



“Designing Worlds” panel

Wednesday September 27 9-10am Fowler Auditorium

This roundtable brings together scholars from radically different disciplines to talk about how we think and what we do when we set out to build a world, either in reality or in our imaginations. Sparked by the novel *Station Eleven*, the award-winning novel by Emily St. John Mandel, which imagines a future set in the Great Lakes region after a flu pandemic has wiped out 99% of the population, our participants will consider what methods and tools they bring to bear on projecting future worlds.

Speakers:

Emily Allen, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Honors College and Associate Professor of English

Designing Worlds in the Past: Professor Allen brings her deep knowledge of literature, particularly fiction of the Victorian Age, when popular science fiction had a heyday to the table. She will consider how the imagination intersected with the new science and technology to create new approaches to world building.

Luciana de Cresce el Debs, Assistant Professor, Construction Management Technology

Designing Worlds in the Present: Prof. Debs has industry experience in the management of design and construction of buildings, with special emphasis in residential and commercial real estate developments in Brazil, including the city of Sao Paulo. With training in architecture, and practice in construction, she will provide a contemporary view of urban development considering buildings and the urban tissue. She will consider how the way we live now may influence the future of urban settings.

Antonio Bobet, Professor of Civil Engineering

Designing Worlds in the Future: Professor Bobet’s expertise is on the mechanical behavior of geomaterials and tunneling. He also has extensive experience in practice building highways and other civil engineering projects. Dr. Bobet is part of the team of researchers at Purdue looking at how to design and build permanent human habitats on the Moon and Mars.

Kristina Bross, (facilitator), Associate Professor of English and Associate Dean of Research and Creative Endeavor, Honors College