



THE FOUNDATION

2024 YEAR 10



Welcome to The Foundation, **year 10**, named in honor of The Foundation Trilogy by science fiction grand master Isaac Asimov. Join us as we explore themes, authors, novels, and short stories. Meetings are February through November, the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

July 3 ~ The Gone-Away World by Nick Harkaway

The *Gone-Away World* (2008) is the debut novel of British author Nick Harkaway, set in a post-apocalyptic world crippled by the "Go-Away War." The "go-away bombs" made anything and anyone subjected to them cease to exist, leaving no carnage or wreckage behind. The weapons, however, produced an unanticipated after effect. The matter that had "gone-away" was still there but merely stripped of the information which formerly differentiated and defined it. This "Stuff," as it is called, floats around the world in great storms and pools. When it comes into contact with people, the Stuff takes the form of whatever those present are thinking about.

August 7 ~ Science Fiction's Crazy Uncle

Every family seems to have one, and science fiction's crazy uncle is Space Opera! Tonight we'll talk about some modern examples that follow the mid-20th century tradition of E. E. Doc Smith, Edmond Hamilton, and others. Reading choices include *Hidden Empire* by Kevin J. Anderson, *The Stars Now Unclaimed* by Drew Williams, *The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet* by Becky Chambers, and various short stories.

September 4 ~ Author: China Miéville

China Miéville, British speculative fiction writer and literary critic, often describes his work as "weird fiction," and is allied to the loosely associated movement of writers called New Weird. Reading choices include *Embassytown*, *Perdido Street Station*, *Kraken*, and short stories

October 9 ~ Department 19 by Will Hill

Department 19 is a secret organization responsible for policing the supernatural. The story takes us through history, across Europe, and beyond - from the cobbled streets of Victorian London to prohibition-era New York, from the icy wastes of Arctic Russia to the treacherous mountains of Transylvania.

November 6 ~ Exploring Themes: Alternative History

A subgenre of science fiction since the 1950s, alternative history stories can also feature time travel between histories, the psychic awareness of the existence of an alternative universe, and time travel that divides history into various timestreams. Reading choices include *The Man in the High Castle* by Philip K. Dick, *The Calculating Stars* by Mary Robinette Kowal, *Darwinia* by Robert Charles Wilson, and various short stories. Tonight we choose our reading for 2025, the start of our second decade!

