

# BIOENGAGEMENT

The promise and perils of advances in technology, science, and medicine have long been fertile fodder for creative works in literature and cinema. Consequently, a variety of resources exist exploring the realm of medical humanities as well as those providing in-depth analysis of a given cultural medium or particular artifact. This column seeks to offer a more

expansive listing of contemporary expressions of bioethical issues in the popular media (fiction, film, and television)—with minimal commentary—to encompass a wider spectrum of popular culture. It will be of value to educators and others for conversations in the classroom, over a cup of coffee, at a book club, or around the dinner table. Readers are cautioned that

these resources represent a wide spectrum of genres and content, and may not be appropriate for all audiences. For more comprehensive databases of the various cultural media, please visit our website at [cbhd.org/resources/reviews](http://cbhd.org/resources/reviews). If you have a suggestion for us to include in the future, send us a note at [research@cbhd.org](mailto:research@cbhd.org).

## BioFiction:



Larry Niven, *The Ringworld Series*

*Ringworld* (Ballantine, 1970).

*The Ringworld Engineers* (Phantasia, 1980).

*The Ringworld Throne* (Del Ray, 1997).

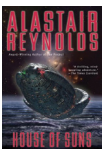
*Ringworld's Children* (Tor Books, 2005).

*Fate of Worlds* with Edward Lerner (Tor Science Fiction, 2013).

*Artificial Intelligence, Neuroethics, Radical Life Extension, Regenerative Medicine.*



James Patterson, *Humans, Bow Down* (Little, Brown and Company, 2017). *Artificial Intelligence, Personhood, Robotics.*



Alastair Reynolds, *The House of Suns* (Ace, 2009). *Artificial Intelligence, Cloning, Neuroethics, Posthumanism/Transhumanism, Radical Life Extension.*



Jeff Somers, *The Avery Cates Series*

*The Electric Church* (Orbit, 2007).

*The Digital Plague* (Orbit, 2008).

*The Eternal Prison* (Orbit, 2009).

*Artificial Intelligence, Cyborgs, Cognitive Upload, Human Enhancement, Nanotechnology, Neuroethics, Personhood, Radical Life Extension, Transhumanism/Posthumanism.*



Dystopian future vision of emerging technologies run amok, complete with nanotech zombie epidemics, cognitive uploading, and a religion espousing digital immortality. The series follows Avery Cates as he transitions from run-of-the-mill killer-for-hire to international assassin to washed-up criminal embroiled in a battle for the future and survival of humanity.



Ned Vizzini, *Be More Chill* (Disney-Hyperion, 2005). *Human Enhancement, Cognitive Enhancement, Neuroethics.*

Jeremy is your classic high school student struggling with self-esteem. Enter Rich, someone who until the not so distant past was just like Jeremy, but now is the epitome of cool. The secret to Rich's transformation is a black market pill ("squip") that he promises will solve all of Jeremy's problems by means of a little brain boosting.

## Primetime Bioethics:



*Agents of Shield* (2016, Season 4). *Artificial Intelligence, Cyborg, Human Enhancement, Neuroethics, Personhood, Radical Life Extension, Transhumanism/Posthumanism, Virtual Reality.*



*Altered Carbon* (2018-present). *Artificial Intelligence, Cyborg, Human Enhancement, Neuroethics, Radical Life Extension, Regenerative Medicine, Transhumanism/Posthumanism, Virtual Reality.*



*Dark Matter* (2015-present). *Artificial Intelligence, Genetic Engineering, Human Enhancement, Nanotechnology, Personhood, Robotics.*



*Luke Cage* (2016-present). *Human Enhancement, Research Ethics, Transhumanism.*