



**Date: Tuesday, October 21**  
**Time: Noon–1:00 p.m.**  
**Location: 124 Sparks Building**  
**Lunch will be provided.**

## **Faculty Scholar Resident Talks**

# **“Fear of a Red Planet, or, What Sci-Fi and Critical Theory Can Teach Us About Our Planet”**



## **Christian Haines**

### **Associate Professor of English**

It's old news that capitalism is a global system with profound effects on our daily lives, but what would it mean to see capitalism as a planetary problem? This talk brings together critical theory and science fiction not only to understand how capitalism has ruined the Earth but also how we might imagine better relations with our planet. It focuses on fictions of terraforming—stories about transforming other planets to make them capable of sustaining human life—understanding them as political fables.

Writers like Kim Stanley Robinson, Annalee Newitz, Adrian Tchaikovsky, and N. K. Jemisin dream up societies beyond extractive capitalism's ruination of the Earth. In doing so, they participate in the eco-socialist tradition of framing politics in metabolic terms as so many efforts to transform how human beings inhabit the Earth.

