



Annual Meeting Program

Doubletree Downtown Memphis

Memphis, TN

November 9-12, 2017

2017 Conference Schedule

THURSDAY—November 9, 2017

Registration 8:30am-5:00pm

Continental Breakfast 8:00-10:00

Utopian Studies Editorial Board Meeting (**Room**) 10:00-11:00am

SUS Steering Committee Meeting (**Room**) 11:15am-12:45pm

SESSION 1 1:00pm-2:30pm

1A: Workshop for Students and Beginning Scholars

Chair: Lyman Tower Sargent (University of Missouri-St. Louis)

Presenter 1: Gregory Claes (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Presenter 2: Lyman Tower Sargent (University of Missouri-St. Louis)

1.B: Indigeneity and Utopia

Chair:

Paper 1: Jennifer Wells (CIIS), “Revisionist Pasts and Restorative Futures: Grace in Ursula K LeGuin’s *A Wizard of Earthsea*”

Paper 2: Cordelia Barrera (Texas Tech University), “Utopic Dreaming on the Borderlands: Indigeneity and Heterotopia in Yuri Herrera’s *Signs Preceding the End of the World*”

Paper 3: Marija Isailovic (VU University Amsterdam), “Transformative Power of Adat in the Struggle for Hegemony”

1.C: Dystopian Futures, Past and Present

Chair:

Paper 1: Sonja Fritzsche (Michigan State University), “The Transformative Power of Play in Johanna and Günter Braun’s *Conviva Ludibundus*”

Paper 2: Rahime Cokay Nebioglu (Middle East Technical University), “Mapping the Minoritarian Politics in Dystopia”

Paper 3: Diana Palardy (Youngstown State University), “Utopian/Dystopian Transhumanism in Elia Barceló’s ‘Mil euros por tu vida’ (A Thousand Euros for Your Life)”

Break (Lobby III)

2:30pm-2:45am

SESSION 2

2:45pm-4:15pm

2.A: Roundtable Discussion: Teaching Dystopian Texts in Dystopian Times

Chair: Ellen Rigsby (Saint Mary's College of CA)

Presenter 1: Amber Foster

2.B: Domesticity and Utopia

Chair:

Paper 1: Justin Nordstrom (Penn State Hazleton), “Eutopian Desires and Dystopian Anxieties: American Cooking in the 1920s”

Paper 2: Laticia Chapman (Independent Scholar), “Imagining Motherhood in Precarious Times”

Paper 3: Mark Brand (Wilbur Wright College), “Bring your Child to the End of the World: The Austerity Parent in Contemporary Video Games”

2.C: Exoticism and Otherness

Chair:

Paper 1: Heather Snell (University of Winnipeg), “‘This Culture is Always Reaching for a Pure Lyric Moment’: Finding Utopia in Chris Abani’s *Graceland*”

Paper 2: Nicholas Serruys (McMaster University), “Initiation, Invasion and Genocide: Bernard Assiniwi’s *The Beothuk Saga*”

Paper 3: Elisabetta Di Minico (Independent Scholar), “The ‘Other’ in Comics: Race, Gender, Sexuality and Politics in Superhero Worlds”

Break (Lobby III)

4:15pm-4:30am

SESSION 3

4:30pm-6:00pm

3.A: Early Modern Utopian Thought

Chair:

Paper 1: Erin Dolgoy (Rhodes College), “Moderation for the Age of Excess: Francis Bacon’s (Anti)Utopianism”

Paper 2: Clint Jones (Morehead State University), “A Landlubber's Paradise: Piracy as Utopian Experiment and Experience”

Paper 3: Bradley Young (City University of New York, Graduate Center), “Vulnerability and Difference: Revisiting Erasmus on Friendship”

3.B: Teaching Utopia

Chair:

Paper 1: Damon Franke (USM Gulf Coast), “A Utopic Survey of Literature Course”

Paper 2: Carrie Hintz (Queens College/CUNY and The Graduate Center/CUNY), “Cognitive Approaches to Children's Literature: Implications for Utopian Studies”

Paper 3: Allyson Marino (Saint Leo University), “Teenage Wastelands: Love, Sex, and the Apocalypse”

Paper 4: Elizabeth Schreiber-Byers (Ball State University), “*Bildung* as Eutopian Construct”

3.C: Creative Utopias

Chair:

Paper 1: Tracey Clement (University of Sydney), “Can Art Beat the Dystopian Blues?”

Paper 2: Ruth Dusseault (Georgia Tech), “Ecotopia”

Paper 3: Seyedhamed Moosavi (Independent Scholar), “Cinema Today: Art or Danger? A Discussion of Dystopia and its Relation to Cinema and the Concept of American Celebrity”

Dinner On Your Own *****

FRIDAY—November 10, 2017

Registration 7:30am-5:00pm

Continental Breakfast (Lobby III) 7:00am-8:30am

SESSION 4 8:30am-10:00am

4.A: Southern Eutopias

Chair:

Paper 1: Rachael Mariboho (University of Texas at Arlington), “‘We’s Who the Earth is For’: Communal Survival in Beasts of the Southern Wild”

Paper 2: William Thompson (University of Memphis), “Creating a Perfect Society on the Mississippi: the Invitation serieuse aux habitants des Illinois of 1772”

Paper 3: Clifford Manlove (Penn State Greater Allegheny), “Slaveocracy and Slavetopia: The Utopian Aims of the American Slave Dystopia”

4.B: Roundtable: Trump As Apocalyptic Trickster

Chair: Kenneth Roemer, University of Texas at Arlington

Presenter 1: Claire Curtis (College of Charleston)

Presenter 2: Peter Sands (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

4.C: Justice, Crime, and Punishment in Utopias

Chair:

Paper 1: Michael Ardoline (University of Memphis), “The Justice to Come: Meillassoux and the Use of Utopias for Contemporary Ethics”

Paper 2: Amandine Faucheux (Louisiana State University), “Ceci N’est Pas une Utopie: Utopianism and Crime and Punishment”

Paper 3: Rebekah Locke (University of Memphis), “Heroes or Villains?: A Lockean Approach to Justifying Vigilantism”

Break (Lobby III)

10:00am-10:15am

SESSION 5

10:15am-11:45am

5.A: Utopian Plasticities

Chair: Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor (Penn State University)

Presenter 1: Phil Wegner (University of Florida), “‘The Becoming Essential of the Accident, and the Becoming Accidental of the Essence’: The Economy of Speculative Automatism in Jo Walton’s Thessaly Trilogy”

Presenter 2: Christian Haines (Dartmouth College), “Utopia Hurts: Thinking Through Destructive Plasticity”

Presenter 3: Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor (Penn State University), “Utopian Anticipations, Utopian Generations”

5.B: Reconfiguring Learning and Laboring as Utopian Play

Chair: Francesco Crocco (Excelsior College)

Presenter 1: Rachel Collins (Arcadia University), “Pedagogical Play in the Utopian Classroom: A Case Study”

Presenter 2: Nichole Stanford (Independent Scholar), “Teaching toward Utopia: Pedagogy of Dissent”

Presenter 3: Francesco Crocco (Excelsior College), “The Players Utopia: Life, Labor, and Learning after Capitalism”

5.C: Utopia in Memphis

Chair:

Paper 1: Ethan Bumas (New Jersey City University), “Elvis Island”

Paper 2: Alex MacDonald (Campion College University of Regina), “W.C. Handy’s ‘Beale Street Blues’ and the Utopian Imagination”

Paper 3: Lj Russum (Polk State College), “Mania in Memphis”

Lunch On Your Own: 11:45am-1:15pm

SESSION 6

1:15pm-2:45pm

6.A: Race and Utopia I

Chair:

Paper 1: Burcu Kuheylan (Independent Scholar), “The Kindness of Strangers Revisited: Race, Immigration and the Contested Site of Childhood in P.D. James’s *The Children of Men*”

Paper 2: Anne Gessler (University of Houston–Clear Lake), “Tracing Community and National Identity within the Civil Rights-Era New Orleans Cooperative Movement”

Paper 3: Cheryl Coulthard (Texas A&M), “Amiri Baraka’s Kawaida Ideology: Black Power, Black Utopia and Challenges for Black Masculinity”

6.B: Utopia and Apocalypse I: Cultural Traces

Chair: Gib Prettyman (Penn State Fayette)

Presenter 1: Naomi Jacobs (University of Maine), “Enchanted Castles at the End of the World: Shadows of Domesticity in Post-Apocalypse”

Presenter 2: Mark Jendrysik (University of North Dakota), “Mighty Fortresses Against a New Dark Age: The Benedict Option as Utopian Expression”

Presenter 3: Martina Sciolino (University of Southern Mississippi), “Before, During and After: Ecofeminist Utopia in Margaret Atwood’s Maddaddam Trilogy”

6.C: Conflict, Catastrophe, and War

Chair:

Paper 1: Casey Jergenson (Loyola University Chicago), “The Utopianism of Margaret Atwood’s MaddAddam Trilogy”

Paper 2: Ryan Joyce (Tulane University), “A ‘Prophetic Vision of the Past’: Édouard Glissant’s Maroon Utopianism”

Paper 3: Andrew Byers (Independent Scholar), “War and Utopia”

6.D: Artistic Representations of Utopia and Dystopia

Artist 1: Edie Overturf (University of Minnesota), “Tales of the Absolute and Preposterous”

Artist 2: L. Lamar Wilson(The University of Alabama), “Burden Hill’: Finding Utopia Amid White Nationalist Terror”

Artist 3: Jennifer Ustick (University of Cincinnati), “I’m Floating In a Beam of Light With You”

Break (Lobby III)

2:45pm-3:00pm

SESSION 7

3:00pm-4:30pm

7.A: Utopia and Society

Chair:

Paper 1: Howard Kurtz (Southwest Oklahoma State), “Teaching Sociology through Utopian Thought”

Paper 2: Matthew Wilson (Ball State University), “Victorian Sociology, Trade Unionism and Utopia: A Social Programme for an Ideal Republic. The Positivist sociology of Frederic Harrison”

Paper 3: Samantha Campbell (Duquesne University), “Sowing the Seeds of their Demise: The Blithedale Romance and Failed Utopianism”

Paper 4: Holden Karnofsky (Independent Scholar), “Which Utopias Have Broad Appeal?: Using Opinion Polling to Test Utopian Visions”

7.B: Utopia and Apocalypse II: Posthuman Stories

Chair: Naomi Jacobs (University of Maine)

Presenter 1: Gib Prettyman (Penn State Fayette), “Utopia, Apocalypse, and Narrative Cognition”

Presenter 2: Peter Sands (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), "Inoculating Against the Postapocalypse: Walkaway and New York 2140"

Presenter 3: Daniel Schack (Wright State University), "Survival is Insufficient: Artistic Production in the Post-Apocalypse"

7.C: Race and Utopia II

Chair:

Paper 1: Clarence Tweedy (University of Mary Washington), "The Trumpets of Afrotopia: John Williams, James Baldwin, Chester Himes Resisting Dystopia through Violent Subjectivity"

Paper 2: John Torrey (University of Memphis), "Post-Racial America Is A Nonexistant Utopia"

Paper 3: Md Abdur Rahim (Kean University), "Embedded Anti-Semitism in Radical Extremism Utopia"

Break (Lobby III)

4:30pm-4:45pm

SESSION 8

4:45pm-6:15pm

8.A: Technotopia

Chair:

Paper 1: Kimberly Hale (Coastal Carolina University), "'Time to Write My Own F***ing Story': Reclaiming Feminine Agency in HBO's *Westworld*"

Paper 2: Beate Rodewald (Palm Beach Atlantic University), "Our Second Selves: Robots, Androids and the Mapping of Humanity"

Paper 3: Tyler Womble (University of Alabama in Huntsville), "Automation, Androids, and the Real Subsumption of the Body: Social Transformation and Biopower in *Westworld* and Humans"

8.B: The Politics of Utopia

Chair:

Paper 1: Claire Curtis (College of Charleston), “Identity and Class in Utopian Imagining and Political Prognostication: A Dialogue”

Paper 2: Hoda Zaki (Hood College), “Safe Spaces, Active Citizenship and the Public Interest: The League of Women Voters and the Performance of Democracy”

Paper 3: C. Wylie Lenz (Florida Polytechnic University), “Notes on Trump-Era Resistance and Amazon Wishlists”

Paper 4: Ellen Rigsby (Saint Mary's College of CA), “The Lingering of 9/11 in Homegrown Terrorist Narratives of Popular Culture Texts”

8.C: Historical Utopian Visions

Chair:

Paper 1: Don Corrigan (Webster University-St. Louis), “Utopian Visions from 1904 in St. Louis”

Paper 2: Mark Jendrysik (University of North Dakota), “Communities of Total Commitment: The Utopian Legacy of Plato and Sparta”

Paper 3: Francesca Russo (University Suor Orsola Benincasa), “The Utopia of the Perfect City in the Early Renaissance Italian Culture: Venice as a Myth and As a Reality”

Paper 4: Christian Montague (University of Memphis), “Hegel and Socialization”

Reception: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Please join us for informal discussion, get reacquainted with familiar colleagues, and meet new ones.

SATURDAY—November 11, 2017

Registration 7:30am-5:00pm

Continental Breakfast (**Lobby III**) 7:00am-8:30am

SESSION 8 8:30am-10:00am

8.A: Utopia and Ideology

Chair: Crystal Bartolovich (Syracuse University)

Presenter 1: Antonis Balasopoulos (University of Cyprus), “Conrad, Ideology and Utopia”

Presenter 2: Phillip E. Wegner (University of Florida), “Reading for Utopia; or, The Event of the New Criticism and the Fate of The Republic”

Presenter 3: Crystal Bartolovich (Syracuse University), “Species Being as Utopia in the Anthropocene”

8.B: Reevaluating Utopia in U.S. Literary Representations of the African Diaspora

Chair: Edward Chan (Waseda University)

Respondent: Justin Nordstrom (Pennsylvania State University, Hazleton)

Presenter 1: David Lemke (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), “The Illusory Promises of Freedom: Frederick Douglass and the Utopia of Liberation”

Presenter 2: Jeffrey Tucker (University of Rochester), “Utopianism, Anti-utopianism, and Cultural Appropriation: Mike Resnick’s *Kirinyaga*”

Presenter 3: Julie Fiorelli (Loyola University Chicago), “Race and Utopia in Mat Johnson’s *Pym*”

8.C: Utopian Reflections on Religion and Faith

Chair:

Paper 1: Lyman Tower Sargent (University of Missouri-St. Louis), “Religion in Late Twentieth and Early 21st Century U.S. Utopianism”

Paper 2: Mark Allison (Ohio Wesleyan University), “Utopian Cognition: George Eliot, Beatrice Webb, and the Concept of ‘Emotive Thought’”

Paper 3: Karl Hardy (Queen's University), “The Present Moment as Utopia: Mindfulness Meditation as Utopian Practice”

Break (Lobby III)

10:00am-10:15am

SESSION 9

10:15am-11:45am

9.A: Gender and Race in Utopias and Dystopias

Chair:

Paper 1: Alexander Hall (Kent State University), "Reactivating Atwood: Hulu's LGBTQ-infused Adaptation of *The Handmaid's Tale*"

Paper 2: Samadrita Kuiti (University of Connecticut), "Tainted Sisterhood: The Specters of Class, Religion, and Colonialism in Rokeya Hossain's Two Feminist Utopias"

Paper 3: Daniel Abitz (Georgia State University), "Lillian Jones Horace's Five Generations Hence and its Place in U.S. Women's Utopian Literature Canon"

Paper 4: Mark Tabone (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), "Utopia at Home in Toni Morrison's *Home*"

9.B: Highlighting Race in/and Utopia

Chair: Patricia Ventura (Spelman College)

Presenter 1: Patricia Ventura (Spelman College), "Thinking Through Race and Utopia"

Presenter 2: Charles W. Nuckolls (Brigham Young University), "Nineteenth Century Utopianism and the Attempted Reform of a Native American Tribe: From Fourierist Social Experiment to Mass Murder"

Presenter 3: Jason Paolo Telles (University of the Philippines Baguio), "Through Indigenous Lenses: Ecotopia According to Igorot-Produced Music Videos"

Presenter 4: Edward K. Chan (Waseda University), "The White Nationalist Utopia and the Reproduction of Victimized Whiteness"

9.C: Utopia and Revolutionary Thought

Chair:

Paper 1: Gregory Claeys (Royal Holloway, University of London), “Utopia and Revolution: The Case of Karl Marx”

Paper 2: Csaba Toth (Carlow University), “‘Workers’ Commonwealth’: Utopian Elements in Syndicalist Theory and Practice”

Paper 3: Sean Connolly (Bluefield State College), “Neoliberal Utopia and the Frontier”

Paper 4: Paul Mazzocchi (York University), “The Utopia of Councils: Institution and Simulacra in Miguel Abensour”

Business Lunch: 11:45am-1:45pm (Location: TBD)

SESSION 10

2:00pm-3:30pm

10.A: Utopia in Design and Concept

Chair:

Paper 1: Sandjar Kozubaev (Georgia Institute of Technology), “Utopian Objects: Vannevar Bush’s Memex and Speculating with Things”

Paper 2: Can Mert Kökerer (The New School for Social Research), “Art and Politics in Freetown Christiania: Representing Discontent through Artistic Practice”

Paper 3: Patrick Schmidt (Macalester College), A More Perfect Utopia: Sustainability and 21st Century Danish Architecture

Paper 4: Robert Birdwell (Furman University), “Utopia as Essentially Contested Concept”

10.B: Science Fiction, Technology, and the Future

Chair:

Paper 1: Brian Greenspan (Carleton University), “Strange Cognitions: SF and the Metanovum”

Paper 2: Dayna Jeffrey (York University), “The Promise and Peril of Technology: Examined Through the Singularity Movement”

Name: Peter Marks (University of Sydney), “When Data Met Intimacy: Surveillance and Desire in Spike Jonze's *Her*”

10.C: Roundtable: Suvin Today

Chair: Hugh O'Connell (University of Massachusetts Boston)

Presenter 1: Philip Wegner (University of Florida)

Presenter 2: Robert Wood (Irvine Valley College)

Presenter 3: Patrick Whimmarsh (Boston University)

Presenter 4: Gerry Canavan (Marquette University)

Presenter 5: Jon Lewis (Troy University)

Break (Lobby III)

3:30pm-3:45pm

SESSION 11

3:45pm-5:15pm

11.A: Roundtable: Teaching Utopias in Dystopian Times

Chair: Etta Madden (Missouri State University)

Presenter 1: Etta Madden (Missouri State University)

Presenter 2: Anne Gessler (University of Houston-Clear Lake)

Presenter 3: Candis Pizzetta (Jackson State University)

Presenter 4: Peter Sands (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

11.B: Bibliographies in Utopian Studies

Presenter: Lyman Tower Sargent (University of Missouri-St. Louis)

11.C: Twenty and Twenty-First Century Dystopias and Anti-Utopias

Chair:

Paper 1: Thomas Horan (The Citadel), “‘Roger Who Carried Death In His Hands’: The Model of Modern Totalitarianism in William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies*”

Paper 2: Heather Bloor (Murdoch University), “Eden or Utopia: Images of Eternity in J. G. Ballard's *The Drowned World*”

Paper 3: Kelly Drumright (University of Colorado at Boulder), “Nightmarish Matriarchies in Interwar Reactionary Uchronias from Spain: *The Case of El paraíso de las mujeres* [Paradise of Women] (1922) by Vicente Blasco Ibáñez and *El archipiélago maravilloso: aventuras fantasmagóricas* [The Wondrous Archipelago: Phantasmagoric Adventures] (1923) by Luis Araquistáin”

Paper 4: Gerry Canavan (Marquette University), “After the Truth Is Finished with You: Behaviorism, *Infinite Jest*, and Utopia”

Dinner On Your Own

SUNDAY—November 12, 2017

Breakfast (<u>Lobby III</u>)	7:00am-8:00am
CLOSING REMARKS (<u>Lobby III</u>)	8:00am-8:30am