

**John Rieder**

## **The Mass Cultural Genre System**

### **ABSTRACT**

Science fiction, the detective story, the modern romance, the Western, horror, fantasy, and other similar genres, collectively comprise a field of genres, or a genre system, distinct from the preexisting classical and academic genre system that includes the epic, tragedy, comedy, satire, romance, the lyric and so on; this more recently formed genre system is an important historical phenomenon worthy of, and in need of, further study

### **BIO**

John Rieder taught at UH Manoa's English Department from 1980, the year he received his Ph.D. from Yale University, until his retirement in 2018. For the first twenty years of his career he was mainly a specialist in English Romanticism, publishing a book on William Wordsworth, *Wordsworth's Counterrevolutionary Turn* (University of Delaware Press, 1997) and numerous essays on the poetry of Percy Shelley. From around 2000 on his research agenda has focused on science fiction. His book on early science fiction, *Colonialism and the Emergence of Science Fiction*, was published by Wesleyan University Press in 2008; in 2017 he published a second book with Wesleyan UP, *Science Fiction and the Mass Cultural Genre System*. In 2011 he received the Science Fiction Research Association's Pioneer Award for his essay "On Defining Science Fiction, Or Not: Genre Theory, Science Fiction, and History;" in 2019 the SFRA awarded him its Pilgrim Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement. He currently serves on the editorial board of *Extrapolation*, the oldest journal in the field of science fiction studies, and he remains an active scholar in science fiction studies. Professor Rieder has also published on fairy tales in cinema and television, in collaboration with Professor Cristina Bacchilega, as well as on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and its dramatic and film adaptations, and on problems of periodization, the professionalization of literary studies, and the canon.