

Seeking Reality in the Fiction of Pacific Rim Earthquakes

Fiction and Unsettled Landscapes

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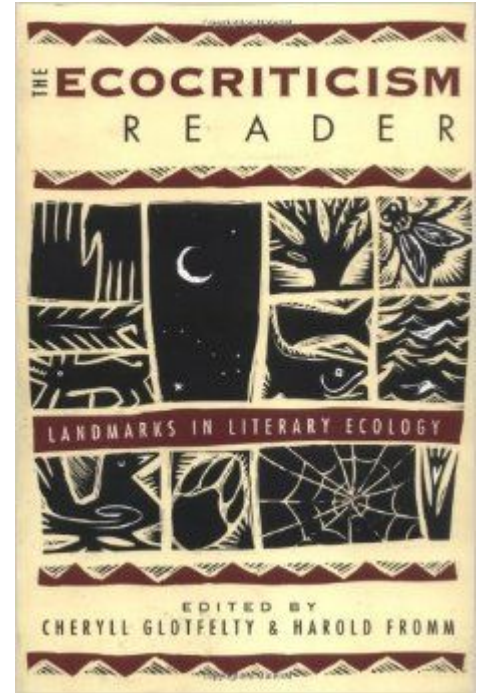
Situated Contexts

- Topic
 - Fictional works that depict unsettled seismic landscapes in relation to the places they depict
- Geographic
 - Seismic landscapes
 - Pacific Rim
 - The text itself
 - The relationship between place and fiction



Theory

- Text as a node in a network (Iser 1974)
 - Fiction = event within a cultural system
 - Fiction = event within a physical system?
- The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction (Le Guin 1984)
 - Text as container with capacity
- Ecocriticism
 - Motivated by classic environmentalism (Buell 2001)
 - Where do earthquakes fit into this field?
- Science & Science Fiction
 - Hard SF (Cramer 2007)
 - Speculative Fiction (1998)
 - Apocalyptic



Questions

Framing/Guiding

How does the form and content of fiction render and communicate the relationships between nature and culture?

Focus/Research

- How can (do) fictional renderings of earthquakes augment scientific and popular communication regarding natural disasters?
- Author life experience? Intent of production? Artistic value? Construction of place?

Data & Methods



- Data

- Texts
 - after the quake (Haruki Murakami)
 - After the Big One (Adam Rothstein)
 - San Andreas (2015)
- Author Information
- Scientific and Popular Literature regarding the events portrayed in fictional renderings

- Methods

- Literary Analysis
 - Close Reading
 - Ecocritical lens
 - Literary Theory
 - Genre Conventions
- Media Discourse Analysis
 - Genre Conventions
 - Agreement & disagreement

Results

Sample Hypotheses

The ability of fiction to highlight weaknesses in cultural systems is valuable as well for weaknesses in physical systems, in particular for the science community working to increase resilience to natural disasters such as earthquakes.

Earthquake science fiction without a scientific or political intent is artistically more successful than earthquake science fiction with an agenda.

The cultural background of the artist (author, filmmaker, playwright) is necessary for understanding environmental literature because of the importance of place.

Unsettled landscapes such as seismic landscapes demonstrate this because of the importance of the lived experience of earthquakes in .

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