

From the Vice President

Chris Pak



Greetings all! It has been an incredibly busy and hot summer, but I hope it has been treating you well. We've had our amazing SFRA conference at Michigan State University last month and I'd like to thank the organising committee and those who provided support, technical and otherwise, for putting together and running such an engaging and thought-provoking event. My appreciation also goes out to everyone who participated in person and online. I'd also like to take the opportunity to congratulate our [2026 award winners](#) and the recipient of our [Support a New Scholar](#) (non-tenure track B) award, Orin Posner. Well done to all of you!

This year's Vision and Support session involved a discussion about futures thinking and public engagement. One of our panellists, Petranka Malcheva, a policy lead at the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, provided a number of resources about futures thinking and public engagement that I'd like to share with the wider membership. These include links to the work on [Culture and the Welsh language by the Future Generations Office](#), the projects [Communities and Climate Change in Future Wales](#), the [Bannau Brycheiniog harnessing futures storytelling](#), the Engagement Institute's [IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation](#), and the National Infrastructure Commission Wales' [Toolkit: Engaging Diverse Communities in Climate Adaptation Conversations](#). Sonja Fritzsche also mentioned that Megan Halpern at Michigan State University runs a community engagement speculative design workshop as part of her [Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Collaboration, Learning, and Engagement \(CIRCLE\)](#). If you find these resources useful or are working on sf, public engagement and policy I would love to hear about it and to correspond to keep the conversations going.

As I mentioned above, it has been a busy summer. I attended the fantastic inaugural symposium of the [Zurich SF Network](#), which was organised by Sarah Lohmann and Simon Spiegel. Our country representatives have also reported on a number of events that have taken place this summer, particularly in Germany, including Enmonsterisations in the Fantastic, the International Symposium of the German Inklings Society, and Metropolcon 2026 (Eurocon 2026). In September the annual Elstercon conference will take place in Leipzig, while Situating Energy, the forthcoming PetroCultures conference, and "Data↔Worlds" are being held at TU Dresden in September.

With that update, I wish you all the best for the remainder of the summer.