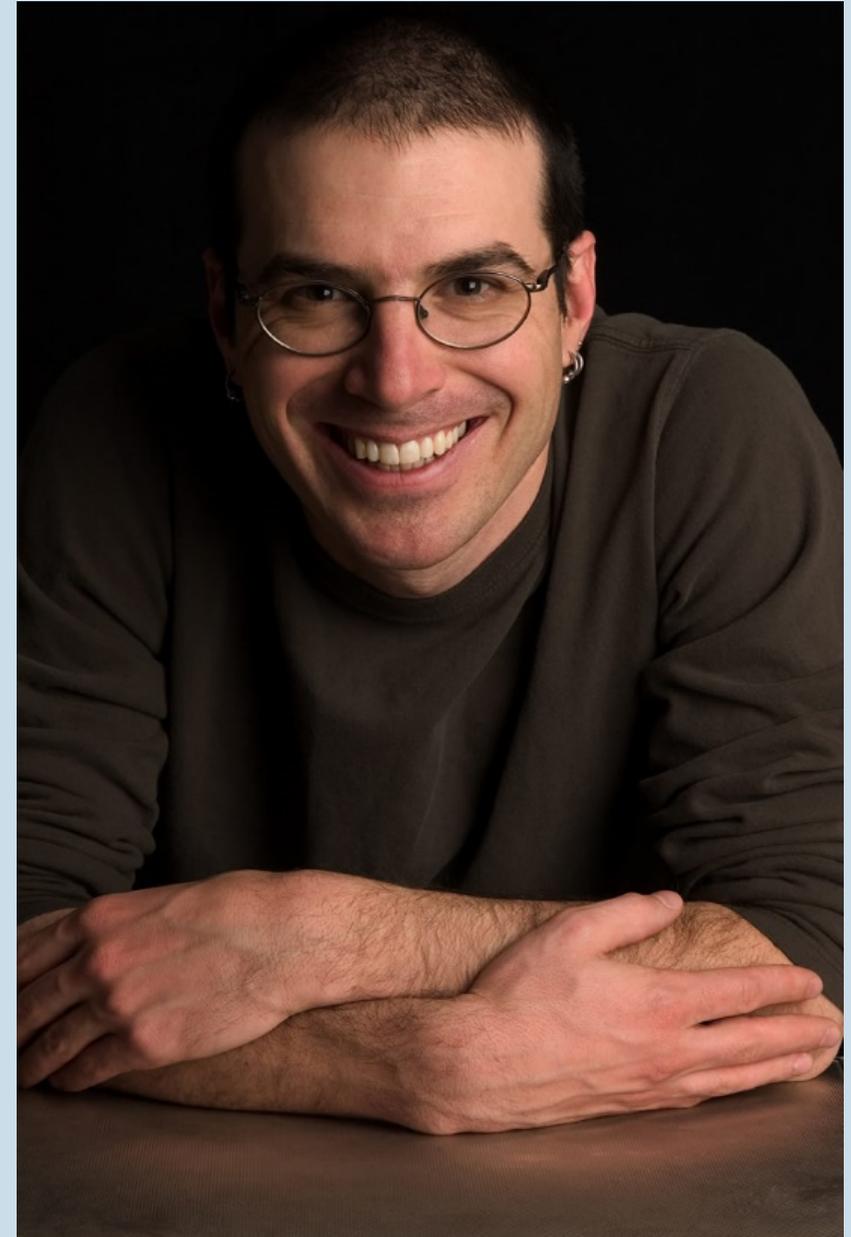


# Paolo Bacigalupi

born 1972

“Bacigalupi, an occasionally cold writer who deals with warm worlds, is one of the few contemporary authors who seems capable of telling tales of how we will live soon”

- “The Calorie Man” (2005)
- *Pump Six and Other Stories* (2008)
- *The Windup Girl* (2009)
- *Ship Breaker* (2010)
- *The Drowned Cities* (2012)
- *Zombie Baseball Beatdown* (2013)
- *The Doubt Factory* (2014)
- *The Water Knife* (2015)



most of Bacigalupi's work is unremittingly set in a world of radical Climate Change, where environmental collapse and economic turbulence malignly interact, a planet whose dire condition is the central occupational hazard of the various protagonists who try to make a living in the swelling ruins

- [sfencyclopedia.com](https://sfencyclopedia.com)

It's been a long time since SF has seen a novel this stimulating and challenging. ... I find Bacigalupi's world so ... vivid, ... absorbing and immediate. It isn't accessible right away. You have to work for this book's rewards. But once you're in, Bacigalupi's storytelling is never less than electric, and his characters — human or windup — develop a real connection to the reader that keeps them from being overwhelmed by the obsessively detailed worldbuilding. This is a debut far more striking than *Neuromancer*, and it showers Paolo Bacigalupi's career with promise. Wind him up and watch him go.

- Thomas M. Wagner, [sfreviews.net](http://sfreviews.net)

*The Windup Girl* is a story about colonialism, independence, mysticism and ethics, sex and loyalty, and the opposing forces of greed and empathy. Filled with complex and flawed characters who must struggle to overcome their failings, *The Windup Girl* has no easy or pat answers, but rather charges the reader to summon empathy for imperfect humans who fail as often as they succeed.

But *The Windup Girl* is also an exciting story about industrial espionage, civil war, and political struggle, filled with heart-thudding action sequences, sordid sex, and enough technical speculation for two lesser novels.

Bacigalupi shows every sign of becoming one of sf's major talents, if he isn't already.

- Cory Doctorow, [boingboing.net](http://boingboing.net)

# How To Feed the World After Climate Change

Genetically modified seeds aren't enough. We have to change the entire agricultural system.

By Mark Hertsgaard



There are limits to how technology can help post-climate change agriculture.

Photograph courtesy San Luis Obispo County, Calif., Department of Agriculture

On Thursday, April 12, **Future Tense**, a partnership of **Slate**, the New America Foundation, and Arizona State, will host a live event in Washington, D.C. on the future of food. "Feeding

My daughter was born into what I call Generation Hot—the 2 billion young people worldwide who will spend the rest of their lifetimes coping with the hottest, most volatile climate human civilization has ever known. Agriculture, it turns out, is one of the few tricks humanity still has up its sleeve to avoid the unmanageable and manage the unavoidable of climate change. Let's not squander it.

-Mark Hertsgaard



# S. MATTHEW LIAO

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## Human Engineering and Climate Change

22

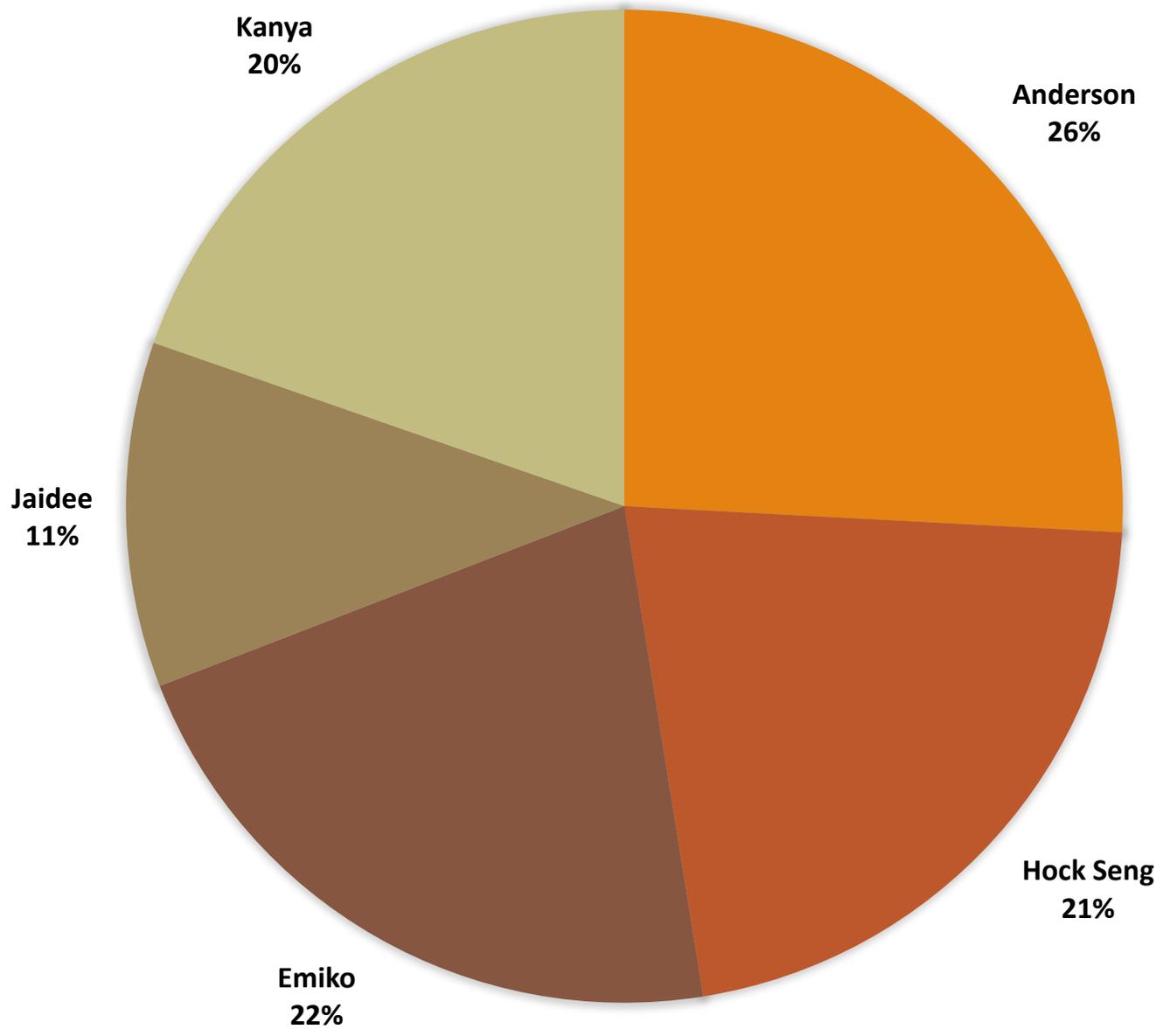
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Anthropogenic climate change is arguably one of the biggest problems that confront us today. There is ample evidence that climate change is likely to affect adversely many aspects of life for all people around the world, and that existing solutions such as geoengineering might be too risky and ordinary behavioural and market solutions might not be sufficient to mitigate climate change. In this paper, we consider a new kind of solution to climate change, what we call human engineering, which involves biomedical modifications of humans so that they can mitigate and/or adapt to climate change. We argue that human engineering is potentially less risky than geoengineering and that it could help behavioural and market solutions succeed in mitigating climate change. We also consider some possible ethical concerns regarding human engineering such as its safety, the implications of human engineering for our children and for the society, and we argue that these concerns can be addressed. Our upshot is that human engineering deserves further consideration in the debate about climate change. [Ethics, Policy and the Environment 15 (2) 2012: 206-221, with Anders Sandberg and Rebecca Roache] [[pdf](#) | [html](#)]

In this paper, we consider a new kind of solution to climate change, what we call human engineering, which involves biomedical modifications of humans so that they can mitigate and/or adapt to climate change. We argue that human engineering is potentially less risky than geoengineering and that it could help behavioural and market solutions succeed in mitigating climate change.



## *The Windup Girl* – key themes for discussion

- **Multiple perspectives:** how does this affect our reading and our understanding of the book's world?
- **World-building:** what's new in this world, big and small?
  - Biotech – transportation – politics, etc
- **Timeline:** how far into the future? How can we tell?
- **Bioengineering:** pros and cons
- **Wind-ups / New People:** comparisons? Similarities?
- **Globalism:** international trade and isolationism
- **Race and nationality:** conflicts between groups
- **Religion:** traditional and new
- **Gibbons:** “We are nature”