

Rosemary Wakeman

Professor of History

Interim Director, Graduate Studies

Fordham University, New York

Imagining Cities in the Global Age

This seminar will be based on the book *Practicing Utopia: An Intellectual History of the New Town Movement* (Chicago, 2016). It will consider urban imaginaries and the new town movement from both interdisciplinary and global perspectives. The topics will cover specific moments in social and political history through the prism of the "new town." How do visions of the city frame periods of crisis and different national paths to modernization? At the same time these urban imaginaries can defy political and national polarisation and reveal shared underlying ideas about perfecting the social order and interpersonal relations. In what ways does the new town movement reflect the onset of global society? The seminar will also discuss the role of the utopian apparatus at moments of social, political, and environmental crisis. As climate change forces the transformation (and sometimes abandonment) of cities, can we imagine the urban future?

New town – model or prototype of the future of society, which identified its modernisation path. It defied the polarisation capitalism-socialism and at the same time it was a means of control of the cold-war frontier. As a state tool for territorial domination it denotes specific moments in social and political history, an act of hegemony decided at the highest political levels and indicating how a society should function – i.e. perfecting the social order, indicating the desired kind of interpersonal relations and social cohesion. Clemens Zimmermann, *Die Zeit der Metropolen. Urbanisierung und Großstadtentwicklung* (1996): The metropolis is “the place of social experiences of exemplary value”.