Utopia: 500 Years

EDICIONES
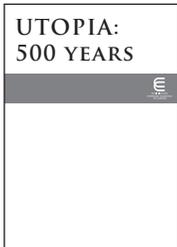Universidad Cooperativa
de Colombia

UTOPIA:
500 YEARS

We are pleased to invite you to submit research chapters and academic essays on *Utopia*, by Thomas More, to celebrate the 500th anniversary of its first publication in 2016.

PABLO GUERRA – GUEST EDITOR
Universidad de la República, Uruguay

MAIN TOPICS

▶ *Utopia*, literary work analysis; Christian humanism; utopian and dystopian genres.

▶ Utopian thinking and socio-political practices; utopian thinking and solidarity economy; utopian thinking in the framework of the history of ideas.

▶ Validity of utopian thinking on political and cultural transformation (from philosophical or political sociology approaches).

TIMELINE

▶ Deadline for submitting abstracts: June 15th, 2015

▶ Deadline for submitting chapters (full text): October 19th, 2015

▶ Publishing date: May 2016

INTENDED AUDIENCE

This call for book chapters is addressed to university professors and researchers on disciplines such as Law, Political Sciences, Economy, Sociology, History, Psychology, Literature, and other areas which can contribute to the contemporary discussion on Thomas More´s book.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish (the authors can submit their abstracts or chapters written in any of these languages).

SUBMISSIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Please write to editorial@ucc.edu.co or edicionesucc@gmail.com

GUEST EDITOR

Dr. Pablo Guerra is a full-time professor at the Universidad de la República (Montevideo, Uruguay) and an active researcher of the *Sistema Nacional de Investigadores.* He has also authored various books and scientific articles in the areas of solidarity economies, community thinking, sociology of work, and human development. The Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia Press has published the book *Socio-economy of Solidarity. A Theory to Shed Light on Alternative Social and Economic Experiences* (Bogotá, 2014) of his authorship.

¿Why a book on *Utopia*?

The idyllic thinking, the search for lost paradise, and our need to imagine a different world or, at least, the most perfect form of government and social organization possible have inspired intellectuals, prophets, activists, politicians, religious people, men and women, throughout the world. *Utopia*, by Thomas More, gave rise in 1516 to a particular literary genre in that line (the utopian genre) and coined this strange neologism that has inspired many humanists (from the Greek οὐ "no" and τόπος "place", that is, a place that does not exist). We can say undoubtedly that *Utopia* is one of the greatest literary treasures of Renaissance that still is unusually valid in the context of a world that needs encouraging projects that, starting from current critique (just as More did on the situation of England through his Raphael Hythlodaeus), venture a forward-looking approach to inequality and authoritarianism.

More's work also forms part of social literature, sharing with his friend Juan Luis Vives, for instance, the framework of rising Christian humanism evident in *De subvencione pauperum* (1526), a reference book, as well as with other contemporaries such as Alfonso Valdes and Erasmus of Rotterdam.

In *Utopia,* the context of Europeans' discovery of the "New World" is causal rather than coincidental, just as it is not coincidental that such "other" world is inspired by the "new" world that in turn inspires "new worlds". Interestingly, it is in this "New World" that More's work is channeled into specific actions -for instance,

the hospitals Don Vasco de Quiroga in New Spain or the Republic of the Guarani (Jesuit missions) in the region of Guaira-. Although this term was disseminated in the European context under the ideological disputes of the 19th century, it is worth highlighting that Marx considered as "utopian" –rather contemptuously– those socialists who were unable or unwilling to adopt its "scientific socialism".

Therefore, the 500th anniversary of the first publication of *Utopia* - to be celebrated in 2016 - deserves special recognition from the international academic community and opens an opportunity to discuss this masterpiece, its attributes and weaknesses, the concept of utopia, the utopian literary genre with its dystopia variants, and the role of utopian thinking in political philosophy and in the field of socio-political projects.

Main Topics

Utopia, Thomas More's masterpiece, 500 years after its first publication, opens a valuable opportunity to address its analysis from various perspectives. The book shall be organized into chapters referring to all or some of the following approaches:

▶ *Utopia***, literary work analysis.** For approaching this topic, we expect authors to disaggregate and critically analyze the characteristics of the two books of More's work.

▶ **Utopian thinking in the framework of the history of ideas.** For approaching this topic, we expect authors to incorporate the book *Utopia* in the context of the history of ideas, especially emphasizing on utopian thinking, both in the old times and from Renaissance to present time.

▶ **Utopian thinking and socio-political practices.** For approaching this topic, we expect authors to link Thomas More's work and utopian thinking in general to their impacts on concrete socio-political practices and projects.

▶ **Utopian thinking and solidarity economy.** For approaching this topic, we expect authors to connect the idea of utopia with the concepts of solidarity economy and the prospect of "another possible economy."

▶ **Utopia and Christian humanism.** For approaching this topic, we expect authors to discuss the life and work of Thomas More in the context of Christian humanist thinking in relation to the works accounting for this paradigm.

▶ **Utopia, utopian and dystopian genres.** For approaching this topic, we expect authors to elaborate on some aspects of utopian genre or its dystopian variants.

► **Validity of utopian thinking.** For approaching this topic, we expect authors to analyze, from the perspective of philosophy or political sociology, the validity of utopian thinking in the context of current cultural and political transformations.

Submission terms and guidelines

The selection process of the chapters that will make up the book is divided into two parts:

1. **Submission of abstracts.** Interested authors shall send an abstract for consideration of the editors, describing purpose of the chapter, main theoretical references or authors supporting their ideas, organization or presentation of topics in the text, and importance of their contribution.

   The suggested structure for abstracts is as follows:

   1. Purpose of the chapter
   2. Approach or theoretical perspective of the author
   3. Description of topics and how they are explained in the text
   4. Findings, contribution, conclusions and limitations of the chapter
   5. List of main references

   Length of abstracts: Maximum one thousand (1,000) words, excluding references.

   The abstract should have the same title as the chapter proposed and include author's profile (no longer than one paragraph), containing academic background (degrees), institutional affiliation, country, recent publications and contact information (email, phone, Skype). If the author so decides, he/she can send, along with his/her abstract, a complete copy of his/her updated CV.

2. **Submission of full texts of the chapters.** Based on the selection of abstracts, the editorial staff will contact each author requesting the writing and delivery of the chapter within the term specified in the Call.

Although the organization of contents of each chapter is at the author's discretion, he/she should ensure a logical, cohesive development of topics, and its length should not exceed ten thousand (10,000) words, excluding the reference list.

The chapter, at the time of delivering the full text, should include an abstract of no more than 250 words and its keywords (minimum three, maximum six). The citation style shall be APA, as per its sixth edition.

Official languages. English and Spanish (the authors can submit their abstracts or chapters written in any of these languages).

Peer Review Process

Abstracts shall be evaluated and authors informed if their work has been selected. Subsequently, each complete chapter received will follow a "double-blind" peer review process. Authors will be responsible for making amendments or corrections arising from this process in order to achieve publication.

Publication and Dissemination

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The books will also be offered in hard copy, and their circulation and marketing will be done on demand, through channels provided by the press office.

As we are a university press for academic purposes, the publishing process is completely free of charge for the authors in all its stages.

Timeline

▶ Deadline for submitting abstracts: June 15th, 2015

▶ Shortlisted abstracts: July 6th, 2015

▶ Deadline for submitting chapters (full text): October 19th, 2015

▶ Closing of evaluation process: February 2016

▶ Estimated publishing date: May 2016

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