sent a Word document outlining the house style guides and regulations for submission. Full-text manuscripts of 3000-5000 words (excluding notes, citations, and bibliography) will then be requested. Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with academic writing guidelines (references, citations, endnotes, etc.) and in MLA 9th edition style. For any questions or requests for early feedback, please contact the special issue editors Meltem Dağcı and Duygu Küçüköz Aydemir. Edited manuscripts will be published in the 2025 Fall issue of the *SFRA Review*. We hope this CFP will be of interest to you and invite you to submit your contributions.

### **Timeline**

Deadline for submission of abstracts: March 15

Notification of accepted abstracts: March 29

Submission of first drafts: May 10

Return of first draft revisions: June 7

Submission of second drafts: July 5

Return of second draft revisions: August 2

Submission of final drafts: August 16

Date of publication: Fall 2025