

Introduction

Indian Science Fiction: Routes of the Past in the Future

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Indian science fiction is a field that has progressively emerged and evolved, enriching the worldwide debate on Science Fiction studies, highlighting a number of themes. Stemming from a double matrix tied to the heritage of Indian culture (in particular the Hindu or Vedic body of traditions) and the imperialist experience (with the introduction of colonial Western knowledge), Indian science fiction constitutes a wide domain in which artists from different epochs and backgrounds have appropriated, manipulated or reinvented tropes and codes to give voice to a series of questions, from Kylas Chunder Dutt's *A Journal of Forty-Eight Hours of the Year 1945*, published in 1835 and recognised as the first example of Indian speculative discourse, to the works of ground-breaking authors such as Salman Rushdie and Amitav Ghosh (whose novel *The Calcutta Chromosome*, 1987) was the first Indian recipient of the Arthur C. Clarke Award), and more recently important writers such as Vandana Singh, Manjula Padmanabhan and Samit Basu.