

# THE SOCIETY FOR UTOPIAN STUDIES

## 2013 CALL FOR PAPERS

### *Utopia and Freedom*

#### 38th Annual Meeting

Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina

November 14-17, 2013

The Society for Utopian Studies invites you to submit abstracts for any of the following:

- a paper (between 15-20 minutes): a 150-250 word abstract summarizing the paper
- a pre-constituted panel that consists of a title, designated Chair, and an abstract for each of three, related papers (150 words minimum abstract/paper)
- an informal roundtable panel on a topic (e.g., 3 presenters, or a presenter and 2 or 3 respondents): 250 word abstract defining the roundtable panel
- a presentation or performance of creative work on any topic related to utopia: a 150 words abstract summarizing the presentation

Scholars and artists are encouraged to present on the intersections between freedom and Utopia. On this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation we welcome papers that analyze the meaning of utopic freedom and the potential limits to that freedom. As the history surrounding the Proclamation suggests, utopian visions of freedom are often multi-vocal and conflicted. We thus encourage participants to explore the contradictions surrounding invocations of freedom on a variety of topics, from the earliest utopian visions to the speculations and yearnings of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century.

We welcome papers from a diversity of disciplines that explore utopian and dystopian thought and practice: including art, architecture, geography, history, literature, music, film and new media, political science, rhetoric, sociology, theory and philosophy, and urban and rural planning.

Possible paper/panel topic ideas to spur the imagination:

- Is freedom the primary ideal with which Utopia must engage?
- What are the different modes of freedom present in literary and communitarian utopias?
- What has historically blocked or currently forecloses the creation of Utopia?
- What of free enterprise and free market utopian/dystopic visions?
- What is the future of critical race studies? How and where can the study of utopia intersect with critical race studies?
- How can scholars analyze the relation of place (a.k.a. Charleston) in relation to larger political and historical narratives/discourses of state/nation?
- Where does the study of utopia transgress field and/or genre boundaries (in literature, criticism, architecture, art)? We encourage cross-boundary thinking: new media artists, writers, and scholars who broach fields in tracing utopian thought.

**For the first time, we will be opening up the SUS website for online proposal submission. The website will go live on April 1, 2013. Please submit a 150-250 word abstract by June 15, 2013 on the SUS 2013 Conference website: <http://utopian-studies.org/conference2013/>**

As you submit your abstract, please check/highlight the appropriate categories below, so that we can construct the most viable panel situations. Please include this cover document with your paper/panel/roundtable proposal.

- a need for an **Overhead Projector**
- **any scheduling restrictions** that require shift in panel times
- a need for a **written letter of acceptance** of your proposal, or whether an e-mail acceptance will suffice.

Changes in the time and date of your panel will *not* be possible after panels are scheduled; requests for AV will not be honored unless you submit them with your original abstract. The individual conference rooms will *not* possess WIFI, although the lobby and hotel rooms will have access. Please construct your presentation accordingly.

**For inquiries about the program or if you have any issues with the online submission process**, please e-mail Dina Smith, [dina.smith@drake.edu](mailto:dina.smith@drake.edu)

**For information about registration, travel or accommodations**, please contact the Conference Coordinator, Claire Curtis, [curtisc@cofc.edu](mailto:curtisc@cofc.edu). The **Francis Marion Hotel** is in the heart of Charleston, SC. Located across from Marion square, the location provides easily walkable (or bike taxi!) access to excellent restaurants and historic sights of Charleston.

**For inquiries about the SUS website or online proposal submission**, please contact our Web Developer, Jill Belli, [support@utopian-studies.org](mailto:support@utopian-studies.org)