

The Performance of Modern Eugenics: Ballroom of the Skies as a Method of Understanding American Social Eugenics

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Abstract : Using a disability studies approach, this paper analyzes the American science fiction novel *Ballroom of the Skies* as a way to address and access narratives of American exceptionalism in relation to global struggle. Combined with a critical race studies analysis of identity and cultural practice, this essay seeks to find parallels between the treatment of disability and the treatment of the racialized body in literature to forcibly reread potential for multiple assemblages of identity in the speculated futures of science fiction. Thinking through this relationship, the essay constructs a thematic understanding of social eugenics as practiced in American culture.

Keywords : disability studies, science fiction, eugenics, cultural studies

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