

Speculation, Gender and the Utopian Turn in Contemporary Women's Dystopian Literature



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Core Research Question

- I have 3 RQ's but I want to discuss this today:
- “How are sexual politics and gender difference represented in the Anthropocene?”
- Research (World Health Organisation 2003; research by Neumayer and Plumper 226) suggests women are more adversely effected by climate change than men.

Unpicking the Title: Context

- Speculative Fiction
- Dystopian
- Utopia and Utopian Turn

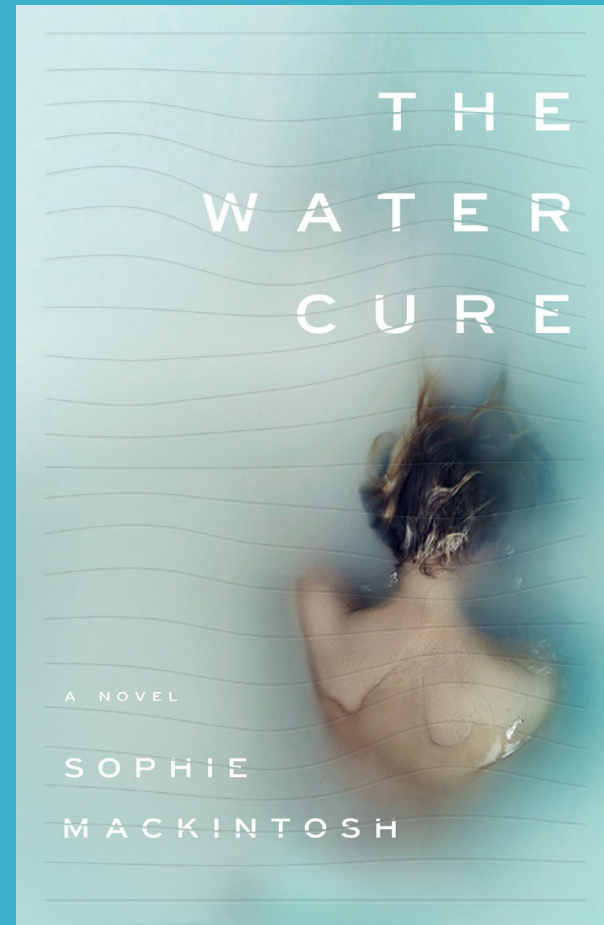
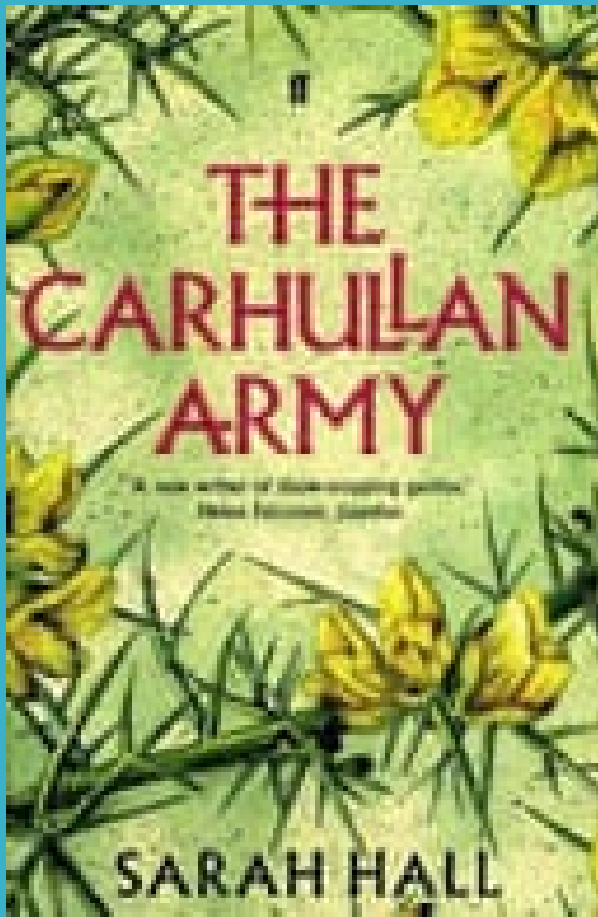
My Thesis

- 7 texts in question are all examples of speculative, science fiction written by women.
- Speculating on the future of humanity pre, during and post Anthropocene

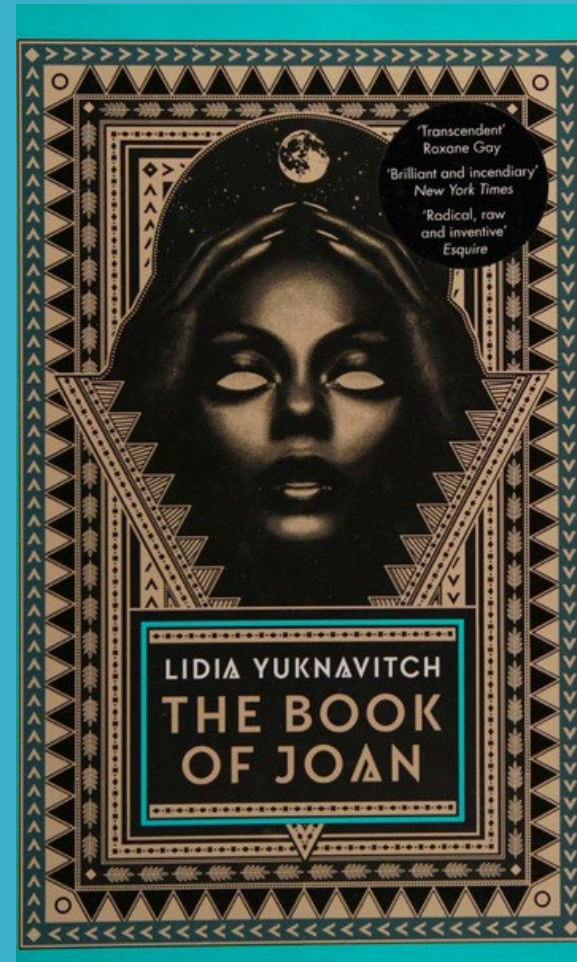
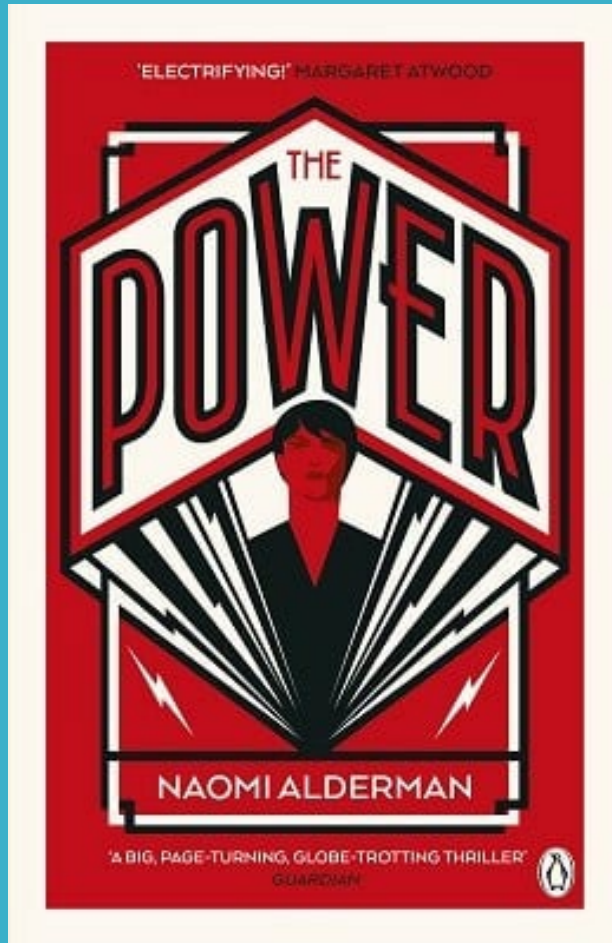
Findings in relation to core RQ

- Contemporary women writers are using a multitude of themes and narratives to draw attention to the combined oppression of women and degradation of the environment
- Whilst women protagonists are attempting to offer a utopian resistance to revolt/change the dystopian state in question, it is often complicated by a number of factors

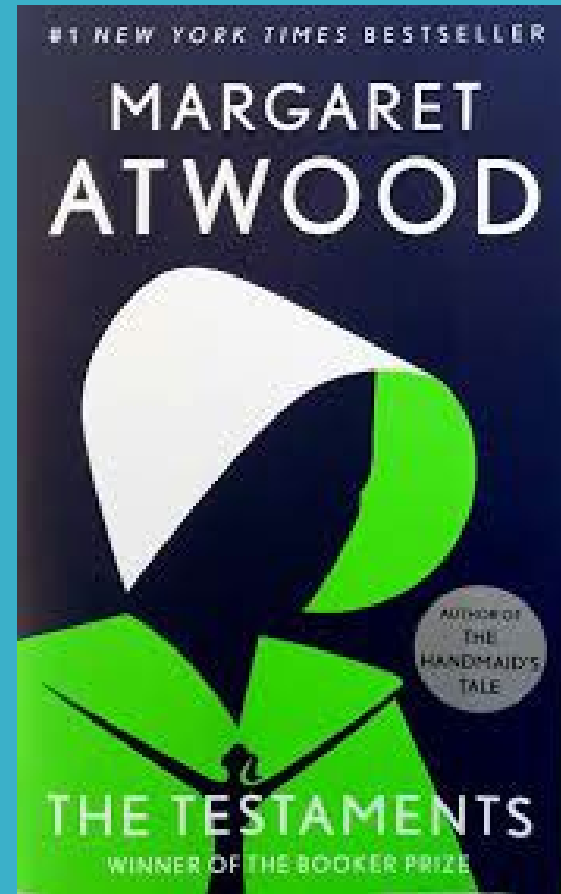
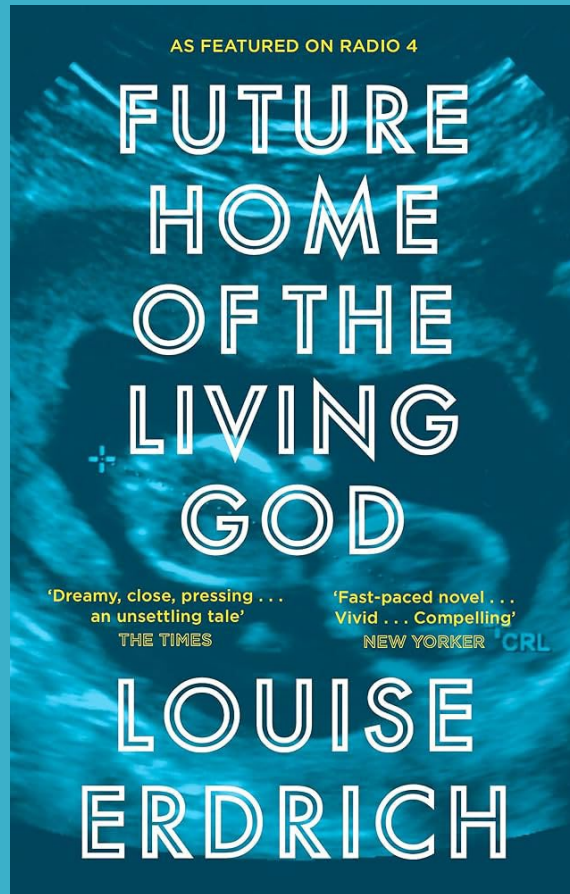
Textual Analysis



Textual Analysis



Textual Analysis



Conclusion

- More complicated than previously thought
- Gender differences are more exacerbated the more the dystopia tightens its grip
- The utopian turn is still depicted and attempts at change are made - but ultimately proved fruitless

Bibliography

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MacGregor, Sherilyn. “Gender and climate change: from impacts to discourses.” *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region* 6, 2 (2010): 223-238.

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Questions?