

the calcutta chromosome

The Enigmatic Tale of The Calcutta Chromosome

the calcutta chromosome is not just a scientific term but a fascinating concept that intertwines mystery, medical history, and speculative fiction. For those unfamiliar, it refers to both an actual genetic phenomenon and the title of a celebrated novel by Amitav Ghosh, which delves into themes of medical discovery, colonial history, and alternative science. The term itself evokes curiosity, inviting readers and scientists alike to explore its layered meanings and implications.

Understanding The Calcutta Chromosome in Science

At its core, the calcutta chromosome in scientific discourse relates to a peculiar mutation or chromosomal anomaly identified in certain populations. Historically, the term has connections to studies in malaria research, particularly in the context of chromosome behavior in the plasmodium parasite or in human hosts. The chromosome's significance lies in its mysterious role in disease transmission and genetic variation within the Indian subcontinent, especially around Calcutta (now Kolkata), a city with a rich colonial and scientific legacy.

This genetic strand or chromosomal marker was believed to influence the way malaria manifested or spread, a subject that intrigued researchers for decades. Though the scientific community's understanding has evolved, the calcutta chromosome remains a symbol of the complex interplay between genetics, disease, and epidemiology.

The Literary Dimension: Amitav Ghosh's The Calcutta Chromosome

Beyond biology, the calcutta chromosome takes on a new life in literature through Amitav Ghosh's 1995 novel, "The Calcutta Chromosome." This work of speculative fiction blends historical fact with imaginative storytelling, focusing on the life and work of Ronald Ross, the Nobel laureate who discovered the malaria parasite's life cycle.

Ghosh's narrative explores an alternate history where marginalized Indian characters manipulate scientific knowledge in secret ways, challenging Western notions of discovery and ownership of knowledge. The calcutta chromosome in the novel symbolizes hidden knowledge and the power structures surrounding scientific discovery. It provokes readers to question who truly controls knowledge and how it can be used or suppressed.

Exploring the Themes Behind The Calcutta Chromosome

Scientific Mystery and Medical Discovery

The intrigue of the calcutta chromosome is deeply rooted in the history of malaria research. Ronald Ross's groundbreaking discovery of the malaria parasite's transmission by mosquitoes was a milestone in medical science. However, the novel and the real-world research both highlight that science is rarely straightforward. Genetic factors like the calcutta chromosome complicate our understanding of diseases, hinting that there's more beneath the surface than what meets the eye.

Genetics and Disease Resistance

One aspect that scientists have explored is how certain genetic traits, potentially linked to the calcutta chromosome, may confer resistance or susceptibility to malaria. This ties into broader research on human genetics and infectious diseases, where chromosomal variations can influence immune responses. Such studies are crucial, especially in regions heavily affected by malaria, as they guide public health protocols and vaccine development.

The Intersection of Science and Colonial History

The calcutta chromosome also serves as a metaphor for the complicated relationship between colonial powers and indigenous knowledge systems. During the British colonial era in India, scientific research was often framed by imperial interests, sometimes overlooking or appropriating local expertise. The story of the calcutta chromosome, both real and fictional, challenges this narrative by highlighting alternative perspectives on discovery.

Indigenous Knowledge and Scientific Recognition

The novel's portrayal of secretive Indian characters who possess profound scientific understanding critiques the marginalization of indigenous knowledge. It raises questions about how scientific credit is assigned and whose voices are amplified or silenced in the annals of history. This theme resonates beyond literature, urging modern science to be more inclusive and respectful of diverse knowledge traditions.

Unpacking the Scientific and Cultural Impact

Why The Calcutta Chromosome Matters Today

In contemporary times, the calcutta chromosome symbolizes the ongoing quest to understand genetics and disease in a globalized world. Advances in genomics have revealed the complexity of human chromosomes and their roles in health and disease, reinforcing the importance of localized genetic studies. Moreover, the metaphorical aspects of the calcutta chromosome continue to inspire discussions about knowledge production, cultural identity, and scientific ethics.

Implications for Modern Medicine

Studying chromosomal variations like the calcutta chromosome helps scientists develop targeted treatments and prevention strategies. For diseases like malaria, which disproportionately affect certain regions, understanding genetic factors can improve diagnostic tools and personalized medicine approaches, potentially saving millions of lives.

The Role of Fiction in Science Communication

Amitav Ghosh's novel demonstrates how fiction can illuminate scientific concepts and historical contexts in accessible and compelling ways. By weaving the Calcutta chromosome into a narrative filled with intrigue and cultural commentary, the book invites a broader audience to engage with complex scientific and ethical issues. This fusion of storytelling and science enriches public understanding and appreciation for the challenges scientists face.

Delving Deeper: The Scientific Background of Malaria and Genetics

To fully appreciate the Calcutta chromosome, it's helpful to understand the biology of malaria. Malaria is caused by Plasmodium parasites, transmitted through Anopheles mosquito bites. The disease's prevalence is influenced by environmental, genetic, and socio-economic factors. Genetic mutations in both the parasite and human hosts can affect susceptibility and resistance, making the study of chromosomes like the Calcutta chromosome essential.

Some well-known genetic adaptations to malaria include the sickle cell trait and thalassemia, which provide partial resistance to the disease. The Calcutta chromosome adds another layer to this complex genetic landscape, emphasizing the diversity of evolutionary responses to malaria in different populations.

Tips for Further Exploration and Study

If you're intrigued by the Calcutta chromosome and want to learn more, here are some pathways to deepen your understanding:

- **Read Amitav Ghosh's The Calcutta Chromosome:** Experience the blend of history, science, and fiction firsthand.
- **Explore Genetics and Epidemiology:** Delve into scientific literature on chromosomal mutations related to malaria and other infectious diseases.
- **Study Colonial History and Science:** Investigate how colonialism influenced scientific research and the recognition of knowledge.
- **Engage with Science Communication:** Look into how novels and media shape public perceptions of complex scientific topics.

These steps can provide a well-rounded perspective on the multifaceted nature of the Calcutta chromosome and its significance.

Reflecting on Knowledge and Discovery

The Calcutta chromosome invites us to ponder not only scientific mysteries but also the human stories behind discovery. It challenges the linear narrative of progress and highlights the contributions of often overlooked individuals and cultures. Whether viewed through the lens of biology or literature, the Calcutta chromosome remains a powerful symbol of the intricate web connecting genetics, history, and human curiosity.

In a world where science continues to unravel the secrets of our chromosomes, the story of the Calcutta chromosome reminds us that knowledge is rarely isolated or simple—it is a tapestry woven from many threads, each adding depth and color to our understanding of life itself.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Calcutta Chromosome' about?

'The Calcutta Chromosome' is a science fiction novel by Amitav Ghosh that explores themes of science, mysticism, and colonialism through a narrative involving malaria research in Calcutta.

Who is the author of 'The Calcutta Chromosome'?

The author of 'The Calcutta Chromosome' is Amitav Ghosh, an acclaimed Indian writer known for blending history and science fiction.

When was 'The Calcutta Chromosome' published?

'The Calcutta Chromosome' was first published in 1995.

What is the significance of the title 'The Calcutta Chromosome'?

The title refers to a fictional discovery related to the malaria parasite's genetics, symbolizing a hidden layer of knowledge intertwined with the city of Calcutta and its colonial history.

How does 'The Calcutta Chromosome' integrate science and mysticism?

The novel intertwines scientific research on malaria with mystical and metaphysical elements, suggesting alternative ways of understanding disease and knowledge beyond conventional science.

Has 'The Calcutta Chromosome' won any literary awards?

'The Calcutta Chromosome' won the Arthur C. Clarke Award for Best Science Fiction Novel in 1997.

What themes are explored in 'The Calcutta Chromosome'?

The novel explores themes such as the intersection of science and spirituality, colonialism, identity, and the nature of knowledge and discovery.

Additional Resources

The Calcutta Chromosome: Unraveling a Medical Mystery Through Fiction and Science

the calcutta chromosome is a term that resonates profoundly within the realms of speculative fiction and scientific intrigue. Coined as the title of Amitav Ghosh's 1995 novel, "The Calcutta Chromosome" transcends mere literary boundaries, weaving a complex narrative that intersects historical medical breakthroughs, colonial India's socio-political landscape, and futuristic bio-mysticism. This article delves deeply into the multifaceted dimensions of the Calcutta chromosome, exploring its significance both as a fictional construct and as a metaphorical lens through which science, identity, and knowledge are scrutinized.

Understanding The Calcutta Chromosome: Fiction Meets Science

At its core, *The Calcutta Chromosome* is a speculative exploration centered around Ronald Ross, the British Nobel laureate who discovered the malarial parasite's lifecycle in the early 20th century. Ghosh's novel reimagines this historical event through a fantastical framework, proposing an alternative narrative where a secretive group in Calcutta uncovers a hidden biological mechanism—the eponymous chromosome—that manipulates human consciousness and the transmission of knowledge beyond conventional scientific paradigms.

This blend of fact and fiction intrigues readers and scholars alike, prompting discussions on how narratives shape our understanding of medical history and the epistemology of science. The Calcutta chromosome, in this context, symbolizes a cryptic genetic key that disrupts linear scientific progress, reflecting postcolonial skepticism towards Western scientific hegemony and the marginalization of indigenous knowledge systems.

The Scientific Backdrop: Ronald Ross and Malaria Research

To appreciate the thematic richness of *The Calcutta Chromosome*, it is essential to contextualize the historical facts behind the fiction. Ronald Ross's discovery of the malaria parasite's transmission via *Anopheles* mosquitoes in 1897 marked a pivotal milestone in tropical medicine. This breakthrough not only advanced parasitology but also saved millions of lives worldwide.

However, Ghosh's narrative challenges the established heroism surrounding Ross, insinuating that local practitioners and esoteric knowledge in colonial India played an unacknowledged role in combating malaria. This inversion invites readers to reconsider the linear progression of medical discoveries and highlights the complexities of attributing scientific credit within colonial power dynamics.

Exploring Themes and Symbolism

The Calcutta Chromosome transcends its surface narrative by engaging with broader themes such as identity, memory, and the interplay between science and spirituality. It blurs the boundaries between empirical knowledge and metaphysical speculation, encouraging a nuanced examination of how scientific knowledge is produced, disseminated, and controlled.

Postcolonial Critique and Knowledge Production

One of the novel's most compelling aspects is its postcolonial critique. The Calcutta chromosome represents not just a genetic anomaly but a metaphor for alternative knowledge systems suppressed or ignored by colonial and postcolonial scientific institutions. The story suggests a clandestine network of Indian agents who manipulate biological and informational flows, thereby reclaiming agency in a context historically dominated by Western science.

This reading resonates with ongoing conversations about decolonizing science and integrating indigenous epistemologies into mainstream discourse. It challenges the reader to question the objectivity and universality often ascribed to scientific knowledge.

Science Fiction and Bioethics

The Calcutta chromosome also functions within the broader genre of science fiction, particularly in its engagement with bioethical questions. The novel probes the ethical implications of manipulating genetic material and consciousness, raising concerns about autonomy, identity, and the consequences of transcending natural biological limits.

These themes align with contemporary debates in genetic engineering, CRISPR technology, and bioinformatics, underscoring the prescience of Ghosh's work. The speculative nature of the Calcutta chromosome invites reflection on the responsibilities accompanying scientific advancement and the potential for unintended consequences.

Impact and Legacy in Literature and Science

Since its publication, *The Calcutta Chromosome* has garnered critical acclaim for its innovative narrative style and thematic depth. It stands as a seminal work in postcolonial science fiction, influencing both literary studies and interdisciplinary research where literature intersects with science and history.

Reception and Critical Analysis

Critics have praised *The Calcutta Chromosome* for its intricate plot structure, which interweaves multiple timelines and perspectives, creating a layered reading experience. The novel's seamless fusion of thriller elements with philosophical inquiry distinguishes it within both literary and genre-specific canons.

Moreover, scholars highlight its contribution to reimagining colonial histories through speculative fiction, providing a platform for marginalized voices and alternative epistemologies. This approach enriches discourses on historical representation and the politics of knowledge.

Relevance to Contemporary Scientific Discourse

Beyond literature, *The Calcutta Chromosome* resonates with ongoing discussions in the scientific community regarding the ethics of genetic research and the social dimensions of scientific knowledge production. Its narrative underscores the importance of cultural context in scientific endeavors, advocating for inclusivity and reflexivity.

By dramatizing the tension between Western scientific rationalism and indigenous wisdom, the novel encourages a holistic view of science that acknowledges diverse methodologies and epistemologies. This perspective is increasingly relevant in global health initiatives and collaborative research frameworks.

Key Features and Narrative Techniques

Ghosh employs several distinctive narrative strategies to communicate the complexities surrounding *The Calcutta Chromosome*, enhancing the novel's thematic concerns.

- **Non-linear storytelling:** The novel interlaces past and present, blending historical events with speculative future scenarios, which challenges readers to piece together the fragmented narrative.
- **Multiple viewpoints:** Characters from varied backgrounds and motivations offer differing perspectives on the central mystery, emphasizing the multiplicity of truth.
- **Scientific and mystical interplay:** The text juxtaposes empirical data with mystical beliefs, blurring the lines between science and spirituality.
- **Use of symbolism:** The chromosome itself acts as a symbol for hidden knowledge and the potential for transformation, both biological and cultural.

These techniques not only engage the reader intellectually but also reflect the novel's central themes of ambiguity and the contestation of authority.

Broader Implications and Continuing Fascination

The enduring appeal of *The Calcutta Chromosome* lies in its capacity to provoke thought about the nature of knowledge and the historical forces shaping scientific discovery. It compels readers to interrogate who controls knowledge and how narratives of progress are constructed.

In contemporary contexts, where advances in genetics and biotechnology are rapidly evolving, the novel's insights into the ethical and cultural dimensions of science remain strikingly relevant. It exemplifies how fiction can serve as a vital medium for exploring complex scientific and societal issues, bridging the gap between empirical inquiry and human experience.

Through its rich storytelling and thematic complexity, *The Calcutta Chromosome* continues to inspire academics, scientists, and readers interested in the intersections of history, science, and culture, solidifying its place as a landmark work in both literary and scientific discourse.

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the calcutta chromosome: *The Fiction of South Asians in North America and the Caribbean* Mitali P. Wong, Zia Hasan, 2010-06-28 This study establishes connections between the themes and methodologies of writers within the South Asian diaspora in the New World, and serves both serious analysts as well as beginning readers of South Asian fiction. It is an impartial study that analyzes the stylistic excellence of South Asian fiction and the clearly emergent motifs of the writers, recognizing the value of the interplay of cultural differences and the need for resolution of those differences. The book begins with a discussion of the works of Indo-Caribbean novelists Samuel Selvon and V.S. Naipaul, author of *A House for Mr. Biswas* and *The Enigma of Arrival*, thereby establishing parallels between the immigration patterns of the South Asian diaspora who first emigrated to the Caribbean long before significant numbers of South Asians came to the United States. Next, the fiction of Ruth Praver Jhabvala (*Heat and Dust*), the non-fictional narratives of Ved Mehta (*Face to Face*), and the satire and social criticism of Bharati Mukherjee (*Wife*) and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (*Sister of My Heart*) are discussed. New literary voices such as those of Bapsi Sidhwa (*An American Brat*), Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri, whose characters, plots and themes deal with universal human experiences, Akhil Sharma, Manil Suri and Samrat Upadhyay are studied for the new directions and new methods they offer. A sub-genre of young adult fiction is discovered in the novels of Dhan Gopal Mukerji, such as in his *Gay-Neck: The Story of a Pigeon*, and more recently in the works of Mitali Perkins and Indi Rana. Recent expatriate novelists from South Asia such as Anita Desai, Amitav Chosh, Vikram Chandra and the American editions of Vikram Seth's novels are appraised together with contemporary Indo-Canadian novelists and Indo-Caribbean novelists resident in Canada.

the calcutta chromosome: *The Calcutta Chromosome & The Hungry Tide* Mrs. Mitali Sarkar, 2021-03-10 This book describes the cross-cultural perspectives which is very relevant in the Twenty-First Century, global scenario. East west encounters is the requisite of the day, where diversity and plurality should be met at every level, removing the lines of distinctions. East west need to meet each other in positive way where both co-operate and contribute for the improvement, Utility, goodness, and continuity of the world as well as the whole Universe.

the calcutta chromosome: *Detective Fiction in a Postcolonial and Transnational World* Nels Pearson, 2016-04-22 Taking up a neglected area in the study of the crime novel, this collection investigates the growing number of writers who adapt conventions of detective fiction to expose problems of law, ethics, and truth that arise in postcolonial and transnational communities. While detective fiction has been linked to imperialism and constructions of race from its earliest origins, recent developments signal the evolution of the genre into a potent framework for narrating the complexities of identity, citizenship, and justice in a postcolonial world. Among the authors considered are Vikram Chandra, Gabriel García Márquez, Michael Ondaatje, Patrick Chamoiseau,

Mario Vargas Llosa, Suki Kim, and Walter Mosley. The essays explore detective stories set in Latin America, the Caribbean, India, and North America, including novels that view the American metropolis from the point of view of Asian American, African American, or Latino characters. Offering ten new and original essays by scholars in the field, this volume highlights the diverse employment of detective fictions internationally, and uncovers important political and historical subtexts of popular crime novels.

the calcutta chromosome: The Calcutta Chromosome Amitav Ghosh, 1996 This novel has been described as a kind of mystery thriller (India Today). It brings together three searches: the first is that of an Egyptian clerk, Antar, working alone in a New York apartment in the early years of the twenty-first century to trace the adventures of L. Murugan, who disappeared in Calcutta in 1995; the second pertains to Murugan's obsession with the missing links in the history of malaria research; the third search is that of Urmila Roy, a journalist in Calcutta in 1995 who is researching the works of Phulboni, a writer who produced a strange cycle of Lakhan stories that he wrote in the 1930s but suppressed thereafter.

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the calcutta chromosome: Indian English Literature Gajendra Kumar, 2001

the calcutta chromosome: The Calcutta Chromosome Amitav Ghosh, 1924-12 From Victorian India to near-future New York, The Calcutta Chromosome takes readers on a wondrous journey through time as a computer programmer trapped in a mind-numbing job hits upon a curious item that will forever change his life. When Antar discovers the battered I.D. card of a long-lost acquaintance, he is suddenly drawn into a spellbinding adventure across centuries and around the globe, into the strange life of L. Murugan, a man obsessed with the medical history of malaria, and into a magnificently complex world where conspiracy hangs in the air like mosquitoes on a summer night.

the calcutta chromosome: Cartographic Fictions Karen Lynnea Piper, 2002 Maps are stories as much about us as about the landscape. They reveal changing perceptions of the natural world, as well as conflicts over the acquisition of territories. Cartographic Fictions looks at maps in relation to journals, correspondence, advertisements, and novels by authors such as Joseph Conrad and Michael Ondaatje. In her innovative study, Karen Piper follows the history of cartography through three stages: the establishment of the prime meridian, the development of aerial photography, and the

emergence of satellite and computer mapping. Piper follows the cartographer's impulse to leave the ground as the desire to escape the racialized or gendered subject. With the distance that the aerial view provided, maps could then be produced objectively, that is, devoid of problematic native interference. Piper attempts to bring back the dialogue of the native informant, demonstrating how maps have historically constructed or betrayed anxieties about race. The book also attempts to bring back key areas of contact to the map between explorer/native and masculine/feminine definitions of space.

the calcutta chromosome: Amitav Ghosh Tabish Khair, 2005 This Book Examines Ghosh`S Fiction Through Separate Critical Essays By Reputed Scholars In Six Countries. These Thoughtful, Incisive And Highly Readable Essays Are Grounded In The Interests That Infuse Ghosh`S Fiction: History, Science, Discovery, Travel, Nationalism, Subalternity, Agency. It Is Invaluable For Those Interested In Ghosh`S Work, Prtoviding Ideas And Starting Points For Scholars And Students.

the calcutta chromosome: Science Fiction, Imperialism and the Third World Ericka Hoagland, Reema Sarwal, 2014-01-10 Though science fiction is often thought of as a Western phenomenon, the genre has long had a foothold in countries as diverse as India and Mexico. These fourteen critical essays examine both the role of science fiction in the third world and the role of the third world in science fiction. Topics covered include science fiction in Bengal, the genre's portrayal of Native Americans, Mexican cyberpunk fiction, and the undercurrents of colonialism and Empire in traditional science fiction. The intersections of science fiction theory and postcolonial theory are explored, as well as science fiction's contesting of imperialism and how the third world uses the genre to recreate itself. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here.

the calcutta chromosome: The Future of Postcolonial Studies Chantal Zabus, 2014-11-20 The Future of Postcolonial Studies celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of The Empire Writes Back by the now famous troika - Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin. When The Empire Writes Back first appeared in 1989, it put postcolonial cultures and their post-invasion narratives on the map. This vibrant collection of fifteen chapters by both established and emerging scholars taps into this early mapping while merging these concerns with present trends which have been grouped as: comparing, converting, greening, post-queering and utopia. The postcolonial is a centrifugal force that continues to energize globalization, transnational, diaspora, area and queer studies. Spanning the colonial period from the 1860s to the present, The Future of Postcolonial Studies ventures into other postcolonies outside of the Anglophone purview. In reassessing the nation-state, language, race, religion, sexuality, the environment, and the very idea of 'the future,' this volume reasserts the notion that postcolonial is an anticipatory discourse and bears testimony to the driving energy and thus the future of postcolonial studies.

the calcutta chromosome: History, Narrative, and Testimony in Amitav Ghosh's Fiction Chitra Sankaran, 2012-03-12 This is the first collection of international scholarship on the fiction of Amitav Ghosh. Ghosh's work is read by a wide audience and is well regarded by general readers, critics, and scholars throughout the world. Born in India, Ghosh has lived in India, the United Kingdom, and the United States. His work spans genres from contemporary realism to historical fiction to science fiction, but has consistently dealt with the dislocations, violence, and meetings of peoples and cultures engendered by colonialism. The essays in this volume analyze Ghosh's novels in ways that yield new insights into concepts central to postcolonial and transnational studies, making important intertextual connections and foregrounding links to prevailing theoretical and speculative scholarship. The work's introduction argues that irony is central to Ghosh's vision and discusses the importance of the concepts of testimony and history to Ghosh's narratives. An invaluable interview with Amitav Ghosh discusses individual works and the author's overall philosophy.

the calcutta chromosome: Subaltern Vision Aparajita De, Amrita Ghosh, Ujjwal Jana, 2012-01-17 Ever since the Gramscian notion of the subaltern became the lynch-pin of the counter-hegemonic project developed by the Subaltern Studies group in the early 1980s, attempts to give voice to India's unrepresented or under-represented classes have played a

the calcutta chromosome: *Amitav Ghosh's Culture Chromosome* , 2021-11-01 An Indian Bengali by birth, Amitav Ghosh has established himself as a major voice in what is often called world literature, addressing issues such as the post-colonial and neo-colonial predicaments, the plight of the subalterns, the origin of globalisation and capitalism, and lately ecology and migration. The volume is therefore divided according to the four domains that lie at the heart of Ghosh's writing practice: anthropology, epistemology, ethics and space. In this volume, a number of scholars from all over the world have come together to shed new light on the works and poetics of Amitav Ghosh according to the epistemic frameworks that form the bedrock of his fiction. Contributors: Safoora Arbab, Carlotta Beretta, Lucio De Capitani, Asis De, Lenka Filipova, Letizia Garofalo, Swapna Gopinath, Evelyne Hanquart-Turner, Sabine Lauret-Taft, Carol Leon, Kuldeep Mathur, Fiona Moolla, Sambit Panigrahi, Madhsumita Pati, Murari Prasad, Luca Raimondi, Pabitra Kumar Rana, Ilaria Rigoli, Sneharika Roy, John Thieme, Alessandro Vescovi.

the calcutta chromosome: *Do Metaphors Dream of Literal Sleep?* Seo-Young Chu, 2011-01-15 In culture and scholarship, science-fictional worlds are perceived as unrealistic and altogether imaginary. Seo-Young Chu offers a bold challenge to this perception of the genre, arguing instead that science fiction is a form of "high-intensity realism" capable of representing non-imaginary objects that elude more traditional, "realist" modes of representation. Powered by lyric forces that allow it to transcend the dichotomy between the literal and the figurative, science fiction has the capacity to accommodate objects of representation that are themselves neither entirely figurative nor entirely literal in nature. Chu explores the globalized world, cyberspace, war trauma, the Korean concept of han, and the rights of robots, all as referents for which she locates science-fictional representations in poems, novels, music, films, visual pieces, and other works ranging within and without previous demarcations of the science fiction genre. In showing the divide between realism and science fiction to be illusory, *Do Metaphors Dream of Literal Sleep?* sheds new light on the value of science fiction as an aesthetic and philosophical resource—one that matters more and more as our everyday realities grow increasingly resistant to straightforward representation.

the calcutta chromosome: *Scores* John Clute, 2016-11-24 For more than 50 years John Clute has been reviewing science fiction and fantasy. As *Scores* demonstrates, his devotion to the task of understanding the central literatures of our era has not slackened. There are jokes in *Scores*, and curses, and tirades, and apologies, and riffs; but every word of every review, in the end, is about how we understand the stories we tell about the world. Following on from his two previous books of collected reviews (*Strokes* and *Look at the Evidence*) this book collects reviews from a wide variety of sources, but mostly from *Interzone*, the *New York Review of Science Fiction*, and *Science Fiction Weekly*. Where it has seemed possible to do so without distorting contemporary responses to books, these reviews have been revised, sometimes extensively. 125 review articles, over 200 books reviewed in more than 214,000 words.

the calcutta chromosome: *The Ghosts Within* Janna Odabas, 2018-11-09 The ghost as a literary figure has been interpreted multiple times: spiritually, psychoanalytically, sociologically, or allegorically. Following these approaches, Janna Odabas understands ghosts in Asian American literature as self-reflexive figures. With identity politics at the core of the ghost concept, Odabas emphasizes how ghosts critically renegotiate the notion of 'Asian America' as heterogeneous and transnational and resist interpretation through a morally or politically preconceived approach to Asian American literature. Responding to the tensions of the scholarly field, Odabas argues that the literary works under scrutiny openly play with and rethink conceptions of ghosts as mere exotic, ethnic ornamentation.

the calcutta chromosome: *Challenging Euro-America's Politics of Identity* Jorge Luis Andrade Fernandes, 2008-01-07 In this fascinating book, Jorge Luis Andrade Fernandes critically examines the impact of colonialism and postcolonial migration on the politics and identity of Euro-American imperial powers. It considers how 'outsiders' are part of the construction of the 'native' identity of the nation-state, and also how they challenge its essential coherence when they 'return' to the centre in our increasingly globalized world. Engaging in a theoretically-motivated discussion of a

range of sources (film, fiction, political theory and state policy); the volume traces the nomadic movement of bodies across national frontiers, helping us to question any natural link between nation-states and identities, and between places and peoples. This is not merely a theoretical problem, as Fernandes relates it to the very current crisis of nativistic / multicultural identity in the West. He examines how politics takes shape in transnational social and cultural encounters, and how this new politics is not just about containing aliens, but also contains fruitful possibilities for different modes of being. Challenging Euro-America's Politics of Identity will be of interest to advanced students and scholars in politics, geography, postcolonial studies, cultural studies, African and African-American studies, comparative literature, American studies, and Ethnic studies.

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