



# **An Afrofuturist Connection to Critical Thinking and Climate Change**

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**25th Conference of the Atmospheric Science Librarians International**

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# Critical Sociological Thinking

- **refers to the logical approach for evaluating issues while maintaining awareness of social, cultural, political, and economic contexts**

# Sociological Imagination

- **“the ability to connect what is happening in your own life and the lives of other individual to social patterns in the larger society” (Korgen and Atkinson 2021:6)**
- **concept developed by C. Wright Mills (1959)**
- **provides platform for critical sociological thinking to occur**

# Afrofuturism

- **term coined by Mark Dery in his “Black to the Future” essay**
- **“speculative fiction that treats African-American themes and addresses African-American concerns in the context of twentieth-century technoculture - and, more generally, African-American signification that appropriates images of technology and a prosthetically enhanced future” (Dery 1994:180)**
- **“an intersection of imagination, technology, the future, and liberation” (Womack 2013:9)**

# *Parable of the Sower*

- **published in 1993 with Octavia Butler predicting many issues affecting present-day United States**
- **set between 2024-2027 in dystopian society; events are both speculative and historical; Laura Olamina is main character in the novel and story is told from her perspective as recorded in her diary entries; she grows up in walled community named Robledo**
- **in book, the United States falters from effects of climate change (e.g., wealth inequality, homelessness, lack of water, decreased access to education, drug addiction epidemic, refugee crisis, emergence of corporate towns, classism, sexism, racism, nationalism)**
- **Butler tackles climate change issue through Laura's hyperempathy, the push to embrace change, taking action, and recognizing that there is strength in numbers (Stories for Earth Podcast 2019)**



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