

**Proposal for a workshop on:**  
***Artificial Utopias***  
**(Agent-Based Models of Utopian Societies)**  
**at the Social Simulation Conference 2022**  
**(12-16 Sept. 2022, Milan)**  
**Main chair & contact:**  
**Bruce Edmonds <[bruce@edmonds.name](mailto:bruce@edmonds.name)>**

Since Thomas Moore's seminal book, the term Utopia denotes the concept of an ideal society. Hitherto utopias have been expressed using literary imagination or rhetorical and political tracts. Agent-Based Modelling (ABM) provides a mechanism for articulating utopias in a formal, reproducible and transparent way - such that assumptions and consequences can be examined, critiqued and explored. Moreover, ABM requires that both individual behaviour and macro aspects be formally specified ensuring cross-level consistency.

This workshop asks the community to articulate utopias using ABM. These can be in any area and at any level of abstraction. Results could show success or failure of such ABM utopias and / or raise open issues or critical assumptions raised by the work. The aim is to provide a forum in which ABM-articulated utopias can be formally presented, discussed and compared.

**Possible topics include, but are not limited to:**

ABM models of:

- Post-capitalist economies, Post-nation state worlds
- Decentralised governance, Self-regulating societies
- Anarcho-capitalist societies, Anarcho-communist societies
- Commons-based utopias
- Degrowth and postgrowth societies
- Ideal centralised states, Democratic planning
- Algorithmic money and post-money societies
- Utopias that become dystopias
- Technologically enabled and / or AI supported utopias
- New utopias that have not been previously presented

Critical discussion / opinion pieces on:

- Utopias that could be modelled by ABM - challenges / ideas for the ABM community
- The notion of modelling utopias with ABM - positive and critical perspectives
- How might we compare ABM utopia models?
- Presenting existing published ABM models as representing utopias
- ABM Utopia methodology, e.g. what does it mean to validate or calibrate an ABM utopia?

**Previous relevant workshop**

- Envisioning Post-Capitalist Societies via Simulation - Critique, Utopias and Agent Based Modelling:  
<https://nach-dem-geld.de/2021/online-workshop/>

## Some relevant publications

- D’Aquino P., Le Page Ch., Bousquet, F. and Bah A. (2003) Using Self-Designed Role-Playing Games and a Multi-Agent System to Empower a Local Decision-Making Process for Land Use Management: The SelfCormas Experiment in Senegal. In: *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation* 6 (3).
- DeMartino, G.F. The spectre of irreparable ignorance: counterfactuals and causality in economics. *Rev Evol Polit Econ* 2, 253–276 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43253-020-00029-w>
- Levitas R. (2013) *Utopia as method. The imaginary reconstitution of society*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Millington J.D.A., Wainwright J. (2017) Mixed qualitative-simulation methods. *Progress in Human Geography* 41 (1), 68–88.
- Morgan M.S. (2012) *The world in the model. How economists work and think*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ Pr.
- Project Society After Money (2019) *Society after money. A dialogue*. New York, NY, London: Bloomsbury Academic (Thinking/media).
- Sutterlütli S. and Meretz St. (2018) *Kapitalismus aufheben. Eine Einladung, über Utopie und Transformation neu nachzudenken*. VSA.
- Wright E.O. (2010) *Envisioning real utopias*. Verso Books
- Yang L. and Gilbert G.N. (2008) Getting away from numbers: using qualitative observation for agent-based modeling. *Advances in complex systems*, 11(2), 175–185.

## Submission:

Submissions will be reviewed by members of the organising committee based on suitability to the workshop topic.

- Send an extended abstract or full paper, max. 2 x A4 pages (including references and figures) to Bruce Edmonds, by the end of: **15th May 2022**
- Notification of acceptance **12 July 2022**.
- Final version of paper/abstract **1 September 2022**.
- Workshop event: **12 September 2022**.

## Post workshop report:

After the workshop the organisers along with interested participants will write a post workshop report detailing the work presented, the discussions at the workshop and possible future directions and topics in the area. This will be published in the Review of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation (<https://rofasss.org>).

## Special Issue:

After the workshop, assuming sufficient interest and quality, authors will be asked to submit articles to a special issue of a relevant journal such as (subject to agreement with the journal):

- Futures (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/futures>)
- JASSS (<https://jasss.org/JASSS.html>)

## Organising Committee:

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Lena Gerdes <[lana.gerdes@wu.ac.at](mailto:lana.gerdes@wu.ac.at)>  
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