

## **Speaking topics - Stephen Oram, near-future fiction author.**

### Who am I?

I write near-future social science fiction. I have two published novels, two collections of sci-fi shorts and several short stories and articles in anthologies and journals.

Alongside this, I work with scientists and technologists on projects that explore possible future outcomes of their research through short stories and public engagement events. I have co-edited three anthologies along these lines and am guest editing a forthcoming issue of the British Science Fiction Association's critical journal on 'speculative fiction in relation to prediction, innovation, and futures'.

My work has been praised by publications as diverse as The Morning Star and The Financial Times.

### What can I speak about?

There are two angles that I can speak from. Either, the art of being a near-future science fiction writer or, on using short fiction to raise the ethical issues around the future of technology and society.

My approach to the *art of being a near-future science fiction writer* can be from one of two perspectives - the process, the how, or the why and whether fiction can influence the future and therefore there is a moral responsibility for writers to be careful about what they write.

Drawing on my experience from a variety of projects with technologists and scientists I can speak about and engage with audiences on *using short fiction to raise the ethical issues around the future of technology and society*. Based around particular projects with the think-tank Cybersalon, arts-tech (de)centre Furtherfield and King's College London, these can be on: the future of health, the high street, community and money; the future of a locality; or using AI to predict future mental health.

All of the above are between 30 and 45 minutes long, include readings of the fiction created, interaction with the audience, and can be extended for further audience Q&A.

### What is my experience of speaking?

I have given talks at 'festivals of thought', to corporate and academic audiences, have been on literary festival and future focused panels, and have read my work in public extensively. Among these are: Barbican FutureFest Late; King's College London; Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence; Bradford Literary Festival; Bristol Literary Festival; Royal Anthropological Institute; Central Saint Martins' London Laser Lab; and the first Human Brain Project Innovation Forum at the Science Museum.

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