

## **Biographical Notes on Participants Intercultural Imaginaries of the Ideal East-West Comparative Utopias**

### **Andrew Chia, University of Melbourne**

Andrew Chia is a Masters student in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. His research topic looks at how the Peach Blossom Spring as a Chinese work of art can generate spatial compositional strategies that can influence the design of architectural spaces in contemporary Chinese private sphere.

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### **Gregory Claeys, Royal Holloway, University of London**

Gregory Claeys is Professor of the History of Political Thought at Royal Holloway, University of London, and author of two volumes on the history of early British socialism, and a study of Thomas Paine. He has also edited some forty volumes of primary sources, including seventeen volumes of utopian writings. His main research interests are the history of radicalism and socialism in 19th century Britain; utopianism 1700-2001; Social Darwinism and Eugenics; British intellectual history c. 1750 to the present.

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### **Amanda Cole, University of Sydney/New South Wales**

Amanda Cole is a submitted PhD candidate in English literature at Sydney University, and teaches at the University of NSW. Her thesis is entitled: 'New Worlds, Old Problems: Critical Utopianism in Doris Lessing'. Her research interests are focussed mainly on critical utopianism in literature. She has published an article in the journal, *Philament*, which considers how nostalgia and retrospect affect utopia, as well as the *Doris Lessing Journal*, which explores how the author does, or does not, retain control of their work. She is interested in how the experiences of the author shape their version of utopia, especially within postcolonial politics. Other interest areas include the architectural design of critical utopia.

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### **Jacqueline Dutton, University of Melbourne**

Jacqueline Dutton lectures in French Studies at the University of Melbourne. She has written on utopian theory and literature, travel writing, intercultural communication and French-Australian cultural studies. She has published a book on utopianism in the work of a contemporary French author: *Le Chercheur d'or et d'ailleurs: l'utopie de J.M.G. Le Clézio* (2003). Her current research focuses on French visions of Australia as utopia, and the Japanese imaginary of the ideal in relation to the Western utopian tradition.

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### **Haruka Hikita, University of Melbourne**

Haruka Hikita is a student and researcher in the French section at the University of Melbourne. She has worked on the Japanese imaginary of the ideal, *ukiyo* and utopia and the cross-cultural influences in the work of Pierre Loti and Nagai Kafu. She has also completed a degree in Media and Communications and has proposed a Masters thesis on French nostalgia for a non-technologically advanced Japan.

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### **Darren Jorgensen, University of Western Australia**

Darren Jorgensen has recently completed a PhD thesis on science fiction and the sublime. He is working in the English department at the University of Western Australia and has published on utopias in the indigenous Australian context.

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**Yasuo Kawabata, Japan Women's University, Tokyo**

Yasuo Kawabata is a professor of English Studies at the Japan Women's University in Tokyo. He has published widely on William Morris and George Orwell, including Japanese translations and editions. His research interests include utopian studies, aesthetics and arts and crafts movements.

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**Sayuki Machida, University of Melbourne**

Sayuki Machida lectures in Japanese Studies at the University of Melbourne. She is interested in teaching and learning of second language. Her research interests include learners' language achievement, curriculum development, language course management, language & culture, and computer aided language learning. Her publications include articles on learners' strategy use in writing, anxiety in oral examination, reading comprehension of the text and collaborative learning. She is currently working on text analysis, reading comprehension and language course development. She is also interested in Japanese visions of utopia.

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**Deb Magid, University of Melbourne**

Deb Magid is a technical writer and editor for physicists, with an interest in comparative utopias.

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**Andrew Milner, Monash University**

Andrew Milner is Professor and Deputy Director of the Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at Monash University. His published works include "Literature, Culture and Society" (2005), "Re-Imagining Cultural Studies" (2002), "Class" (1999), "Contemporary Cultural Theory" (1994), "Cultural Materialism" (1993), "The Road to St Kilda Pier" (1984) and "John Milton and the English Revolution" (1981). His current research interests include: contemporary cultural theory, especially Bourdieu, Jameson and Williams; utopia, dystopia and science fiction; and the sociology of literature.

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**Jana-Axinja Paschen**

Jana-Axinja Paschen is a tutor and researcher in German Studies at the University of Melbourne. She has applied for admission to the PhD programme in the Australian Centre to undertake a thesis on European interpretations of Australian space. She is interested in the subject of space and utopia.

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**Anoma Pieris, University of Melbourne**

Anoma Pieris is a lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning, University of Melbourne. Her PhD topic was on 19th century penal labour in Singapore. Her interest in utopias is two-fold. She is writing on expositions as utopian sites during the Cold War period in Asia and also on virtual nationalist geographies on the Internet.

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**Lyman Tower Sargent, Victoria University of Wellington**

Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis; Fellow, Stout Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington; and Honorary Research Fellow, Department of History, Royal Holloway, University of London. He was the founding Editor of *Utopian Studies* (1990-2004), author of *British and American Utopian Literature, 1516-1985: An Annotated,*

*Chronological Bibliography* (1988), *Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis* (13<sup>th</sup> ed. 2006), *New Left Thought: An Introduction* (1972), co-author with Lucy Sargisson of *Living in Utopia: Intentional Communities in New Zealand* (2004); co-editor with Gregory Claeys of *The Utopia Reader* (1999); editor of *Extremism in America: A Reader* (1995) and *Political Thought in the United States: A Documentary History* (1997); and author or editor of other books and about one hundred articles, mostly on aspects of utopianism. He was founder and co-editor with Gregory Claeys of the Syracuse University Press Series on Utopianism and Communitarianism. From 1997-2000 he advised the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the New York Public Library on their joint exhibit "Utopie: La quête de la société idéale en Occident/Utopia: The Quest for the Ideal Society in the West" which was shown in Paris from April to July 2000 and in New York from October 2000 to January 2001. He is co-editor with Roland Schaer and Gregory Claeys of the catalogs published to accompany the exhibits, *Utopie: La quête de la société idéale en Occident* (2000) and *Utopia: The Quest for the Ideal Society in the Western World* (2000). He is the recipient of the Distinguished Scholar Award of both the Society for Utopian Studies and the Communal Studies Association.

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**Anne Taillé, University of Melbourne**

Anne Taillé is a tutor and researcher in the French section at the University of Melbourne. She has completed a Masters thesis on political commitment and disillusionment in a French crime novel series, *Le Poulpe*, and is currently working on several research projects within the French section.

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**Jana Verhoeven, University of Melbourne**

Jana Verhoeven is a researcher and PhD candidate in the French section at the University of Melbourne. She has been working on the utopian and dystopian figures in 19<sup>th</sup> century French literature and will be undertaking a comparative project on 19<sup>th</sup> century French travellers to Melbourne and San Francisco.

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**Robyn Walton, La Trobe University**

Robyn Walton's interest in utopianism developed in the 1970s when she was an undergraduate at the University of Sydney majoring in Australian Literature. Her Masters thesis comprised a survey of Australian utopian and dystopian publications. During the '80s and '90s she concentrated on creative writing while teaching part-time at the University of Technology, Sydney; however she continued reading in the utopian studies area and gave occasional conference papers (in the US, Europe and Israel) on Australian utopianism and social/cultural history. In the late '90s she resumed research on utopianism and has since published articles and book sections locally and in Europe. Currently she is a doctoral candidate at La Trobe University, Melbourne. Her thesis concerns the expression of apprehensive and counter-revolutionary sentiments in Europe in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth.

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**Lucy Wright**

Lucy Wright is a doctoral candidate in the Cinema Studies Program at the University of Melbourne. Her PhD focuses on spiritual ideas in science fiction anime.

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