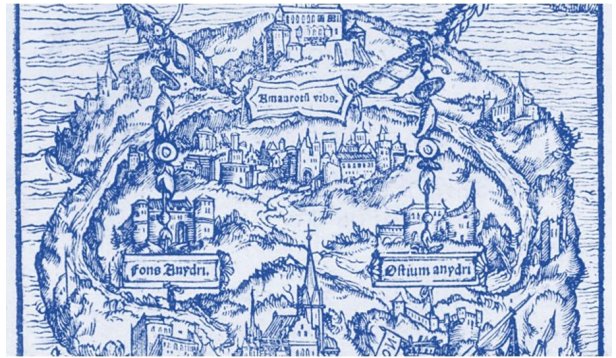


make



unmake



remake



The Society for Utopian Studies
45th Annual Meeting
November 10th-12th, 2022
Embassy Suites Charleston Historic District,
Charleston, SC

From the Conference Organizers:

Welcome to Charleston! We are excited to be finally gathering in person. We hope that all attendees will enjoy the chance to meet new people, share ideas, explore Charleston and enjoy what we hope will be a productive time.

We would like to thank Beth Byers, who aided us every step of the way: answering many queries, offering sage counsel, and creating the registration and membership systems that made the conference possible. Thanks as well to Pete Sands and Jill Belli for their timely assistance, and to the SUS steering committee for steady encouragement and advice.

Our theme “make, unmake, remake” offers us an opportunity to think about utopian studies in a way that stresses the process of reinvention, and the process of tearing down old and outmoded structures and ways of living in order to build anew.

It is appropriate to be exploring this theme in Charleston, a city familiar with a variety of forms of making, unmaking and remaking. From the many native groups that hunted and fished and lived on the land that is now the peninsula of Charleston, to the structures of the city built by enslaved laborers, to the destruction of hurricanes and war, Charleston is a city always in the process of being made, and reckoning with its violent and unjust past is part of that process. Today concerns about catering to tourists vs. meeting the needs of inhabitants intersect with sobering concerns over rising seas and racial and economic inequality.

We hope that the days of the conference, the papers and roundtables, the discussions and conversation, the meals and wanderings about time will prove to be fruitful for all of you,

Carrie and Claire

From the *Society for Utopian Studies* President:

Greetings and salutations, Utopists!

I started to write this with jokes and asides about Blursday and the loss of time and connection from the pandemic, but I tire even of those. In the past three years, if your academic life has been like mine, you've been to virtual conferences, maybe one or two in-person meetings as well, and have moved from in-person to virtual to hybrid to whatever-this-week-brings in both scholarly communities and local work. I've been teaching online or in networked classrooms since 1990, and, prepared and experienced as I am, this has been an unsettling and revealing ride.

But now, finally, we meet again. Mostly in-person. Mostly whole and ready to listen to each other.

I hope that this will be both a reboot—adding a new OS to our society's practices and experiences that builds on what has worked and what has not during the pandemic—and a return—to the congenial and generous space that the Society for Utopian Studies offered me when as a graduate student I finally gained the courage to present my work to an audience of knowledgeable peers, and that has nurtured me with personal and professional (mostly combined) relationships over more than three decades.

When I tell my students or relatives or that dude at the block party what I do, I focus entirely on the alternative. On the conditions and horizons of possibility. On the tantalizing glimpse of the what-might-be, the could-be-made, the might-could. You and I know that those interlocutors want to talk about the impossible. The perfect. The ideal.

But as we reconvene, raise a glass and break bread together, listen respectfully and curiously, celebrate each other's inquiries, I ask that you stand with me, face in the direction of possibility, and resolve to strike out together for what we might build.

The Society for Utopian Studies is now well into the second and third generations of scholars, communitarians, fellow-travelers, and all-round curious folk. Let's make something out of this meeting that flies, ambles, or otherwise moves in the direction of the alternative.

Pete Sands

Conference Logistics and Local Events

Covid Safety:

Thank you to everyone who reached out to us about Covid and flu safety during this conference. Your concern and care for the most vulnerable in our community means a great deal. With these health precautions in mind, we encourage you to stay masked for all indoor events, and to take advantage of the hotel's outdoor spaces for unmasked eating and drinking. All of our collective meals and events have been designed to facilitate outdoor gatherings and we have confidence that we will have wonderful opportunities for socializing and intellectual exchange.

Paperless Conference:

For environmental reasons, we have opted for a paperless conference, although a printable pdf version of the program will be provided. We will have a few paper copies of the program available at all times at the registration desk, as well as posted information about the sessions. You can also see daily breakdowns of the schedule on the conference website:

<https://utopian-studies.org/conference2022/>

AV Equipment:

Each of our conference rooms is fully equipped with Audio-visual equipment. Everyone should be able to use technology for presentations, including PowerPoint, streaming video, and sound. Please bring your own dongles and connectors if you want to use your own laptop.

Duties of panel chairs

Panel chairs have three primary duties:

- Introducing the panelists – it is up to you if you want to go beyond the information in the program. If you are feeling ambitious you could email your panel members prior to the conference.
- Monitoring the time – no one should be speaking for more than 20 minutes. Be sure to tell the people on your panel how you plan to alert them to the time remaining (two minute warning, one minute warning). Remember that if someone goes too much over time then others are going to end up with less time.
- Opening the discussion afterwards (and asking a question if things start quietly) – one way to avoid all questions going to the same person is to gather 2 or 3 questions and then have all the panelists respond. This only works if there are enough questions! It can be useful to ask a question that draws on commonalities across papers.

Local Activities During the Conference:

In addition to the planned events please note some other serendipitous opportunities this weekend:

The Kirsten Stolle exhibit at the Halsey Gallery

(<https://halsey.cofc.edu/main-exhibitions/only-you-can-prevent-a-forest/>). This is located a few blocks from the hotel at 161 Calhoun St.

The YALL Fest, celebrating young adult fiction is happening at the same time and has a number of author events (in addition the book store that organizes YALL fest is located nearby at 420 King St.

Restaurant scene

Charleston has so many excellent restaurants that it is hard to offer advice. What you will find on the conference website are two kinds of information: some general links to good restaurants and a constructed document that highlights places for easy lunch, where to eat outside, which directions to go and a variety of places at different price points/kinds of food. This is not exhaustive! In addition on Saturday morning the Charleston farmer's market will be taking place in the park (Marion Square) right outside our hotel doors.

Business Lunch reminder: We are offering boxed lunches with a variety of sandwich options for attendees to be eaten outside. The business meeting will begin inside at 12:30. Lunch will be available for pick up outside of our conference rooms at 11:30.

PROGRAM

SOCIETY FOR UTOPIAN STUDIES

CHARLESTON, SC

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2022

THURSDAY

Registration: Stairwell

Utopian Studies Advisory and Editorial Boards 11:00-12:00: Citadel North

Society for Utopian Studies Steering Committee 12:00-1:30: Citadel North

Session I 1:45-3:15

1.A. Looking Backward at *Daedalus*, Spring 1965 (Colonial East)

1.B. Nineteenth-Century Visions (Colonial West)

Session II 3:30-5

2.A. Finnish Utopian Communities: Paper and Documentary Screening (Colonial East)

2.B. On Modernity, Utopianism, and the University (Colonial West)

2. C. Slavery, Imperialism, Abolition, and Memory (Citadel North)

Session III 5:15-6:15

3. Keynote conversation (Colonial East)

Reception: Courtyard 6:15-8:30

FRIDAY

Embassy Suites Guest Breakfast 7:30-8:30

Session IV 8:30-10:00

4.A. Zombies! (Colonial East)

4.B. Interrogating Social Class and Labor (Colonial West)

4.C. Young Adult Dystopias: Cultural Contexts (Citadel North)

Session V 10:15-11:45

5.A. Making/Unmaking Utopian Possibilities Across Genres (Colonial East)

5.B. Emily St John Mandel (Colonial West)

5.C. Crosscurrents of Utopian-Socialist and Marxist Thought in America's Gilded Age (Citadel North)

Lunch on your own

Session VI 1:00-2:30

6.A. Genre and Utopia (Colonial East)

6.B. Utopian Thought (Colonial West)

6.C. The Child in Utopia (Citadel North)

Session VII 2:45-4:15

7.A. “Crafting Toward Utopia: Making and Unmaking with Zines” [Presentation and Demonstration] (Colonial East)

7.B. Always Renaming Utopian Studies: the Palgrave Handbook of Utopian and Dystopian Studies (Colonial West)

7.C. Dystopian Textualities (Citadel North)

Session VIII 4:30-6:00

8.A. Speculation in Time and Space (Colonial East)

8.B. Global Migrancy (Colonial West)

SATURDAY

Embassy Suites Guest Breakfast 7:30-8:15

Session IX 8:15-9:45

9.A. Utopian Themes in Michael Cummings, *Children's Voices in Politics* (Peter Lang, 2020) (Colonial East)

9.B. Despair, Hope, and Facing the Darkness (Colonial West)

Session X 10:00-11:30

10. A African American Literature, Utopian Studies, and Cultural Remaking (Colonial East)

10. B. Global Neoliberalism and the British Dystopia I (Colonial West)

10. C. Teaching Utopia (Citadel North)

Boxed lunch available for pick up at 11:30

12:30-1:30 Business Meeting (Colonial East/ West)

Session XI 1:45-3:15

11. A Queer and Intersectional Imaginings (Colonial East)

11.B. Solarpunk Futures: A Workshop for Utopian Remembrance (Colonial West)

11.C. Utopian Effects/Dystopian Pleasures: A Roundtable Discussion (Citadel North)

Session XII 3:30-4:45

12.A. Nourishing Utopia (Colonial East)

12.B. Utopia and Protest in Chile (Colonial West)

Session XIII 5:00-6:30

13.A. Global Neoliberalism and the British Dystopia II (Colonial East)

13.B. First Book Panel (Colonial West)

THURSDAY

Registration: Stairwell

Utopian Studies Advisory and Editorial Boards 11:00-12:00: Citadel North

Society for Utopian Studies Steering Committee 12:00-1:30: Citadel North

The Steering Committee meeting is open to all SUS members. If you would like to join by Zoom, please email susprogramchair@gmail.com for the link.

Session I 1:45-3:15

1. A. Looking Backward at *Daedalus*, Spring 1965 (Colonial East)

Chair: Scott Krawczyk, Georgetown University

Luisa Aleman Hernandez, Georgetown University, "Learning to Live: Minor Campus Utopias in the Anthropocene"

Kate Hilt: "Unmaking the Precincts: Police Abolition from Fiction to Action"

Joey Hiles: "Making Suburbia: From Utopia to Dystopia"

1. B. Nineteenth-Century Visions (Colonial West)

Chair: Elaine Ostry, SUNY Plattsburgh

Justin Chandler, Miami University, "Incorporated Selves: Looking Backward, Perspectival Captivity, and the Process of Utopia"

Jonathan Neufeld, College of Charleston, "'By Means Impossible to be Anticipated': Aesthetics and Democracy in *Benito Cereno* & *Billy Budd*"

Session II 3:30-5

2. A. Finnish Utopian Communities: Paper and Documentary Screening (Colonial East)

Chairs: Carrie Hintz, Queens College/ CUNY and The Graduate Center/ CUNY and Claire Curtis, College of Charleston

Paper: Teuvo Peltoniemi, Independent Scholar, “Three Centuries, Six Continents and Four Main Ideologies’: The History of the Finnish Utopian Communities”

Screening: **HÖÖK documentary film**

Finnish-Russian documentary film "Fridolf Höök – from Ocean to Ocean" (2020, 26 min., subtitles in English)

During the worst famine years, in 1868, Finnish sea captain Fridolf Höök founded a Utopian colony of Amurland near Vladivostok the Czar Russia. Finland was then an autonomic part of Russia. The group consisted of a hundred well-to-do Swedish speaking Finns from Helsinki, and main idea was whale hunting. At the same year, about 50 Finnish speaking peasants from Turku immigrated to the same area. Departures aroused a great media debate in Finland.

Captain Höök stayed in the Far East area after the quick end of the Utopian community, and became a local celebrity for decades. Many members of his group returned eventually to Finland. Some remained on the area, as did all the Turku peasants.

The Höök film has been produced in 2020 as Russian-Finnish collaboration. It has been filmed in Finland and Russia. Scientific material, photos and interviews are from Helsinki, Turku, Nakhodka and Vladivostok museums and archives.

Director Mila Kudryashova (St. Petersburg)

Producer Merja Ritola (Helsinki)

Scientific adviser Teuvo Peltoniemi (Helsinki)

2. B. On Modernity, Utopianism, and the University (Colonial West)

Chair: Joe Kelly, College of Charleston

Benjamin Schewel, Center on Modernity in Transition (COMIT), “Lewis Mumford's Path to the Axial Age”

Joe Kelly, College of Charleston, “Utopia and the Liberal Revolution”

Stacy Maddern, University of Connecticut, “Building Utopias on College Campuses”

2. C. Slavery, Imperialism, Abolition, and Memory (Citadel North)

Chair: Peter Sands, UW-Milwaukee

Barry Stiefel, College of Charleston, “Playing Whiteface: A Dystopian Comparison Study of the Indigenous Diamond Hill and Black Melrose Plantations Through Rose-Colored Utopian Glasses”

Abdul Isiaq, Temple University Department of Africology, “No Africans Involved: Contextualizing the Western Imperialist Project From An Afrocentric Abolitionist Perspective”

Session III 5:15-6:15

3. Keynote conversation (Colonial East)

Hoda Zaki, Pete Sands, Claire Curtis

As scholars of utopia our academic work is on the boundaries of some particular discipline for which utopia is potentially marginal or even a somewhat suspect concern.

As academics we all share to differing degrees the tensions around the boundaries of job status, administrative work, service commitments, pedagogical approaches.

As people in the world we negotiate the boundaries between job, community, family, politics.

We share a set of experiences with boundaries: the intellectual, disciplinary, professional, political and personal and we share the very idea that each of these realms has been bounded (or to use the lingo of the academy: siloed) in ways that often undermine each of these pursuits.

Join us for a conversation about negotiating and traversing these boundaries. Come and share your own travels and let’s continue the conversation into the reception afterwards.

Reception: Courtyard 6:15-8:30

Each attendee will receive two tickets for free drinks. Please note that the bar closes at 7:30, but the reception (with food!) will continue until 8:30.

FRIDAY

Embassy Suites Guest Breakfast 7:30-8:30

Session IV 8:30-10:00

4. A. Zombies! (Colonial East)

Chair: Clarence W. Tweedy, University of Mary Washington

Rosemary Millar, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, “Zomtopia: Remaking the Utopian Vision in *Aaah!! Zombies*”

Zebadiah Kraft, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, “Possibility in Destruction: Zombie Narratives of Renewal and Utopia”

Clarence W. Tweedy, University of Mary Washington, “The Happy Few: The Apocalypse and Resurgence of White Patriarchal Supremacy in Rob Kirkman’s *The Walking Dead*”

4. B. Interrogating Social Class and Labor (Colonial West)

Chair: Graeme Pente, University of South Carolina Lancaster

Robert Seguin, Hartwick College, “The Symbolic Dimensions of Social Class in Mark McGurl and Ben Lerner”

Mackenzie Cox, American University, “Content Creation, Capitalism, and Coogan Law: Labor in the Age of Social Media”

Ryan Pine, Bryn Athyn College, “The Circle Was Closing, But Now It's Just Every-where: Dave Eggers's Fatalistic Ennui in *The Every*”

4. C. Young Adult Dystopias: Cultural Contexts (Citadel North)

Chair: Elaine Ostry, SUNY Plattsburgh

Carrie Hintz, Queens College/CUNY and The Graduate Center/CUNY, “The Bad Boyfriends of YA Dystopia”

Carter Hanson, Valparaiso University, “Post-Nuclear Kinship Patterns in Young Adult Climate Dystopias: Sherri L. Smith's *Orleans* and Cherie Dimaline's *The Marrow Thieves*”

Session V 10:15-11:45

5. A. Making/Unmaking Utopian Possibilities Across Genres (Colonial East)

Chair: Phillip Wegner, University of Florida

In this panel, we will explore a variety of genres and aesthetic modes that seek to represent forms of utopian possibility. Each panelist will investigate a cultural object(s) that in some way signifies a type of making/unmaking dialectic. Nathan Stelari will discuss the utopian/dystopian ideological formation at play within ironic and meta-ironic political internet humor and how this informs the common sense of online political discourse. Ryan Kerr will present on Anthony Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange* and how its dystopian themes (particularly in the novel's final chapter) demonstrates Mark Fisher's concept of “cancelled futures.” We hope to think collectively about the relationship between politics and form, especially in a moment beguiled by the apolitical.

Participants:

Ryan Kerr, University of Florida

Nathan Stelari, University of Florida

5. B. Emily St John Mandel (Colonial West)

Chair: Claire Curtis, College of Charleston

Katrin Isabel Schmitt, University of Konstanz, Germany, “Picking up the Pieces: Rebuilding Community in Post-Apocalyptic Literature”

Ellen Rigsby, Saint Mary's College of California, "Time Travel in Emily St. John Mandel's *The Sea of Tranquility*"

Claire Curtis, College of Charleston, "Human artifice and living in a pre-made world: Emily St John Mandel's *Station Eleven*"

5. C. Crosscurrents of Utopian-Socialist and Marxist Thought in America's Gilded Age (Citadel North)

Chair: Ashley Garcia, University of Texas at Austin

Ashley Garcia, University of Texas at Austin, "Association and Cooperative Colonies in the 1890s: The Utopian-Socialist Organizing of the BCC"

Daniel Joslyn, New York University, "When Love Came of Age: Marxism and Utopianism in Turn-of-the-Century Socialist-Feminist Thought"

Graeme Pente, University of South Carolina Lancaster, "Fourierism on a National Scale: Edward Bellamy Leads Visionary Socialism into Politics, 1878-1898"

Lunch on your own

Session VI 1:00-2:30

6. A. Genre and Utopia (Colonial East)

Chair: Kenneth Roemer, University of Texas at Arlington

Braden Hammer, Mount Saint Mary's University, "Len Deighton and the Utopian Genre Tradition"

Gib Prettyman, Penn State University, Fayette, "Utopian narrative labors in Robinson's *The Ministry for the Future*"

Csaba Toth, Carlow University, "Collective Action and Community Building in William E. Trautmann's Novel *Riot*"

6. B. Utopian Thought (Colonial West)

Chair: Edward K. Chan, Waseda University

Peter Stillman, Vassar College, “Uncovering Le Guin’s Utopian Alternatives: *The Left Hand of Darkness*”

Mark Allison, Ohio Wesleyan University, “*The Civil War in France*: Karl Marx’s English Utopia?”

6. C. The Child in Utopia (Citadel North)

Chair: Elaine Ostry, SUNY Plattsburgh

Elaine Ostry, SUNY Plattsburgh, “‘Nine on an Island, Orphans All:’ A Community of Children on *Orphan Island*”

Rachel L. Andreini, University of Kansas, “Educating the Romantic Child in *News from Nowhere*: Natural Forces in Utopian Reform”

Megan Weaver-Seitz, Asbury University, “A Lens of Hope: Children in Dystopian Films”

Session VII 2:45-4:15

7. A. “Crafting Toward Utopia: Making and Unmaking with Zines” [Presentation and Demonstration] (Colonial East)

Chair: Carrie Hintz, Queens College/CUNY and The Graduate Center/CUNY

Brit Schulte, University of Texas, Austin

How do zines become objects that thought-smuggle, intervene, and disrupt? How can zines also create opportunities for us to play, feel, and prepare our hearts and minds? Are zine makers and distributors agents of the utopic, of radical composition? Join educator, community organizer, and zine maker Brit Schulte for a creative session, combining presentation, performative demonstration, and discussion. This will be an exercise in composition as Brit presents a constellation of zines that explore the medium's potential for experimenting in utopian thought.

Brit Schulte is an Art History PhD student at the University of Texas at Austin, a community organizer, and zinester. They study print objects, as well as sex working, queer and trans* histories. Their current organizing efforts involve criminalized survivors, prison/police abolition, and the decriminalization of sex work. Their writing may be found at *The Funambulist*, *In These Times*, *Monthly Review*, *The Appeal*, and *Truthout*.

7. B. Always Renaming Utopian Studies: the Palgrave Handbook of Utopian and Dystopian Studies (Colonial West)

In April 2022, *The Palgrave Handbook of Utopian and Dystopian Literatures*, co-edited by Peter Marks (Sydney), Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor (Penn State) and Fátima Vieira (Porto), arrived in the world. With 56 commissioned essays covering the contemporary vibrancy of utopian vision, and its resiliency as an idea, genre, and critical mode, the Handbook is a global, cross-disciplinary, and comprehensive volume. A selection of contributors will formally “launch” through a panel discussion of the editorial principles behind the organization of the volume, and the central themes guiding the range of new topics selected for inclusion. Given this year’s theme of “make, unmake, remake,” we hope that the publication of this latest volume can contribute to the conference-long discussion, as well as the interrogation of the principle of hope. We welcome a discussion with audience members on new directions.

Chair: Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor, Penn State University

Participants:

Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor, Penn State University

Peter Marks, University of Sydney

7. C. Dystopian Textualities (Citadel North)

Chair: Dominic Ording, Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Dominic Ording, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, “Banned”

Jill Craven, Millersville University, “Who's Got a Match? Burning Down the House with David Byrne”

Caleb Corkery, Millersville University, “Propaganda Vs. Civil Rhetoric: Is there an ethical way to fight propaganda?”

Session VIII 4:30-6:00

8. A. Speculation in Time and Space (Colonial East)

Chair: Patricia Ventura, Spelman College

Robert Wood, University of California, Irvine, “The Mediocre Hobbyists of the Enterprise: *Star Trek*, Leisure, and Utopia”

Jenni Halpin, Savannah State University, “‘Meanwhile’ as ‘Otherwise’: Making the Past and Future in *Copenhagen*”

Thomas Horan, The Citadel, “The Surprisingly Secular Patriarchy in Bina Shah’s *Before She Sleeps*”

8. B. Global Migrancy (Colonial West)

Chair: Tricia Reagan, Randolph-Macon College

Jacqueline Shea, Arizona State University, “Harmonious Encounters: Cross-Cultural Contact and Creation in the Borderlands”

Tricia Reagan, Randolph-Macon College, “All that Glitters is Not Gold: The Jaula de Oro (Golden Cage) as a Dystopian Symbol in Migrant Narratives”

SATURDAY

Embassy Suites Guest Breakfast 7:30-8:15

Session IX 8:15-9:45

9. A. Utopian Themes in Michael Cummings, *Children's Voices in Politics* (Peter Lang, 2020) (Colonial East)

Robust democracy remains a utopian vision in formally democratic societies, partly because the voices of the youngest third of their people are officially excluded. As adult officials fail to address the most pressing issues of our times—including climate change, gun control, Black

Lives Matter, the rights of LBGTQIA+ persons, and the defense of democracy itself—activist children, tweens, teens, and young adults are taking matters into their own hands while gaining adult allies. Adultist disenfranchisement is arbitrary, capricious, and unjust, its rationale mirroring historical reasons for preventing poor people, people of color, and women from voting: alleged political immaturity, irresponsibility, and incapacity. In the meantime, young activists have found creative ways to make their voices heard, as in the cases of Nobel nominee Craig Kielburger (Founder of *Free the Children*), Nobel winner Malala Yousafzai (on girls' rights), Nobel nominee Greta Thunberg (on climate change), and Parkland survivor Emma Gonzalez (on gun control). The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, signed on to by all the functioning governments in the world, has spawned a generation of child and youth activism, significant policy changes, and an explosion of scholarship on children's rights, voice, engagement, and empowerment. This roundtable will address the intersectionality of marginalization by age, race, gender, sexual orientation, and disability; youth-elder mentoring and alliances; multiple paths to youth empowerment including media and the arts; and adult “apathy” as a lifelong toxic effect of the official silencing of our voices during the most formative years of our lives.

Chair: Lyman Tower Sargent, University of Missouri, St. Louis

Participants:

Michael Cummings, University of Colorado Denver

Philip Wegner, University of Florida

Hoda Zaki, Hood College

9. B. Despair, Hope, and Facing the Darkness (Colonial West)

Chair: Diana Palardy, Youngstown State University

David Schappert, King's College (PA), “East of Utopia—Philip K Dick’s Utopian-Adjacent Spaces”

Diana Palardy, Youngstown State University, “Isolating the Prophet: The Cassandra Curse in Spanish Environmental Apocalyptic Literature”

Session X 10:00-11:30

10. A African American Literature, Utopian Studies, and Cultural Remaking (Colonial East)

Chair: Eric D. Smith, University of Alabama in Huntsville

Edward K. Chan, Waseda University, and Patricia Ventura, Spelman College, “Black Lives Matter Utopian Literature”

John Mark Robison, University of Florida, “Money, Utopia, and the Politics of Disgust in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*”

10. B. Global Neoliberalism and the British Dystopia I (Colonial West)

Chair: Richard Bodek, College of Charleston

Richard Bodek, College of Charleston, “James Bond & the Post-War Tory Anti-Utopia”

Amanda Rose, University of Florida, “Relational Space as a Means to Collectivity: The Critical Dystopia of J.G. Ballard's *The Day of Creation*”

10. C. Teaching Utopia (Citadel North)

Chair: Claire Curtis, College of Charleston

Peter Sands, UW-Milwaukee, “Slowtopia”

Briana McGinnis, College of Charleston, “Teaching Radical Possibility in Hopeless Times”

Boxed lunch available for pick up at 11:30

12:30-1:30 Business Meeting (Colonial East/ West)

Session XI 1:45-3:15

11. A. Queer and Intersectional Imaginings (Colonial East)

Chair: Aaron Hammes, John Jay College

Aaron Hammes, John Jay College, “A Pyramid of Queer and Trans Counter Utopias”

Josephine Holland, University of Richmond, “Emerging Online Community Building, World-Making, and the Utopian Impulse in Queer Speculative Podcasts”

11. B. Solarpunk Futures: A Workshop for Utopian Remembrance (Colonial West)

Solarpunk Futures: A Workshop for Utopian Remembrance utilizes the artist's table-top game, *Solarpunk Futures*, to engage attendees of the 2022 Society for Utopian Conference in a process of visionary social storytelling around the collective struggle required to win our utopia. The game employs backcasting in a “Festival of Remembrance,” whereby *Assemblies for the Future* (groups of 1-8 players) play for 45 minutes from the perspective of a future utopia in which they collectively “remember” how their *Ancestors* utilized *Tools* and *Values* to overcome a real-world *Challenge*. *Assemblies* will report back on the form of their utopian scenarios, insights gained along the way, and how their experiences might inform their present-day actions.

11. C. Utopian Effects/Dystopian Pleasures: A Roundtable Discussion (Citadel North)

This panel discussion will consider the insights and impact of Peter Fitting’s utopian scholarship, to mark last year’s publication of *Utopian Effects, Dystopian Pleasures*, vol. 21 in the Ralahine Utopian Studies Series. In this collection of essays written over a span of three decades (1979-2009), Fitting touches on an impressive range of utopian topics: from gender politics, urban planning, cinema, and technology to right-wing utopias, ideological closure, and the crucial question of how to transform utopian visions into social practice. Together, these writings provide an unprecedented glimpse into the changing currents of utopian thought and expression, as well as the formation of both Utopian and Science Fiction Studies as scholarly fields in their own right, developments in which Fitting has been instrumental.

Chair: Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor

Participants:

Peter Fitting, University of Toronto

Lyman Tower Sargent, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor, Penn State University

Peter Marks, University of Sydney

Session XII 3:30-4:45

12. A. Nourishing Utopia (Colonial East)

Chair, Victoria Wolcott, University of Buffalo

Darrell Varga, NSCAD University (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design), “Making Bread and Telling Stories: *Bread in the Bones*”

Victoria Wolcott, University of Buffalo, “Abundance in a Time of Scarcity: Father Divine’s Peace Mission and Utopian Solutions to Economic Crises”

12. B. Utopia and Protest in Chile (Colonial West)

Chair: Diana Palardy, Youngstown State University

Daniel Sarkela, University of Florida, “La vida volverá- reconstructing Chilean Utopia”

Eunice Rojas, Furman University, “Until Dignity Becomes Tradition: The Dawn of a New Utopia in the Songs of Chile’s 2019 Social Upheaval”

Session XIII 5:00-6:30

13. A. Global Neoliberalism and the British Dystopia II (Colonial East)

Chair: Ryan Kerr, University of Florida

Eric Smith, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, “Future Perfect and the Vanishing Present: ‘The Great Circularity’ and Anti-Utopianism in Mukherjee’s *The Lives of Others*”

Phillip Wegner, University of Florida, “A Future Worthy of Her Spirit: Neoliberal Dystopia in Kazuo Ishiguro’s *Klara and the Sun*”

13. B. First Book Panel (Colonial West)

The First Book Celebration Roundtable brings together first-time authors of books in the field of utopian studies. It serves as a means of celebration of a milestone, as well as facilitates a conversation among roundtable members and their audience on current subjects in book-length inquiries in the field. In this, the first annual First Book Celebration Roundtable, the discipline overwhelmingly represented is literary studies. All three roundtable members are literary studies scholars who investigate the utopian (or dystopian) impulse in narrative in a variety of ways and during a variety of historical periods. For instance, Daniel Dimassa traces the influence of Dante on Germanic romantic writing, both of which – Dante and the German romantics – drew upon utopian ideals to create a mythology of German cultural identity. Similarly, Stephanie Peebles Tavera excavates how, later in the century and across the pond, the utopian impulse would also inform women writers of medical fiction in their attempt to simultaneously critique medico-legal narratives of the female body and offer an alternative history and practice of women’s reproductive health. Dimassa’s and Peebles Tavera’s findings may not be wholly surprising given the popularity of utopianism throughout the long nineteenth century. Rounding out the discussion is Anne Stewart’s study of the “angry planet” in decolonial and dystopian literature, which explores how a long-term commitment to any political imaginary, whether cultural, medical, or industrial, can be dangerous. Whether the utopian impulse propels German romanticists, nineteenth-century American writers, or contemporary authors of environmental literature, it is clear that the act of writing to create cultural change hinges upon utopianism’s penchant for hope as well as finds utopianism’s narrative structure of critique and reform as a useful tool for projects of identity formation.

Chair: Stephanie Peebles Tavera, Texas A&M University–Central Texas

Daniel Dimassa, *Dante in Deutschland: An Itinerary of Romantic Myth* (Bucknell 2022), <https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/bucknell/dante-in-deutschland/9781684484188/>

Stephanie Peebles Tavera, Author of *(P)rescription Narratives: Feminist Medical Fiction and the Failure of American Censorship* (Edinburgh UP, 2022), <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-p-rescription-narratives.html>

Anne Stewart, *Angry Plant: Decolonial Fiction and the American Third World* (University of Minnesota Press, 2022), <https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/angry-planet>

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