

# Terminology

## General



Figure 1: (Mladen Penev)

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| OPriv        | An environment with total surveillance.   |
| Abridor      | Opener, someone allowing people to change community. Originally denoting people who enabled people to join the internationalists.   |
| Badlang      | The broken "international English" used as a lingua franca.   |
| Bazaar       | Pseudo-adhoc project, organized according to the openware principles developed in the late 00's.  |
| Bellrider    | Someone who arrived in space in a porcelain bell, a first generation space colonist.  |
| Biark        | Slang for an arcology.  |
| Bugcatchers  | Ecodefence teams stopping doodlebugs (flying plasmid spreaders), infected animals and other vectors for Dragon expansion. Used as a generic term for anybody in security. |
| Cred         | Ones money and credibility - the same thing   |
| Dataraja     | A member of the exile Indian/internationalist elite.  |
| Infovore     | Person or group consuming large amounts of data.  |
| Inter        | Short for internationalist (or interplanetarist). Someone opposed to nationalist.   |
| Ipsographers | People using life recording.  |
| Ipsography   | Life recording, using worn, swarming or environmental devices   |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
|                   | to record and document every moment of life. The data is stored in an encrypted ipsogram.   |
| Koch              | Something ordinary, uninteresting, standard. After the ubiquitous bland Koch Tronic fabbing blueprints.   |
| Malintent         | Generic term for antisocial, criminal or terroristic intentions.  |
| Metamanagement    | Coordination management, the business of coordinating independent organisations and people efficiently (sometimes without them knowing). The basis for most internationalist projects. Metametamanagement, M3, is increasingly common.  |
| Napster           | A kidnapper or other criminal using digital means to remain untraceable. Rare these days, but often used in stories to scare children ("If you don't patch, a napster will take you!")  |
| Nat               | A nationalist, a national organisation or something national. Opposite inter.   |
| Nolang            | People who have never really learned to speak a language, since they rely on translation software.  |
| Ordnung           | The rules for living in a habitat (not necessarily legally enforced, but with strong social power).   |
| Oversea           | Exiled people now part of the internationalist or interplanetarist community.   |
| Paraprax          | Set of consistent technologies, lifestyles and cultures.  |
| Phurti            | Speed, acceleration, skill, the state of being on the cutting edge  |
| Phylactology      | The science of counter-espionage. As the old global cryptoinfrastructure has fallen apart, secrets these days are stored and processed in numerous strange ways – and equally strange espionage has become possible. This has produced a thriving business in secrecy maintenance.  |
| Ponic             | Something or someone cultured in a tank or artificially. Can be positive or negative depending on context.  |
| PSD               | Phoenix Space Development. The main internationalist corporation to colonize space.   |
| Recule            | Someone who has been ostracized from a strict habitat.  |
| Retenaut          | Somebody exploring the nets.  |
| Rev               | To review something.  |
| Rumspringa        | Young people from many isolationist habitats are given the option to visit the outside world and sample it; usually they return firmly convinced in the goodness of their own habitat. Even non-isolationist habitats encourage youngsters to go on a walkabout to see the world, but here the aim is to ensure that they get a sufficiently broad view that they can participate in the greater society. |
| Seppo             | Australian slang for Americans; in the Upback it has expanded to denote internationalists, Earth nationalists or any kind of annoying non-Australian, non-Japanese.   |
| Spam              | Opportunistic evolving code, the bane of big software systems after the Spamocalypse.   |
| Spamocalypse, the | The disastrous expansion of the Dragons onto the Net, producing destructive spam and massive communications breakdowns.   |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Tecnoemocional      | South American term for people with the “hardtech mindset” – Europeans, spacers, almost anybody not from the tropics. Tecnoemocionales lack the organic, sensual heartfelt connection to the living infrastructure of the world as the speaker claims. |
| Unicorn             | An arctic isolationist community or someone from there. The name comes from the Unicorn Group, an attempt to build an Antarctic refuge in the 2040’s.  |
| Three Saviours, the | The three religious leaders of South America, revered by the New Church as incarnations of Christ.   |
| TTP AI              | Trusted Third Party AI. An automated notary ensuring that a digital identity or contract is correct and registered, but also that all parties involved will remain as anonymous as they wish to be.  |

## Spacer Jargon



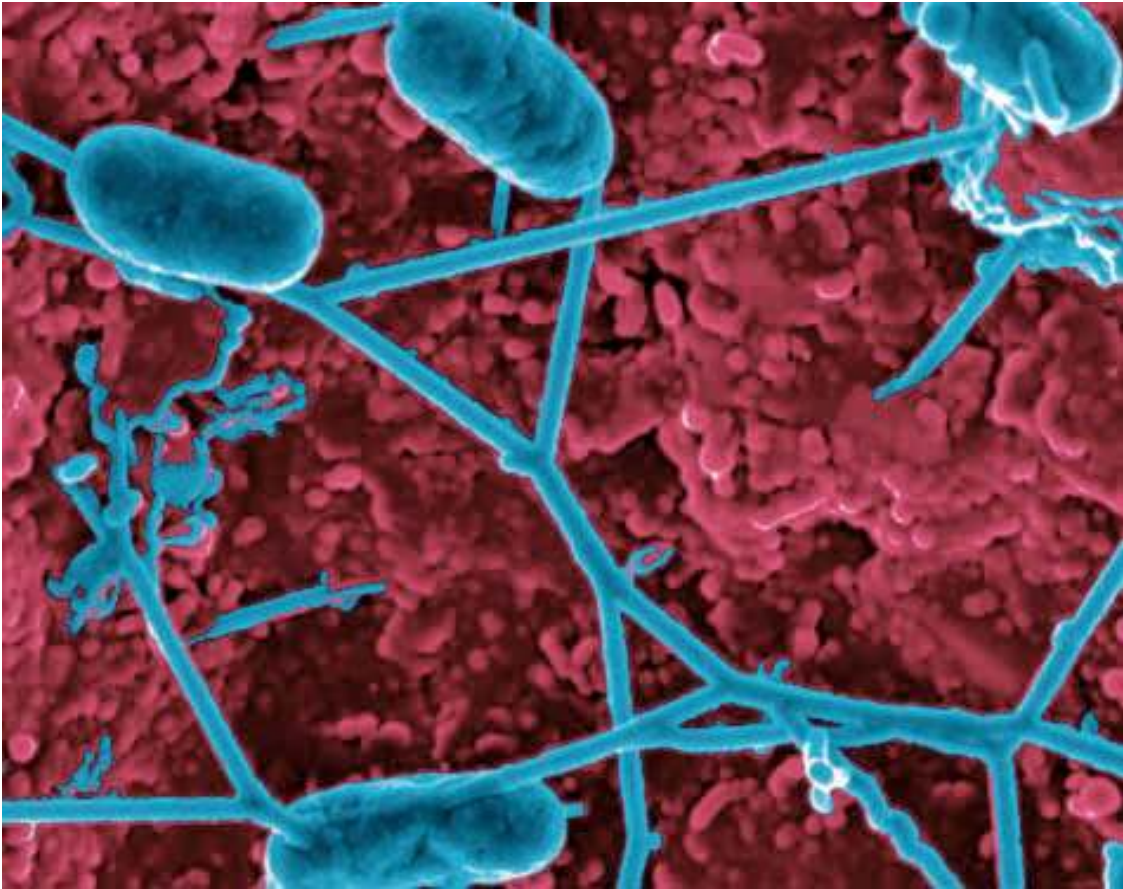
Figure 2 (NASA)

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Acrimonious weather | Risk for a solar flare. From the term ACRIM: ACR Irradiance Monitor, an instrument used to study the sun's energy output.   |
| Adam Henry          | Phonetic alphabet for "ass hole".   |
| Aerobrake           | To change orbit by moving through the upper reaches of a planetary atmosphere.  |
| All-hands meetings  | A staff meeting where all personnel are expected to attend. Has become a term for the (often virtual) conferences held in smaller habitats to make joint decisions. |
| Ape                 | Human. "We will have to send an ape in a can to fix it, it is outside telepresence range"   |
| Apogee              | The best. The greatest.   |
| Banp                | A communication satellite. From "bandwidth provider".   |
| Bird                | A shuttle or other atmospheric vehicle.   |
| Borex               | Boring, repetitive work.  |
| Bottle habitat      | A cylindrical habitat rotating inside a protective "bottle" of radiation shielding.   |
| Bravo sierra        | Bull Shit.  |
| Cato                | Old rocketry lingo for catastrophic failure. These days softened as   |

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
|                                  | a general-purpose curse among spacers.   |
| Cislunar space                   | The space between Earth and Luna, loosely defined as anything above LEO and LLO but within the Earth/moon sphere of influence.   |
| Clarkeville                      | GEO (after Sir Arthur C. Clarke)   |
| Counterspinwards                 | ("counter") In the opposite direction of a habitats rotation. Corresponds to terrestrial west.   |
| Delta-v                          | Change in velocity. The big issue in all space transport. Used in many other expressions: "I think we can get enough delta-v to convince the neighbourhood committee."   |
| Dirtside                         | On Earth (or the Moon). Sometimes called Dirtyside.  |
| Driftabout                       | A local constellation-hopping vehicle.   |
| Earthside                        | Habitats orbiting Earth.   |
| GEO                              | Geostationary orbit.   |
| Halo                             | The antennas, sensors, junk, industrial units and equipment lying around a major habitat.  |
| HELL                             | High Energy Laser Launch, a method of launching space vehicles using large laser arrays evaporating ice underneath. Usually called "lightships" or "lightbridge" by marketers.   |
| HEO                              | High Earth Orbit. Used for all orbits with long semimajor axis, even if the perigee is close to Earth.   |
| High Warble                      | Unduly agitated. ("Our teacher went into high warble when he found out about the spacesuit hack")  |
| Ignition cities                  | Places where offworld transport is (or was) available mid-century. Quite soon they always attracted a shantytown of people looking for a way out. The most famous is Korolevgrad in the Baikonur republic, although Lompoc was larger. |
| LEO                              | Low Earth Orbit. Inhabitants sometimes call themselves Lions.  |
| Lithobreaking                    | (joking) To aerobrake by hitting the ground, to crash.   |
| LLO                              | Low Luna Orbit.  |
| LOX                              | Liquid oxygen, a common fuel and safety hazard.  |
| Lunaside                         | Habitats orbiting Luna.  |
| Micmet                           | Micrometeor. Used for small but potentially troublesome things. "Acquiring the patent for the AUX-5 is a micmet; the owner is rather troublesome."   |
| NEO                              | Near Earth Object.   |
| NERVA                            | Nuclear Engine for Rocket Vehicle Application. Generic name for nuclear rockets, even when not based on the old designs.   |
| North                            | In habitats the direction parallel to the rotation axis that is to the left of spinwards.  |
| Not all his thrusters are firing | Not thinking clearly.  |
| Orbicrud                         | The ubiquitous junk and growths that hide behind panels and elsewhere that cannot be removed.  |
| Orbit hack                       | A clever series of manoeuvres to get to a target destination fast or cheaply. Generally used to denote any roundabout social technique or intrigue ("She orbit hacked herself into the student council").                              |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| OTA                 | Orbital Transport Authority. Organization regulating space travel and use.   |
| Phasing             | Adjusting the position of a craft along its orbit in order to dock. Used as spacer slang for seduction attempts ("She was phasing him").   |
| Porcelain bell      | Cheap, easily manufactured laser-powered spacecraft used during the great emigration mid-century.  |
| PP                  | Polluter Pays. Principle for space debris, but also social rule in most habitats: if you mess things up, you fix it.   |
| Red rads            | A region of high radiation. Red rad rock was a music style popular in space in the 2080's, today returning as a nostalgic style among 30-somethings.   |
| Reentry             | To re-adapt to home after spending extended time elsewhere.  |
| Sitrep              | How are you doing? From the old term "situation report". ("Sitrep, Henry!")  |
| Solar wind          | Hot air, bullshit, something of no importance despite appearances.   |
| South               | In space habitats the direction parallel to the rotation axis that is to the right of spinwards.   |
| Sphere of influence | The volume of space where the gravity of a body dominates over all others, controlling the orbital dynamics. The sphere of the Moon is 66,000 km in radius, located inside the 925,000 km Earth sphere. Used as a term for the volume of space around a habitat it regards as "private", usually 20 km |
| Spinwards ("spin")  | In the direction of a habitats rotation. Corresponds to terrestrial east.  |
| Starscraper         | A skyscraper that goes down through the hull of a rotating habitat, allowing the view of space.  |
| Underside, the      | In bottle habitats there is a space between the rotating section and the radiation shield. This is rarely visited and usually a place for junk, low-maintenance industry or reserve supplies. It is also a good hiding place.  |
| Walkabout           | To do an EVA, usually using telepresence.  |
| Yellow diamonds     | Urine. Refers to descriptions of how vented waste fluids during 20 <sup>th</sup> century missions froze into scintillating "yellow diamonds". Now used jokingly: "His speech was brilliant. Like yellow diamonds!"   |

## ***Neogenetics and Dragons***



|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Drones      | Semi-independent beings grown by the Dragons to manipulate the external world, spread spores or defend them. Sometimes used as an insult against Voices or Hosts.   |
| AM node     | A network of altered neural tissue around the olfactory bulb and midbrain of Hosts that enable them to detect, interpret and send neogenetic plasmids.  |
| Antiblue    | The synesthetic experience many Hosts experience when in contact with Dragon materials or strong plasmid clouds.  |
| Blight, the | Neogenetic “ultradisease” infecting and killing <b>all</b> unprotected life.  |
| Champagne   | A vector containing the “dragon pearl”, usually an injected saline solution. Named after the first outbreak of Hosts after champagne from Zone C was spread worldwide.  |
| Dracocide   | Properly, the act of killing dragons, but since there are no individual dragons to kill it refers to activities to prevent dragon infections. Also used for the chemical or nanotechnological mixtures used against dragons, dragon infections or plasmides. They were extremely toxic and dangerous. “This drink is pure dracocide”. |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Dragon bloom  | When Dragon plasmids infiltrate an ecosystem and suddenly begin converting all biomass into a dragon castle. This is usually lethal for anything affected.   |
| Dragon castle | A construction grown by the Dragons to house centralized processing. It is similar to an organic island, containing neural tissue supported by a whole ecosystem of servant biologicals.   |
| Dragon pearl  | The plasmid that triggers the development of the AM-growth, possibly turning them into a Host.   |
| Dragonhacking | Attempts to influence, subvert or kill Dragons using neogenetics (so far largely futile). Also used to denote the persistent hacking the Dragons seem to engage in against human bio- and info-systems.  |
| Dragons       | The entities that appear to have introduced life on Earth. Up until recently they existed within a slow organic internet in the lithoautotrophic bacterial ecosystems. When they tried to “upload” into the current biosphere they caused the emergence of the Hosts as well as dragon blooms. |
| Gaar          | Somali term for somebody touched by the Dragons; used across Africa to denote the Infected.  |
| Gimp          | Slang for GMP. “Seen any gimps?”   |
| GMP           | Genetic Macrosymbiotic Phenomena. The mid-century scientific term for the Dragons and related neogenetic lifeforms that are composed of living cells coordinated through the exchange of lotus plasmids.   |
| GMNA          | Germline modifying neogenetic agent. A plasmid altering the sex cells so that the next generation expresses whatever the GMNA designer wishes.   |
| Hit, the      | The crisis that occurs as the AM-growth begins to produce plasmids that affect the immune system. During the course of a few days autoimmune reactions and tumours may develop.  |
| Host          | Someone with an AM node. Hosts can “sniff out” plasmids and genetic information, process it and alter it.  |
| Immunity      | A deliberately limited form of the neogenetic self-defence of Hosts and Dragons that allows immunized organisms to resist being altered by plasmids. There exist several different forms, with subtly different properties and political implications.   |
| Infected      | Somebody who has been exposed to virulent plasmids from a Dragon, Host or other source. Infected organisms may be outwardly normal, but could express hidden neogenetic programs under the right circumstances.  |
| Judaslife     | Genetically modified life intended to buffer dragon zones. Special trapdoor genes allows it to rapidly kill itself (and hence anything the dragons built out of it) when given a chemical signal.  |
| Lotus plasmid | Small fragments of DNA that are readily absorbed by living cells and cause the activation of neogenetic programs.  |
| Negenics      | Shorthand for neogenetics.   |
| Neogene, the  | The current era  |
| Neogenetics   | Biological modifications based on the “backdoors” the Dragons  |



|             |  |
|-------------|--|
|             | created in the genome of terrestrial life.   |
| Noses       | Derogatory slang for Hosts, based on their smelling abilities.   |
| Old Dragons | The dragons in the lithosphere, slowly communicating using only neogenetics. Often regarded as a different "faction" or "species" from the "Young Dragons" on the surface.   |
| PanPac      | The negene industrial infrastructure created by the New Church, in particular its local community centers.   |
| Plasmid     | The genetic programs/messages exchanged by the Dragons and used by Hosts and neogenetic technology to change biology. They are not really plasmids, but the name has stuck.  |
| Roots       | The AM-growth. The name is based on the appearance: root like protuberances on the ventral side of the brain.  |
| Voices      | Shorthand for Voice of the Dragons, humans who have voluntarily allied with the Dragons. Most are radically changed and no longer anything like human, but a few are able to bridge the gap and act as ambassadors for them. |
| Zone C      | The Champagne dragon zone.   |

## Technology



Figure 3: (Sebastien Weirinck)

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Atramentum   | Nanotattoo ink. Originally a trademark for Windseeker Cosmotronics, but it has become generic in the Lunar habitats. Atramentum is increasingly being used in other organisms than humans, making them interactive. |
| Bibo         | Biobot, a programmed cell, organic nanomachine or artilife. Sometimes called an org.  |
| Bitek        | Biotechnology, especially the kind used to build macroscopic things.  |
| Café server  | A form of anonymity server, widely emplaced by the internationalists. Numerous derivatives exist – restaurant servers, brasserie servers, coffeshop servers, kafana algoirthms, mangakissa software etc.            |
| Dreamblob    | Neurocomputer used to simulate or “dream” complex systems and environments. Used to run virtual environments and characters.  |
| Fabbing      | To manufacture something using a minifactory, 3D printer, assembler or industrial tree.   |
| Fabrefaction | The act of creating something that can be fabbed.   |
| Fish         | A translation device.   |
| Gardeviance  | A portable case of claytronic, artilife or other technology that can  |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
|                | be turned into or make useful things.   |
| Jobler         | A robot for small tasks, such as fetching things, cleaning or minor repairs.  |
| Maya           | The virtual overlays of enhanced reality. "Show me it in maya".   |
| Microfac       | Microfactory, a flexible automated workshop or assembler machine that can produce a wide array of goods.  |
| Netwhale       | A neurocomputer used to sift through the Net with associative pattern recognition.  |
| Raman          | A portable chemscanner used to check what is in a substance or food.  |
| Recompiled     | Organisms whose genome has been altered to be immune to neogenetic influence. They can only reproduce with each other (assuming they were altered in the same way). |
| Robot warren   | A collection of robots (or telepresence devices) and their "home base" with repair facilities, recharge and control software.                                       |
| Robot warrener | A keeper of a robot warren.   |
| Stinger        | Microwave beam used to stimulate pain. Used as a nonlethal weapon.  |
| Syntronic      | Someone with part of their brains "outsourced" to external tissue tanks, connected using a neural interface.  |

## Japanese



Figure 4

Boke

Airhead, a stupid person (or more often) AI. The term comes from Manzai comedy; the “straight man” counterpart tsukkomi is sometimes used as a term for talkative AI that constantly corrects errors.

Magatama

A comma or droplet-shaped stone, a traditional protective amulet in Japan. Modern magatama are personal firewalls with emergency software, AI links etc.

Yamato nadeshiko

A flower, *Dianthus superbus*, known as a ‘fringed pink’ in English. Yamato nadeshiko signifies a kind of ideal traditional Japanese woman. Virtues include loyalty, domestic ability, wisdom, security consciousness and humility.