



UTOPIA AS METHOD

THE IMAGINARY
RECONSTITUTION
OF SOCIETY

RUTH LEVITAS



Utopia As Method The Imaginary Reconstitution Of Society

Anthony M. Clohesy



Utopia As Method The Imaginary Reconstitution Of Society:

Utopia as Method R. Levitas, 2013-07-25 Utopia should be understood as a method rather than a goal This book rehabilitates utopia as a repressed dimension of the sociological and in the process produces the Imaginary Reconstitution of Society a provisional reflexive and dialogic method for exploring alternative possible futures *Utopia Method Vision* Tom Moylan, Raffaella Baccolini, 2007 This collection addresses the ways in which the contributors approach their study of the objects and practices of utopianism understood as social anticipations and visions produced through texts and social experiments and of how in turn those objects and practices have shaped their intellectual work and research perspectives

The Revival of Political Imagination Teppo Eskelinen, 2020-07-23 The Revival of Political Imagination offers a unique examination of the methodological aspects of utopia Discussing utopia as a tool for social criticism method and imaginative spaces rather than in terms of its content this volume analyses the function of utopias to develop utopias as methodology and to show how instrumental utopian modes of thought can be in such diverse fields such as education labour and housing Including discussions of traditional and contemporary utopias as well as various forms of expression of utopian hope from literature to social science and cultural practices The Revival of Political Imagination is both analytical and practical in its elucidation of how political theory can function to foster our imaginative skills *The Epistemology of Utopia* Jorge Bastos da Silva, 2013-05-20 The emergence of Utopian Studies as a dynamic field of inquiry situated at the crossroads of several disciplines is a striking development of the past few decades It is symptomatic of a general trend towards the overcoming of epistemological and institutional boundaries and has borne fruit in a number of ways The traditions of utopianism have come to be valued as an important nurturing of possibilities devoted to the critique and the transformation of the world By undertaking the critical interrogation of the given utopia is a figure not only of inversion but of transcendence and fulfilment The present volume takes into account the international development of Utopian Studies in recent decades Its aim is to provide critical revisions revisitings of the assumptions and methods of the discipline through a set of theoretically informed essays that focus on a number of different manifestations of utopianism The topics covered range from Plato's Republic and More's Utopia to modern day cosmopolitics glocalization and the intersections of fiction with esotericism and science

Utopian Thinking and Social Work Chris Horsell, 2025-02-03 This book highlights the importance of employing imaginative sensibilities to thinking and action in social work and social policy practice Exploring the question of how ideas about utopia and utopian method can be used in social work practice and policy practice to address social inequalities it shows that central to this critique is the argument that contemporary social policy responses and subsequent social work interventions to a range of policy problems e.g. homelessness poverty family violence need to acknowledge the failure of dominant neoliberal discourses in addressing these issues The COVID 19 pandemic has highlighted and in many ways exacerbated existing inequalities and the post pandemic future provides opportunities to put utopian ideas into action

Showing how utopian thinking can challenge fundamental assumptions regarding welfare dependency and unitary identities in policy settings this book will be of interest to all scholars students and professionals working in social work and social policy

Human Rights and the UN Universal Periodic Review Mechanism Damian Etone,Amna Nazir,Alice Storey,2024-02-27 The Universal Periodic Review UPR is a peer review mechanism reviewing all 193 UN Member States protection and promotion of human rights After ten years of the existence of the UPR mechanism this collection examines the effectiveness of the UPR theoretical and conceptual debates about its modus operandi and the lessons that can be drawn across different regions states to identify possible improvements The book argues that despite its limitations the UPR mechanism with its inclusive cooperative and collaborative framework is an important human rights mechanism with the potential to evolve over time into an effective cooperative tool for monitoring human rights implementation Divided into three parts the first part focuses on exploring a variety of theoretical approaches to understanding the UPR mechanism The second part examines specific human rights themes and the relationship between the UPR mechanism and other international mechanisms Finally the third part questions implementation and the ways in which states regional groupings have engaged with the UPR mechanism and what lessons can be learned for the future The volume will be a valuable resource for researchers academics and policymakers working in the area of international human rights law international organizations and international relations We would like to acknowledge the UPR Academic Network UPRAN for bringing together the experts on this project and the University of Stirling for providing funds to facilitate open access dissemination for parts of this output The Introduction and Chapter 6 of this book are freely available as a downloadable Open Access PDF at <http://www.taylorfrancis.com> under a Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 4.0 license

The Utopia Reader, Second Edition Gregory Claeys,Lyman Tower Sargent,2017-02-14 The Utopia Reader compiles primary texts from a variety of authors and movements in the history of theorizing utopias Utopianism is defined as the various ways of imagining creating or analyzing the ways and means of creating an ideal or alternative society Prominent writers and scholars across history have long explored how or why to envision different ways of life The volume includes texts from classical Greek literature the Old Testament and Plato's Republic to Sir Thomas More's Utopia to George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty Four and beyond By balancing well known and obscure examples the text provides a comprehensive and definitive collection of the various ways Utopias have been conceived throughout history and how Utopian ideals have served as criticisms of existing sociocultural conditions This new edition includes many historically well known works little known but influential texts and contemporary writings providing an even more expansive coverage of the varieties of approaches and responses to the concept of utopia in the past present and even the future In particular the volume now includes feminist writings and work by authors of color and contends with current concerns such as the exploration of the ecological ideals of Utopia Furthermore Claeys and Sargent highlight twenty first century trends and popular narrative explorations of Utopias through the genres of young

adult dystopias survivalist dystopias and non print utopias Covering a range of original theories of utopianism and revealing the nuances and concerns of writers across history as they attempt to envision different ideal societies The Utopia Reader is an essential resource for anyone who envisions a better future

Pragmatic Humanism Marcus Morgan,2016-01-29 Is sociology best understood as simply chipping away at our ignorance about society or does it have broader roles and responsibilities If so to what or perhaps to whom are these responsibilities Installing humanity as its epistemological and normative start and endpoint this book shows how humanism recasts sociology as an activity that does not merely do things or effect things but is also self consciously for something Rather than resurrecting problematic classical conceptions of humanism the book instead constructs its arguments on pragmatic grounds showing how a pragmatic humanism presents an improved picture of both the nature and value of the discipline This picture is based less around the claim that sociology is capable of providing authoritative revelations about society and more upon its capacity to offer representations of the social in epistemologically open transformative ethical and hopeful ways Ultimately it argues that sociology s real value can only be disclosed by replacing its image as a discipline aimed towards disinterested social enlightenment with one of itself as a practice both dependent upon and at its best self consciously aimed towards human ends and imperatives It will appeal to scholars and students across the social sciences and to those working in social theory sociology and philosophy of the social sciences in particular

The Politics of Commitment Anthony M. Clohesy,2025-11-19 This book examines the nature of our commitment to the long term survival of humanity It addresses the lack of a sustainable and ethical commitment to a shared and binding future for the well being of those who will come after us While other texts focus on the threats to our survival such as climate catastrophe or nuclear annihilation this study argues that a greater threat to our survival is our disposition of ambivalence about the value of future lives The other claim of the book is that to avoid our extinction we have to recover a sense of ourselves as beings worthy of salvation Clearly argued and jargon free the book will be useful for scholars with an academic interest in philosophy psychology sociology history culture studies and population ethics

Industrial Literature and Authors Bianca Rita Cataldi,2024-07-12 In recent years the field of literary studies at the international level has become more involved in the analysis of the so called industrial literature a literary genre that focuses on the literary representation of factory work and workers alienation This book engages in the ongoing debate by offering a narratological analysis of Italian industrial novels in particular while taking into consideration their paratexts and interrogating the possibility of the presence of a testimonial intent in the text The study reconstructs the connections between visions of factory utopias and Italian industrial literature starting with an overview of said visions of utopia and how they came into being in Europe following the industrial revolution It then proceeds by exploring the relationship between the twentieth century Italian entrepreneur Adriano Olivetti and Italian industrial authors and the influence that Olivetti s visions of factory utopia had on these writers and how they perceived themselves as witnesses of factory life and workers alienation

In analyzing these texts and particularly the novels by Paolo Volponi and Ottiero Ottieri the book focuses on the previously overlooked representation of the self in industrial literature and on how this self expresses the need for testimony

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