

BRIDGES TO UTOPIA

Utopian Studies Society 9th International Conference

University of Limerick
3 - 5 July 2008

Keynote speakers

Peadar Kirby
University of Limerick

Bernard Gendron
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

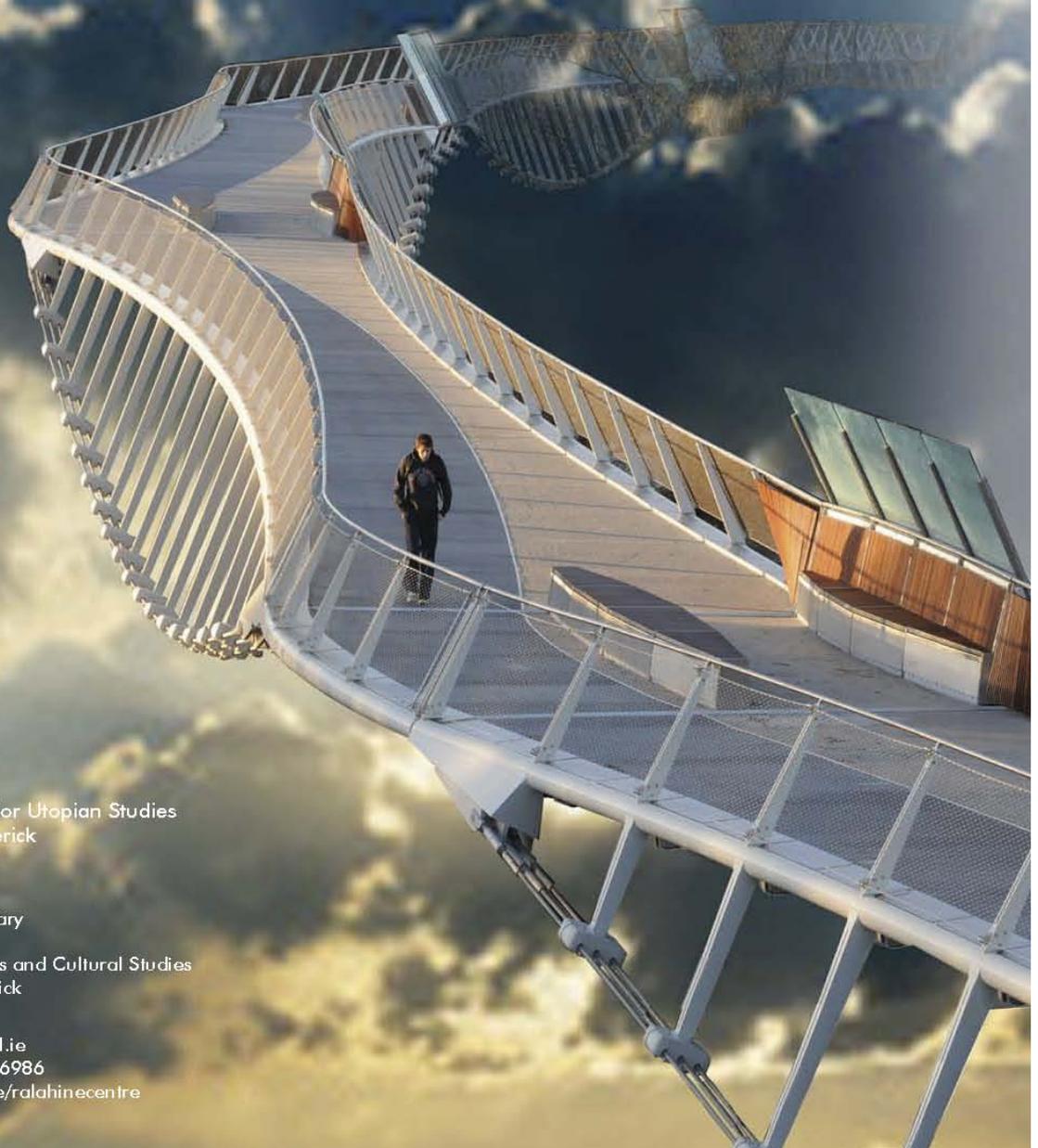
Nicole Pohl
Oxford Brookes University

Special sessions on Regenerating Limerick

Organised by
Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies
University of Limerick

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Acknowledgements

The Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies is pleased to host the 9th Annual Utopian Studies Society Conference. As with any such event, the work of many people has made this all possible. We would especially like to thank the following who contributed to the planning, expediting, and support of the conference: Paul McCutcheon, Vice President, Academic; Vincent Cunnane, Vice, President, Research; Pat O'Connor, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Helen Kelly Holmes, Director, Institute for the Study of Knowledge in Society (ISKS); Luke Ashworth, Head, Department of Politics; Merritt Bucholz, Head, School of Architecture; Jean Conacher, Head, Department of Languages and Cultural Studies; Eoin Devereux, Head, Department of Sociology; Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Director, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance; Lorna Davidson, Secretary, Utopian Studies Society; Brendan Delaney, ESB; Peadar Kirby, Carmen Kuhling, John Logan, Sheena Doyle, and Claire Ryan (all UL).

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We gratefully acknowledge the funding support of the Office of Vice President, Research; the Institute for the Study of Knowledge in Society (ISKS); and the Departments of Languages and Cultural Studies, Politics, and Sociology.

The Conference Committee:
Jack Fennell, Conference Secretary
Joachim Fischer, Chair
Michael J. Griffin
Michael G. Kelly
Tom Moylan

Bridges to Utopia
9th International Conference of the Utopian Studies Society

Thursday, 3 July – Saturday 5 July 2008

Wednesday, 2 July

Registration: 9 to 10 am; 6 to 7 pm.

Pre-conference field trip: 10 am to 6 pm to the Ralahine Estate site, Ardnacrusha hydroelectric dam, and CloghJordan Ecovillage, with presentations by David Lee and Ardnacrusha staff, as well as dramatic reading by John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy, and discussion with Ecovillage members. Lunch included.

Thursday, 3 July

8:30 – 5:00

Registration all day.

Book room (room number: **D1049**) open at noon.

9:00 – 9:30

Official Opening (Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre)

Paul McCutcheon (Vice-President, Academic, University of Limerick)

Fátima Vieira (Utopian Studies Society)

Tom Moylan and Joachim Fischer (Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies)

9:45 – 11:15

Session I

Utopia and Science Fiction 1 (Room C1059)

Chair: Angela Yiu

Andrew Milner (Monash University), "Utopia and Science Fiction Revisited"

Dan Smith (Chelsea College of Art and Design), "On Not Writing the Disaster: Utopian Science Fiction and the Holocaust"

Michał Kulbicki (Monash University), "Science Fiction and Utopia at the Limit"

Politics 1: Eco-Villages (C1060)

Chair: Peadar Kirby

Nicholas Anastasopoulos (National Technical University of Athens), "Eco-Communities: An Evaluation as Contemporary 21st-Century Utopian Real-Life Models"

Liam Leonard (NUI Galway/*Ecopolitics Online Journal*), "Ecotopias and Green Communities: Identity and Collective Behaviour in the Three Phases of Utopian Thought"

Joshua Lockyer (University of Georgia), "Taking the Idealism a Step Further: Intentional Communities, Sustainability and Developmental Utopianism"

Utopian Philosophy 1: Ernst Bloch (C1061)

Chair: Tom Moylan

Jill Fenton (University of London), “A *Trace* from the Past
Enacting a Geography of Hope and Building ‘A Bridge to
Utopia’”

Peter Thompson (University of Sheffield), “What Is Concrete
about Ernst Bloch’s Utopia?”

Matthew Ryan (Monash University), “Aesthetic Utopia in
John Banville’s *The Sea*”

Discipline and Educate (C1062)

Chair: Corina Kesler

Ulrike Altenmueller (Virginia Polytechnic Institute), “School
2100: Dreaming for the Future”;

John Wallis (University of Nottingham), “Utopia, Social
Purpose, and the Decline of Radical Adult Education”

Pavla Vesela (Charles University, Prague), “Punishment in
Utopia”

Utopia and Art 1 (C1058)

Chair: Anthony Cawley

Elida Tessler (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul),
“Probable Horizon: Crossing of the Bridge”

Edson deSousa (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul),
“The Experience of the *Jornal Boca de Rua*: Power, Image and
Utopia”

Diane Morgan (University of Leeds), “Humphrey Jennings:
The Association of ‘Images,’ the ‘Magnificent System,’ and
Utopian Socialism”

11:15 to 11:45

Coffee.

11:45 – 1:15

Session II

Utopia and Science Fiction 2: Oryx and Crake (C1059)

Chair: John Eastlake

Max Haiven (McMaster University), “It’s 20XX, But Where
Are All the Indians? Canadian Dystopian Fiction and the
Futures of Genocide and Globalisation”

Julie de Molade (Roskilde University), “Bridging the Gap:
Then and Now in Dystopian Fiction”

Ralph Goodman (University of Stellenbosch), “Margaret
Atwood’s *Oryx and Crake*: A Postmodern Utopian Signifier”

Politics 2: The Totalising Impulse (C1058)

Chair: Liam Leonard

Bülent Evre (Near East University, North Cyprus), “Totalizing
Utopianism versus Multi-Utopianism: Epistemological
Foundations of Utopian Thought”

Corina Kesler (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), “‘Signing a Pact with the Devil’: Literary and Ideological Transmutations in Romanian Utopian and Dystopian Texts after the July Theses”

Adam Stock (University of Durham), “Need, Desire and Politics in Adorno’s Huxley”

Nationalism and Postcolonial Theory (C1060)

Chair: Fátima Vieira

Patrick Leech (University of Bologna, Forlì), “Cricket, Nation and the Utopian Impulse”

Eoin Flannery (Oxford Brookes University), “Ireland, Empire and Utopia: Irish Postcolonial Criticism and the Utopian Impulse”

Michael J. Griffin (University of Limerick), “New Geneva in Waterford: Utopia and Patriotism in Ireland, 1782-1784”

Biopolitics and Law: Rétif de la Bretonne (C1062)

Chair: Geraldine Sheridan

Laurent Loty (University of Rennes 2), “Utopie, Eugénisme et Colonialisme: Les Ambivalences de *La Découverte Australe* (1781) de Rétif de la Bretonne”

Mary Baine Campbell (Brandeis University), “Beast-Men and the End of Difference”

Anne-Rozen Morel (University de Bretagne Occidentale, Brest), “Les Valeurs Morales et Politiques dans les Textes de Loi de *La Découverte Australe* (1781) de Rétif de la Bretonne”

Utopia and Music 1 (C1061)

Chair: Bernard Gendron

Ruth Levitas (Bristol University), “In eine bess’re Welt entrückt”

Mary O’Donnell (University of Limerick), “Between the Lines: the Irish Harp and Its Utopian Space from 1780-1820”

Robert Hunter (independent scholar), “The Music of Change: Utopian Transformation in *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagony* and *Der Silbersee*”

1:15 – 2:15

Lunch.

2:30 – 3:45

Plenary 1 (Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre)

Introduction: Luke Ashworth

Peadar Kirby, “Sinn Féin (We Ourselves)?: Reflections on a Century of Irish Political Utopianism”

3:45 – 4:15

Coffee.

4:15 – 5:45

Session III

Utopia and Science Fiction 3: Technology and Futurism (C1062)

Chair: Jack Fennell

Gilbert Fulmer (Texas State University), “Sex with Robots in a Utopian Future”

Maria Aline Ferreira (Universidade de Aveiro), “*Homo Sapiens* and *Robot Sapiens*: Redesigning Posthumanity in Jeanette Winterson’s *The Stone Gods*”

John Eastlake (NUI Galway), “Where’s my ****ing Jetpack? Spimeworld or Grim Meathook Future in *Doktor Sleepless* by Warren Ellis and Ivan Rodriguez”

Figuring Utopian Bridges 1 (C1060)

Chair: Andrew Milner

Virginia Griffiths (independent scholar), “Bridges to Utopia: Discursive Democracy and Political Activism in the Norwegian Women’s Shelter Movement”

Helen Whall (College of the Holy Cross, Worcester MA), “Funny Things Happen on the Bridge to Utopia”

Helen McCabe (Oxford University), “John Stuart Mills’ Bridges to Utopia”

Politics 3: Utopia and Anarchism (C1061)

Chair: John Wallis

Luke Ashworth (University of Limerick), “Towards an Anarchist International Utopia? David Mitrany’s Functional Alternative to the State”

Susan Love Brown (Florida Atlantic University), “Josiah Warren: Community and the Frontiers of Anarchism in the Age of Jackson and Utopian Socialism”

Tony Burns (University of Nottingham), “The Struggle for Recognition in Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit* and the Idea of Utopia”

Places 1 (C1058)

Chair: Joachim Fischer

Henry Near (University of Haifa), “The Kibbutz and Globalisation: A Front-Line Report”

Angela Yiu (Sophia University, Japan), “The Faces of Utopia”;

Alireza Omidbakhsh (Universitat de Barcelona), “Heritage of Utopianism: Utopian Tradition in Iran”

Utopia and Art 2 (C1059)

Chair: Dan Smith

Yasemin Koç (Middle East Technical University), “Art and Culture in William Morris’ Utopian Vision of Socialism”

Dale Bradley (Brock University), “Hacking Craft: Design, Labour, and Resistance in the Open Source Software Movement and Morris’ Arts and Crafts Movement”
Carissa Honeywell (Sheffield Hallam University), “Art and Utopia: The Anarchism of Herbert Read”

6:00 – 7:15

Plenary 2 (Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre)
Introduction: Michael J. Griffin
Bernard Gendron, “Improvising Utopia”

7:15 – 8:15

Institute for the Study of Knowledge in Society Reception, Plassey House

8.15 –

Barbecue, The Stables

Friday, 4 July

8:30 – 5:00

Book room (D1049) open. Registration in book room.

9.00 – 10.30

Session IV

Utopia and Architecture 1 (C1061)

Chair: Merritt Bucholz

Nathaniel Coleman (Newcastle University), “Utopia on Trial?”

Ellen Sullivan (Virginia Polytechnic Institute), “Patrick Geddes’ ‘Thinking Machines’: Utopian Diagrams”

Soffie Vermeulen (Free University of Brussels), “Utopia, Heterotopia and Urban Planning in Brussels”

Utopia and Science Fiction 4: Ursula K. Le Guin (C1059)

Chair: Patrick Leech

Simona Sangiorgi (Università di Bologna, Forlì), “Saving Utopia: The Value of Absence in Le Guin’s *The Dispossessed* and McCarthy’s *The Road*”

Christina Firmino (Universidade do Algarve), “Utopia and Insularity in the Works of Ursula K. Le Guin”

Camille van der Berghe (Université de Rennes 2), “Heroes of Utopias”

Utopia and Music 2 (C1060)

Chair: Lorna Davidson

Chris Coates (independent scholar, author *Utopia Britannica*), “The Sound of Communal Living”

John Lynch and Peter Webb (University of Birmingham), “‘Utopian Punk’: The Concept of the Utopian in the Creative Practice of Björk”

Luis G. Romero (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid),
“Reversals of Hope and Despair: Daring to Dream about Music
(and Human Rights) within the Prison Walls”

Dystopias and the Frontier (C1058)

Chair: Caroline Edwards

Morten Auklend (University of Bergen), “The Downside of
Prosperity: On Axel Jensen’s Novel *Epp*”

Daniel Ogden (Uppsala University), “Karin Boye’s *Kalloccain*
(1940): Sweden’s *Nineteen Eighty Four*”

Annette M. Magid (SUNY Erie Community College),
“Bridging the Reflections of Self: A Study of Jack London’s
Dystopic Visions as Reflected in His Fantasy Literature”

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee.

11.00 – 12:30

Session V

Utopia and Science Fiction 5 (C1058)

Chair: Daniel Ogden

Wei-Yun Yang (Yuan Ze University), “A Critical Utopia in
Doris Lessing’s *Shikasta*”

Heike Endter (University of Bern), “Narrow and Wide: The
Dichotomy of Spatial Codes as Metaphors of Utopian
Thinking”

Eve Smith (Liverpool John Moores University), “The Space
and Role of the Auditors of Reality in Terry Pratchett’s
Discworld”

Humans, Post-Humans and Others (C1059)

Chair: Alec Charles

Lars Schmeink (Humboldt Universität Berlin), “The Horror of
Being Human: Dystopia, Alternate Realities and Post-Human
Societies in Recent Videogames”

Antonis Balasopoulos (University of Cyprus), “Of Dogs,
Angels and Creatures in-between: Chaplin/Kafka/Benjamin/
Agamben”

Else Jongeneel (University of Groningen), “Recreating among
the Houyhnhnms: Dystopia and Utopia in *Gulliver’s Travels*
Book Four”

Utopia and Architecture 2 (C1061)

Chair: Nathaniel Coleman

Zhigang Fang (Virginia Polytechnic Institute), “The Winds in
the City: Vitruvius’ Idea of Cosmological Harmony in City
Planning”

Akin Sevinc (Yeditepe University, Istanbul), “A Stopover on
the Bridge of Enthusiasm: A Bird’s Eye View on Utopias and
Cities”

Jonathan Powers (McGill University), “Building Utopia: The Status of the Ideal in Filarete’s *Trattato*”

Figuring Utopian Bridges 2 (C1060)

Chair: Alex-Alban Gomez Coutouly

Michael O’ Halloran (Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick), “A Bridge Too Far?”

Marc Smith (St. Thomas University), “The Bridge that is Utopia: Lonergan’s Cosmopolis”

Lawrence Wilde (Nottingham Trent University), “Wallerstein’s Utopistics Ten Years on: A Bridge to Utopia?”

12.30 – 1:45

Lunch.

2:00 – 3:30

Session VI

Utopia and Science Fiction 6 (C1058)

Chair: Michael G. Kelly

Alan Shapiro (independent scholar), “Play, Don’t Work, in a Marxian High-tech Enterprise”

Richard Lynch (DePauw University), “Reconciling Utopia and Dystopia in Social Critique: Tillich and Butler through Each Other’s Eyes”

Christopher Yorke (University of Glasgow), “(Il)lusory Attitudes: Gamesmanship, Transglobalisation and Utopia in Ian M. Banks’ *The Player of Games*”

18th-century Utopian Impulses (C1060)

Chair: Nicole Pohl

Michael Harrigan (Institut d’Etudes Politiques/Pôle LDV, Paris), “From *Indes* to *Terra Australis*: 17th- and 18th- Century French Crossings into Utopia”

Benjamin Bâcle (Aston University), “Utopia as Interiority: Maine de Biran, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and the Search for Self-Knowledge”

James Hanrahan (NUI Galway), “Realising Utopia: Voltaire and the Pays de Gex, 1758-78”

Utopian Philosophy 2: Utopian Longing and Social Movements (C1062)

Chair: Annette Magid

Baris Coban (Istanbul University), “The Utopia of New Social Movements: ‘Another World is Possible’”

James E. Block (DePaul University, Chicago), “The Utopian Present”

C. Lynne Fulmer (Texas State University), “Back to the Future: Food as Utopia”

The Republic, Identity and Intimacy (C1059)

Chair: Michael J. Griffin

Steven Bond (Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick), “Platonic Virtues and the Socialist Utopia”

Ian Fraser (Nottingham Trent University), “‘Wake Up! It’s Not Real!’ Recognition in Milan Kundera’s *Identity*”

Malcolm F. Miles (University of Plymouth), “Intimacy and Publicity”

Islands and Nature (C1061)

Chair: Antonis Balasopoulos

José Reis (Universidade do Porto), “The Sea as Seen from the Land That Surrounds Us”

Martin Moraw (Brandeis University), “Idleness and a Fullness of Everything: Henry Neville’s *The Isle of Pines* as Anti-Utopia”

Vincent Geoghegan (Queen’s University, Belfast), “Bacon, Prometheus and the Humanist Utopia”

3:30 – 4:00

Coffee.

4:00 – 6:00

Session VII

19th-Century Utopian Impulses (C1060)

Chair: Michael G. Kelly

Greg Kerr (Trinity College Dublin), “Gautier, Boileau and the *nouvelle forme architecturale*”

Valérie Narayana (Mount Allison University), “*Du Génie en Utopie*: The Figure of the Engineer in Balzacian and Zolian Utopias”

Iolanda Ramos (Universidade Nova de Lisboa), “Close to Utopia: Literary Economics in Nineteenth-Century Britain”

Roundtable Discussion: The Ralahine Co-Operative: Origins, Influences and Legacy (C1061)

Chair: Jim Arnold

David Lee (Civic Trust, Limerick), “Ralahine: A Personal Perspective”

Vincent Geoghegan (Queen’s University Belfast), “Robert Owen and Ulster”

Deirdre Ní Chuanacháin (University of Limerick), “William Thompson, James Redmond Barry and Utopia in Glandore”

Gregory Claeys (Royal Holloway, University of London), “Owen and Some Later Socialists”

Places 2: Ireland (C1059)

Chair: Henry Near

Mairéad Conneely (University of Limerick), “‘If I Could Build a Bridge, I Wouldn’t’: The Cultural, Economic and Utopian Implications of Bridging Irish Islands”

Ríona NicCongail (University College Dublin), “*Mecca na nGael: The Gaelic League’s Aran Island Utopia*”

Kieran Quinlan (University of Alabama at Birmingham), “A Place of Dead Silence: Images of Mount Melleray Abbey in William Makepeace Thackeray, James Joyce, and Seán Ó Ríordáin”

Utopian/Dystopian Literature (C1058)

Chair: Helen McCabe

Larissa Koroleva (University of New South Wales), “A Dream and a Nightmare: Prince Vladimir Odoevsky’s *The Year 4338* and *The Town with No Name*”

Alec Charles (University of Bedfordshire), “Poldy Goes to Hollywood: Utopia, *Ulysses* and the Yahoos”

Siân Adiseshiah (University of Lincoln), “Falling off the Bridge to Utopia: Howard Brenton’s *Greenland*”

6:15 – 7:30

Film and discussion (Jonathan Swift Lecture Theatre)

Chair: Tom Moylan

Screening of *Here to Stay* (2006) and discussion by filmmakers, Áine O’Brien and Alan Grossman (Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, Dublin Institute of Technology)

7.30 – 8.15

Cash bar, The Scholars Bar.

8.15 –

Buffet Dinner, The Scholars Bar.

Saturday, 5 July

8:30 – 1:00

Book room (D1049) open. Registration in book room.

9.00 – 10.30

Session VIII

Utopia and Science Fiction 7: Apocalypse (C1058)

Chair: Tom Moylan

Christopher Malone (Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma), “Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*, the Oprah Book Club and the Apocalyptic Imagination”

Caroline Edwards (University of Nottingham), “Microtopias: The Post-Apocalyptic Communities of Jim Crace’s *The Pest House*”

Jorge Bastos da Silva (Universidade do Porto), “Revisiting the American Frontier: A Reading of Paul Auster’s *Travels in the Scriptorium* and Thomas Mullen’s *The Last Town on Earth*”

Utopia and Architecture 3: Cities (C1061)

Chair: Malcolm F. Miles

Alex-Alban Gomez Coutouly (editor, *Utopia and Utopianism*), “*Selenopolis* or a Utopian City in 18th-Century French Literature”

Beate Rodewald (Palm Beach Atlantic University), “Hershey, Pennsylvania: Past and Present of a Chocolate-Covered Dream”

Areti Sakellaridou (RWTH Aachen), “The Road in/to Utopia: Urban Utopias and Mobility Infrastructures in the First Half of the 20th Century”

Politics 4: Ecology (C1058)

Chair: Joachim Fischer

Lisa Garforth (University of Leeds), “Buying Less, Living Better: The (Anti)Utopian Dynamics of Sustainable Consumption”

Verity Burgmann (University of Melbourne), “Construction Workers and the Utopian Imagination: The Impossible Demands of the Australian Green Bans Movement”

Maria Isabel Botto (Universidade de Coimbra), “‘Skyfarms’: Updating the Garden City for the 21st Century?”

Utopian Philosophy 3 (C1059)

Chair: Tom Moylan

Sema Ege (University of Ankara), “The Children of Nature, ‘The Yellow-Breeched Philosophers’ versus The Children of the ‘Machine Culture,’ the ‘Enfant Terrible’”

Timothy Miller (University of Kansas), “The Persistence of a Utopian Vision: Charles M. Sheldon and *In His Steps*”

Chien-Fu Hsueh (National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan), “To Claim a Globe of Peace: Maxine Hong Kingston’s Utopian Thinking in *The Fifth Book of Peace*”

Roundtable Discussion: The Limerick Soviet (C1060)

Chair: Mairéad Conneely

Luke Ashworth (University of Limerick), **John Callaghan** (University of Limerick)

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee.

11:00 – 1:00

Session IX

Utopian Philosophy 4: Utopian Logic (C1059)

Chair: Vincent Geoghegan

Michael G. Kelly (University of Limerick), “Rationality, between Cynicism and Utopia”

Carlo Salzani (Monash University, Australia), “Teleology without Final Purpose: Sorel’s and Benjamin’s Rejection of Utopia” (read by Andrew Milner)

Fátima Vieira (Universidade do Porto), “The ‘Utopian Logic’ of Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*”

Roundtable Discussion: The Limerick Regeneration Project (C1061)

Chair: Ruth Levitas (University of Bristol)

Judith Hill (independent scholar), **Merritt Bucholz** (University of Limerick), **Eileen Humphreys** (University of Limerick), **Brendan Kenny** (Limerick Regeneration Agency)

Feminist Utopias and Literature (C1060)

Chair: Anupama Jain

Sufen Sophia Lai (Grand Valley State University), “A Grand View Garden for the Incarnated Flower Fairies: Gender and Utopian Visions in *Flowers in the Mirror*”

Ildney Cavalcanti (Universidade Federal de Alagoas/CNPq)/**Lucia de la Rocque** (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro/CNPq), “Essentialism and Anti-essentialism in *The Evening and the Morning and the Night* by Octavia Butler”

Devon Wallace (New York University), “The Canonization of Gilman’s ‘Lost Utopias’”

1:00 – 2:15

Plenary 3 (Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre)

Nicole Pohl, “‘Nostalgia Is Not What It Used to Be’ (Simone Signoret): Nostalgia, Utopia, and Ireland”

2:15 – 3:45

Lunch and closing session.

3:30 – 3:45

Closing Remarks (Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre)

3:45 –

Utopian Studies Society AGM (Jean Monnet Lecture Theatre)

7 pm

Post-conference dinner at Milanos, Harvey’s Quay in Limerick City (upper room) (individually funded).