



# **Academy of Distinguished Researchers Distinguished Speaker Series**

## **“Understanding Fiction Science”**

**Featuring**

**Dr. Eric Link**

**Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
University of North Dakota**

# UTSA ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHERS SPEAKER SERIES



**Eric Carl Link, Ph.D.**

Provost and Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

University of North Dakota

Thursday, April 7, 2022

4:00-5:00pm

UTSA Main Campus

Business Building, 2nd Floor, 2.06.04

## Understanding Science Fiction

In this illustrated talk, "Understanding Science Fiction," audiences will be introduced to the field of science fiction film and literature. During this talk, Dr. Eric Link will answer the question what is science fiction? and talk about the language of science fiction, including such concepts as alloplastic and autoplasic societies, alterity, the novum, distance markers, and cybernetics. He will discuss the impact of contemporary technological ideas such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and the technological singularity hypothesis on modern science fiction, and give a tour through many of the most common science fiction plot structures, from the alien contact story to the alternative history to the dying-earth scenario. Dr. Link's lecture concludes with a brief introduction to mind and career of one of the greatest twentieth-century science fiction writers, Philip K. Dick, with special attention paid to his short story "The Electric Ant."













## Academy of Distinguished Researchers Lecture Series

Eric Link, Ph.D.  
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs  
University of North Dakota

"Understanding Science Fiction"



2.06.12-2