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### **“Sci-Fi Waste Spaces as Incubators for Uncanny AI”**

Humans effectively ‘other’ and marginalize their waste spaces. This designation as a forgotten, othered, alternate place has inspired sci-fi writers to (re-)present dumps as sites of subversion in the otherwise ordered fabrics of their secondary worlds. One facet of this othering I will discuss in my paper are the presentations of these spaces as incubators for new, and often dangerous, posthuman forms of life. In the *Doctor Who* episode *The Doctor’s Wife* (2011, written by Neil Gaiman) we encounter a waste space that gave rise to artificial intelligence. This AI came into being without any direct human intervention, thus subverting any creator’s myths humanity might cling to, but it also created itself out of the (technological and organic) material of the dumps, giving what human society deemed waste a new purpose – a process that even includes the reanimation of corpses. My claim is that the totality in which this and other AIs rethink the potential value of waste material accessible to them is radical, uncanny and challenging to human sensibilities, especially in regard to humanity’s relationship to natural/technical resources. Theoretical underpinnings will be based on theories by Julia Kristeva, Henri Lefebvre and Marco Armiero.