

IMPERIAL



AFRICAN
SPECULATIVE FICTION
SOCIETY



INTERNATIONAL
BLACK
SPECULATIVE
WRITING
FESTIVAL



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



APPLIED AFRICAN SPECULATIVE FICTION

USING NARRATIVE EVIDENCE IN
RESEARCH, POLICY AND
ACTIVISM

AppliedAfricanSF.com

Image by Dilman Dila

Art and Science: The Marriage of Figaro



Illustration by Elena Betti

Eugen Bacon
eugenbacon.com



Today I will share with you...

1. About me...
2. Coexistence of art and science
3. Polymaths
4. The self as data
5. Collaborating with others
6. Importance of research
7. Q & A



About me...

**I am... African
Australian**

**Mother, daughter, sister, scholar,
author, editor, peer, friend**

Always curious...

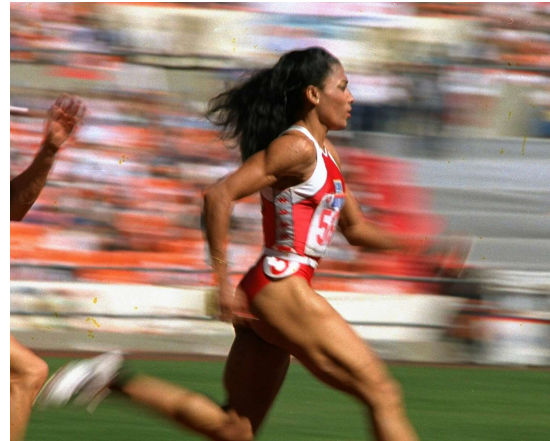
Write across forms, genres...



Applied science in sport

biomechanics

accelerometers



anatomy

**physics and
data sciences**

sports science



hydrodynamics

**motor
control**

Applied science in fiction is...

- **Applied science fiction is “science fiction that is trying to do something, to not only glimpse but also shape the future.”**
- **Jo Lindsay Walton, University of Sussex**



Science and technology as a caution and a hope...

UK Ministry of Defence enlists sci-fi writers to prepare for dystopian futures

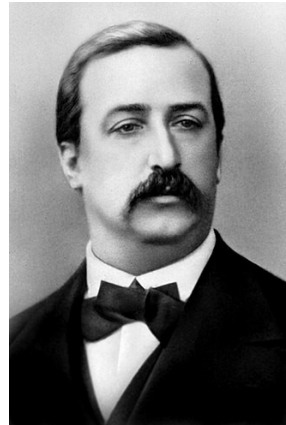
Imaginations of science fiction community used to help policymakers prepare for potential crises in Britain



2. Polymaths...



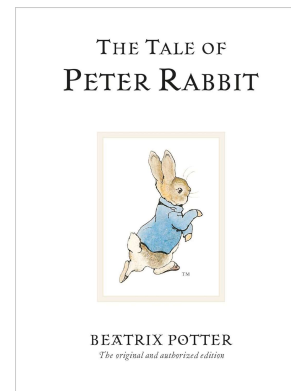
Galileo Galilei



Aleksandr Borodin



Leonardo da Vinci



Beatrix Potter

‘Polymath’: Greek term for a person whose expertise spans a significant number of different subject areas

Polymaths...



Software Engineer

Law #3: The Law of Vibration (Immutable)

“Escape Velocity”:

What speed is needed

to escape creeping limitations born from
aging collections of molecules, atoms
still vibrating, protons & neutrons
dancing even as fragile bones creak,
weakened muscles strain against gravity.

Linda D. Addison

- 5-time Bram Stoker Award
 - HWA Lifetime Achievement Award
 - SFPA Grand Master of Fantastic Poetry
- LindaAddisonWriter.com

Polymaths...



'Xhova', illustrated by Akintoba Kalejaye



Adelehin Ijasa
Optometrist

'Xhova': A first person epistolary tale from the perspective of an automaton under the control of the master AI on Pinaa, an inhabited moon.

Mothersound: The Sauúti Anthology

Polymaths...



Wole Talabi

Engineer

Talabi's newest novella, *Descent*, out this 2025 by Clarkesworld, embraces the sense of wonder of scientific exploration, the nature of the sonic storms on planet *Órino-Rin* in the Sauúiverse. (sauuti.com)

4. Collaborating with others

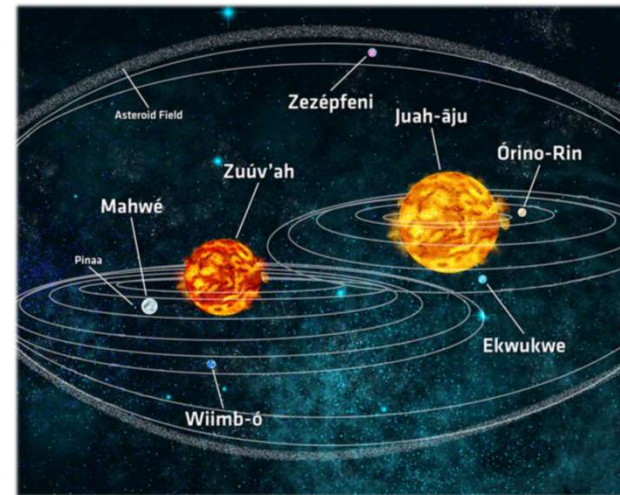
THE SAUÚTIVERSE

In this world: two (2) suns, Zuúv'ah and Juah-āju:

- *Zuuvah*—from the Shona word *zuva* meaning sun or day
- *Juah-aju*—from the Swahili word *jua* meaning sun

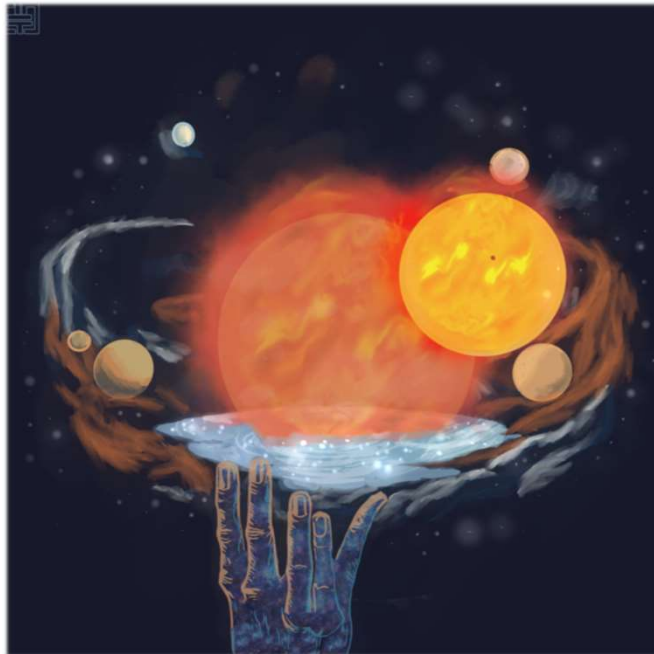
5 planets—each representing the theme of ‘song’ from an African language

- *Zezépfeni*—from the Amharic word *zefeni* meaning song
- *Wiimb-ó*—from the Swahili word *wimbo* meaning song
- *Órino-Rin*—from the Yoruba word *orin* meaning song
- *Pinaa*—from the Setswana word *pina* meaning song
- *Ekwukwe*—from the Igbo word *ukwe* meaning song or anthem—it's the echo planet
- There is also an uninhabited moon, Mahwé:
- *Mahwé* —from the Kirundi word ‘mawe’ meaning mother.
- <https://sauuti/>



4. Collaborating with others... cont'd

THE POWER OF THE WORD: SOUND



Sauúti – it means sound or voice in Swahili

Sauútiverse, a secondary Afrocentric world

The creation myth: Our Mother

Khwa'ra. [It is acquired]

Ya'yn. [It is uttered]

Ra'kwa. [It is released]