

**TECHNO GENETRIX: SHAMANIZING THE NEW FLESH
- CYBORGS, VIRTUAL INTERFACES AND THE VEGETABLE MATRIX IN SF**

by

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I declare that

TECHNO GENETRIX: SHAMANIZING THE NEW FLESH – CYBORGS, VIRTUAL INTERFACES AND THE VEGETABLE MATRIX IN SF is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

(MR JP CARSTENS)

DATE

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines the figures of the shaman and the cyborg, arguing that both act as intermediaries between the organic world of bodies and the artificial world of culture and machines. Using the sf of Robert Holdstock, David Zindell and Kathleen Ann Goonan as starting points, new forms of embodiment in the context of the cyborg and the shaman's shared narrative of radical boundary dissolution are critically and imaginatively examined. Throughout this thesis, the works of Deleuze and Guattari, Sadie Plant, Manuel De Landa, Erik Davis, Donna Haraway, Terence McKenna, and other speculative theorists who operate at the nexus of technological culture and the shamanic imagination serve as guidelines.

KEYWORDS

Shaman
Cyborg
Technology
Science-fiction
Holdstock
Zindell
Goonan
Boundary-dissolution
Posthumanism
Embodiment