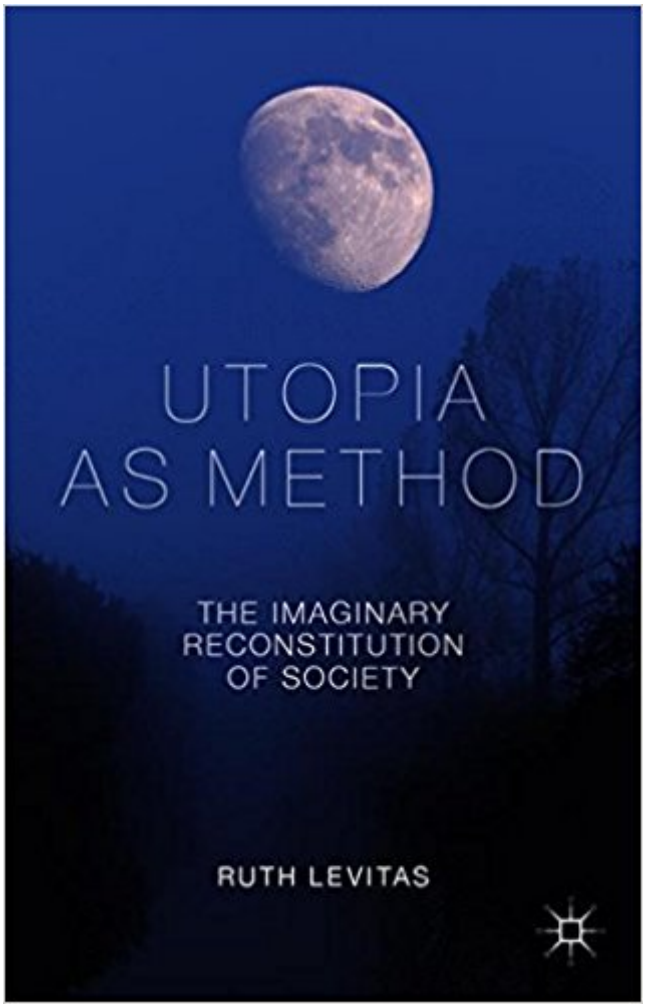
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Utopia As Method: The Imaginary Reconstitution Of Society



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

Utopia should be understood as a method rather than a goal. This book rehabilitates utopia as a repressed dimension of the sociological and in the process produces the Imaginary Reconstitution of Society, a provisional, reflexive and dialogic method for exploring alternative possible futures.

Book Information

Paperback: 268 pages

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan; 2013 edition (July 23, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0230231977

ISBN-13: 978-0230231979

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.6 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #966,537 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #118 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Utopian #1108 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Methodology #1484 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Political Ideologies

Customer Reviews

’Levitas’s Utopia as Method is a crucial and necessary book. In the face of global ecological and economic crises, she offers utopianism as a robust and realistic method that encompasses both a critique of the existing world and alternatives for a better one that can be mobilized in the process of transforming, indeed redeeming, the dark times in which we live.’ - Tom Moylan, Professor Emeritus and Co-Director of the Ralahine Centre for Utopian Studies at the University of Limerick, Ireland ’Author of the path-breaking The Concept of Utopia Ruth Levitas has produced a new powerful reflection on the protean nature of the utopian. It is a very fine work, theoretically innovative, truly interdisciplinary, and combining scholarly integrity with a distinctive political voice. The meditations of a lifetime.’ - Vincent Geoghegan, Professor of Political Theory, Queen’s University Belfast, UK ’Ruth Levitas’ Utopia as Method is a profound and deeply original exploration of the connection between utopian thinking and social theory, and an urgent call for sociologists to place the imaginary reconstruction of society at the centre of their work. It is a wonderful, inspiring book.’ - Erik Olin Wright, Vilas Distinguished Professor, University of Wisconsin, USA ’This book is an indispensable support for deep change in trivial times, a testimonial to the transformative power of

imagination, and a celebration of life as a journey that can find an echo across all cultures in our changing world.' - Jenneth Parker, Research Director, Schumacher Institute, UK 'In Utopia as Method, Levitas offers an urgent and convincing application of utopian theories to IROS (the Imaginary Reconstitution of Society). She builds on her magisterial earlier work The Concept of Utopia to persuade readers that the current era (late capitalism in its death throes) has made utopian thinking mandatory not self-indulgent or irrelevant. Levitas is to be congratulated for the depth of her argument, the clarity of its expression, and the honesty that lies at its heart.' - Toby Widdicombe, University of Alaska Anchorage, USA

Ruth Levitas is Professor of Sociology at the University of Bristol, founding Chair of the Utopian Studies Society Europe, and Chair of the William Morris Society. Her publications include The Concept of Utopia . In 2012 she received the Lyman Tower Sargent Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Utopian Studies.

This is a well written and very scholarly book, the author has apparently spent many years reading and teach about the ideas of other authors. Reading it is a quick way to become familiar with a lot of scholarship that would be very tiresome to read in the original. She has a good way of conceptualizing the different kinds of work in the field, viewing them through the metaphors of archaeology, ontology and Architecture. She argues that all social science has a Utopian aspect in that it has an implicit or explicit model of how society could be better. And she argues that the discipline of sociology would be more interesting and useful if it made this explicit and worked harder to develop its models of a better society. As a retired sociologist, I agree that sociology would benefit from doing so. I was eagerly awaiting her last chapter, on the "Archaeology of Utopia" where she would put together her own model, or at least show us how to put together a utopia for our time. It was a disappointment. She is an old Marxist who wants all the good things, and thinks the best way to accomplish this in today's world is to give everyone an guaranteed income whether they work or not. This wouldn't necessarily mean equality since people might have the right to work and earn more money (or maybe not). She cites the Occupy Wall Street movement as the most vital embodiment of her ideal in today's world, but the problem with Occupy is it knew what it was against but not what it was for. This is where a Utopian analysis could make a vital contribution with a description of the "architecture" of how such a world would work. But Professor Levitas drops the ball. She says that cooperatives won't be enough, and that a state will still be needed with "public ownership and control of the assets currently in private hands". Then she brushes off criticism of

this model with the "usual response" that the problem with socialism is that "has never been tried." But of course, it has, in so many places and so many ways. Is North Korea a utopian vision? Did they not try to create socialism? Perhaps I was expecting too much from this work, it is a book on "Method", not a Utopia. She does cite various authors who have tried to answer the question of a post-Communist utopia, such as Erik Olin Wright. But the Method can't be just to analyze and criticize the works of other authors, It has to be about building a utopia for the twenty-first century, Will it be Hugo Chavez's "twenty-first century socialism"? If so, she should mention it. A utopia for the future would have to deal with technological change in some way, with The "Singularity" as utopia, artificial intelligence, transhumanism, and so on. If you're going to review literature, how about Heinz Dieterich? How about Ray Kurzweil? This book needed more on futurism and less on the history of socialist ideas in Britain.

Download to continue reading...

Utopia as Method: The Imaginary Reconstitution of Society Utopia: The Search for the Ideal Society in the Western World Westward Bound: Sex, Violence, the Law, and the Making of a Settler Society (Law and Society Series Published in association with the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History) Alfred's Beginning Drumset Method: Learn How to Play Drumset with this Innovative Method (Alfred's Drumset Method) Easy Songs for Mandolin: Supplementary Songbook to the Hal Leonard Mandolin Method (Hal Leonard Mandolin Method: Supplement to Any Mandolin Method) Guitar for Kids Method & Songbook: Hal Leonard Guitar Method Bk/online audio (Hal Leonard Guitar Method (Songbooks)) Imaginary Buildings and Magical Lands: Fantastic Forests, Landscapes, Castles and Doodled Cities to Color Cartographic Grounds: Projecting the Landscape Imaginary The Last Imaginary Place: A Human History of the Arctic World First Things: Reading the Maternal Imaginary Imaginary Characters: Mixed-Media Painting Techniques for Figures and Faces The Transplant Imaginary: Mechanical Hearts, Animal Parts, and Moral Thinking in Highly Experimental Science Imaginary Jesus Principles of Creature Design: creating imaginary animals Imaginary Vessels The Imaginary Girlfriend: A Memoir The Dominican Racial Imaginary: Surveying the Landscape of Race and Nation in Hispaniola (Critical Caribbean Studies) Mark Twain for Cat Lovers: True and Imaginary Adventures with Feline Friends The Imaginary World Of... The Racial Imaginary: Writers on Race in the Life of the Mind

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help