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Keith Evan Green (local host for this Cornell event), Professor of Design + Environmental Analysis and Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, and Director of the Architectural Robotics Lab, Cornell University, USA

Brian Greenspan, Professor and Director of Hypertext and Hypermedia Lab, Department of English Language and Literature, Carleton University, Canada

Dan Smith, Senior Lecturer in Fine Art Theory, Chelsea College of Art and Design, University of the Arts London, UK

Michael G. Kelly, Director of the Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies, School of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication, Limerick University, Ireland.

Susan McManus, Lecturer, School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy, Queens University, Belfast, UK.

Kenneth Hanshew, Lecturer in Slavic Literature (Czech, Polish and Russian, Bosnian / Croatian / Serbian) Department of Slavic Studies, University of Regensburg, Germany.

The 5th symposium of the *Imaginaries of the Future* International Research Network

OVERVIEW

What subjectivities exist within, against and beyond our present? Is ‘the human’ still a viable subject for an emancipatory politics? And if not, what does this mean for utopianism? Is it even possible to think utopia apart from the human? How might we distinguish between technological futurisms that (re)centre the human and those that de-centre it?

The fifth *Imaginaries of the Future: Historicizing the Present* symposium (supported by the *Leverhulme Trust*, UK) will explore the relationship between utopia(nism) and subjectivity. We welcome proposals for twenty minute presentations that explore the relationship between the post-, trans-, more-than-, non-, and/or in-human and utopia(nism) from any academic discipline. We also welcome proposals from artists, film-makers, musicians, activists or indeed anyone else from outside the academy. This may include the presentation of artistic work, or presentations that do not otherwise conform to academic norms.

We particularly welcome proposals for presentations that challenge dominant narratives regarding the ‘turn’ away from the human. Particular racialized, gendered and disabled subjects have long been excluded from the category of ‘the human’, whilst many Indigenous cosmologies reject understandings of ‘the human’ that underpin Western thought. Many such subjects have also been excluded from and by various utopianisms, even as they develop forms of knowledge and praxis that might be thought of as utopian.

Papers should engage with the concept of utopia(nism) (or a related term: dystopia, anti-utopia, heterotopia, etc.), although this engagement can be critical. We do not expect all presenters to have familiarity with academic work on utopia.

“Utopia after the Human” will be a small, intimate, symposium with no parallel sessions. Participants are expected to attend all of the two-day program so that discussions can develop across the whole symposium. Consequently, we will not accept virtual presentations unless this forms an integral part of the presentation’s content, and where someone will be able to be physically present during the symposium.

Specific topics through which presentations interrogate the relationship between post-humanism and utopianism include: Post-human bodies, post-human subjects Decolonizing post-humanism, Post-human technologies, Post-humans, home and community, Extrapolations, fictions, visions, The political economy of post-humanism, Post-humanism and the state, Post-human ecologies, Post-human cosmologies, Spatializing the Post-human.