

29th International Conference of Europeanists
Council for European Studies (CES)
University of Iceland, Reykjavik
June 27-29, 2023

Using utopia and dystopia for writing European regulations. Research in the context of robotics, ecology and interconvictional dialogue.

**27th of June, 2pm-3:45pm
Room VHV-107, Paper Panel**

Sébastien Chonavey, Free University of Brussels, Belgium
Tatiana Letovaltseva, KU Leuven & Royal Military Academy, Belgium
Dr. Céline Pieters, University of Vienna, Austria (Chair)

The goal of this panel is to question the use of utopia and dystopia in the making of regulatory frameworks. More precisely, the panelists will address the problematic of the European regulations' writing in the context of fundamental societal domains, i.e. in robotics and AI, ecology, bioethics and interconvictional dialogue.

For several years, many efforts have been made to clarify and regulate those fields, both at a national and at a continental level. On this matter, the amount of regulations, guidelines, recommendations, conventions, declarations and charters, shows the importance given to such an enterprise.

Interestingly, a common characteristic feature of these normative instruments (charters) is the reference to utopia or dystopia, i.e. the evocation of the best possible world or at contrast, to the worst imaginable outcomes. As a matter of fact, these two main narrative genres are known for outlining the origins, the means and even the purpose of these instruments of regulation that are common in the European culture.

Yet, how can utopia or dystopia motivate the drafting of normative texts? How can they serve charters that are now in application? And how could it eventually help in anticipating future risks? Using a linguistic and a philosophical perspective, the panelists will discuss these problematics through the study of one or various cases in their own field of expertise.