



Utopianism and Early Modern Scientific Collaboration

Maison Française d'Oxford 11-12 May 2026

Organised by Niall Dilucia (niall.dilucia@cncrs.fr)

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 (MONDAY 11 MAY)

9:30 Welcoming Remarks

9:45 Professor Richard Scholar (University of Durham): *Architectures of Invention in New Atlantis: Bacon's Empty Plinths*

10:45 Dr Robert Twiss & Dr Laura Mattioli (University of Durham): *Para-topias: the disciplinary environs of utopia*

11:45 Break

12:15 Professor Gregory Claeys (Royal Holloway, University of London): *Some Utopian Roads to Sustainability*

13:15 Lunch

14:30 Dr Oana Matei (Vasile Goldis Western University of Arad): *Innovation and Scientific Collaboration in Seventeenth-Century Natural Historical Plant Projects*

15:30 Dr Mirjam Hähnle (German Historical Institute London): *Common Goods and the Household Economy in Early Modern Project Making*

16:30 Break

17:00 (Keynote) Professor Vera Keller (University of Oregon): *Footnotes in Paradise: The Individual, the Collective, and the Research Specialty in Early Modern Learned Utopias*

18:30 End of Day 1

19:00: Conference Dinner (Invited Guests)

DAY 2 (TUESDAY 12 MAY)

9:00 Dr Niall Dilucia (Maison Française d'Oxford/CNRS): *Life on Mars? Astronomy and the Boundaries of Seventeenth-Century Collective Curiosity*

10:00 Dr Honor Jackson (University of Fribourg): *Utopian Practice in the Restoration: Intertextuality, Adaptation, and Drama?*

11:00 Break

11:20 Professor Chloe Houston (University of Reading): *'The newe yle, called Utopia': reading early modern utopias as islands*

12:20 Closing Remarks & Lunch

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