

# Archaeologies of the Future in Vandana Singh's Speculative Fiction

*Oriana Palusci*  
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## Abstract

Vandana Singh's short stories – *The Woman Who Thought She Was a Planet and Other Stories* (2008) and *Ambiguity Machines and Other Stories* (2018)– and novellas question conventional Western science fiction themes and blend an approach based on Indian myths and Indian contemporary life with a postmodern/postcolonial consciousness dealing with the complexity of environmental issues and the connection (or “entanglement”) between humankind and advanced technologies, and the natural world.

Singh's scientists, mainly (but not exclusively) young women, fight with themselves and the surrounding background in order to give a sense to their own dual identity and to an unstable human future. Their research leads them to the mysterious regions of the Arctic Ocean or of interplanetary space, teeming with alien life. The question of alienness is at the heart of the ambitious novella *Of Love and Other Monsters* (2007), centred upon the languages of science fiction and the effectiveness of their imaginative interpretation of the world.