

Utopia, Dystopia, and Concepts of Development

Date: February 14-15, 2008

The Institute of Development Studies Kolkata proposed an international conference on *Utopia, Dystopia, and Concepts of Development*. The conference was then adopted by the Indo-French programme of the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (FMSH), Paris, and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR).

This conference was held on February 14-15, 2008 at FMSH, Paris. It brought together scholars in a variety of disciplines (history, literature, gender studies, political science, sociology, anthropology, and Native American Studies) and multiple countries (India, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States).

Particular attention was paid to the historical, political, and literary study of utopia, the study of utopia/ dystopia in a non-Eurocentric way, and to the connection of utopia and dystopia with human development, seen as a realm of expanding human freedom, and as a way of broadening access to democracy and social justice.

Participants in the conference included Peter Kulchyski (Canada), Marie-Claire Caloz-Tschopp (Switzerland), Samita Sen (India), Subhoranjan Dasgupta (India), Barnita Bagchi (India), Martine Spensky (France), Miguel Abensour (France), and Sonia Dayan-Herzbrun (France). Barnita Bagchi and Professor Martine Spensky were the Conference Coordinators.