

**The Rhetoric of the Science Fiction Film  
in Utopian and Dystopian “Worlds in Collision”<sup>1</sup>:  
*The Matrix Tetralogy (1999, 2003, 2003, 2021) and Transcendence (2014)***

Ileana JITARU  
Ovidius University of Constanta

**Abstract:** *The present paper investigates figural techniques and features of the sci-fi genre in The Matrix Tetralogy (The Matrix / The Matrix Reloaded / The Matrix Revolutions / The Matrix Resurrections) – directors Andy Wachowski and Lana Wachowski (1999, 2003, 2003, 2021) – and Transcendence (director Wally Pfister, 2014), in which the film medium becomes an intermediation of dystopian / utopian worlds. The focus will lie on film techniques (mise en scene, cinematography, editing, sound) as poetics of the science fiction film able to intermediate a hyperreality.*

**Keywords:** *dystopian / utopian films, science-fiction, hyperreality, the Matrix*

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<sup>1</sup> “Worlds in collision” is a phrase coined by Russian astronomy researcher Immanuel Velikovsky in his book *Worlds in Collision*, published in 1950. The phrase is used to argue that the order in our planetary system is disturbed, and that cataclysms occur from the collision of stellar bodies in the universe.