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**THINK GALACTIC HOSTS POLITICAL SCIENCE FICTION
CONVENTION
July 13-15, 2007 at Roosevelt University**

Chicago, IL – Can science fiction spark political and social change? Find out! This summer, Think Galactic, a Chicago-area political science fiction discussion group now in its fifth year, is hosting a 3-day convention at Roosevelt University's Auditorium Building in downtown Chicago. Think GalactiCon will focus on discussion of science fiction, fantasy, and other speculative fiction from a leftist/radical perspective. The convention is to take place from Friday, July 13 through Sunday, July 15. Featured guests include author Nalo Hopkinson and author/publisher Jim Munroe. A chapbook discussion primer, featuring short stories from China Miéville and Nisi Shawl, will also be released in conjunction with the convention, given out to attendees and supporters.

Building on a model established by WisCon, a long running feminist science fiction convention based in Madison, WI, Think GalactiCon's goal is to foster additional dialogue from a leftist, non-hierarchical viewpoint. The convention's multiple tracks of

programming will concentrate on issues of race, class, and power, as well as gender.

Founding Think Galactic member and convention coordinator Jef Smith says, “Our plan is to have thoughtful and challenging discussions about politics and social issues through the lens of science fiction and fantasy. This will allow us to speculate about both the better world we wish to see and a darker future we seek to avoid. We hope to draw both activists and science fiction fans to a weekend of intense but fun conversation. With luck, we’ll radicalize the geeks, and geekify the radicals.”

The Think Galactic Discussion Primer chapbook is part of this push to create more opportunities to meld politics and speculative fiction. Designed to be a quick-start resource for individuals interested in forming a leftist science fiction reading group, this chapbook will reprint work by authors China Miéville and Nisi Shawl, who have graciously allowed their stories to be used. Offering political and social commentary as well as advice to would-be discussion groups, the Primer will be available only as a part of the convention.

Think Galactic is a monthly discussion group that meets at a local Chicago bookstore to discuss science fiction novels, short stories, and essays of political interest. For more information about Think Galactic and its upcoming reading list and meetings, visit its website at <http://www.thinkgalactic.org>.



For more information on ThinkGalacticon, contact Jef Smith at (773) 351-2554 or info@thinkgalactic.org.