

## Seminar presentation sheet

Academic year	2016/17
Seminar n°	6
Seminar title	<b>FOOD AND THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE IN THE EARLY MODERN AND THE 20TH-21ST CENTURIES UTOPIAN LITERATURE AND IMAGINATION</b>
Teacher(s) (Name, SURNAME)	Fátima VIEIRA
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Teacher(s)' presentation	<p>Fátima Vieira is Associate Professor (with “Agregação”) at Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto, where she has been teaching since 1986. She was the Chairperson of the Utopian Studies Society/Europe from 2006 to 2016. At ILCML – Instituto de Literatura Comparada Margarida Losa, she was the Principal Investigator for the three editions of the research project “Literary Utopias and Utopian Thought: Portuguese Culture and the Western Literary Tradition” (2001-2010) funded by FCT (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia) and is now the Principal Investigator for the multidisciplinary project “ALIMENTOPIA: Utopian Foodways”, also funded by FCT. Fátima Vieira is the director of the collection “Nova Biblioteca das Utopias”, of the Portuguese publishing house “Afrontamento”, the general-editor of <i>E-topia</i>, and <i>Spaces of Utopia</i>, two electronic journals on utopianism published in Portuguese and in English, respectively, and Book Review editor (for languages other than English) of the American journal <i>Utopian Studies</i>. She is the Coordinator of the Porto branch of CETAPS – Centre for English, Translation, and Anglo-Portuguese Studies, of the Universities of Porto and Nova de Lisboa.</p>
Seminar presentation	<p>In <i>Food and the Literary Imagination</i>, Archer, Turley &amp; Thomas argue that “[f]ood, the future of food, cannot be left to governments, banks and supermarkets. Food and its future are the responsibility of poets, dramatists, novelists, artists and us all” (2014: 165). At a time when food systems in our world are breaking down, it is relevant to look at past food crises and see how utopian writers have imaginatively engaged with food issues.</p> <p>This seminar will offer an insight into food as a political issue and into the human experience of food. Conceptually working at the intersection of Food</p>

	<p>Studies and Utopian Studies, the seminar will propose a collaborative research study of a selection of chapters of utopian texts ranging from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, endeavouring to go beyond food's most obvious implications by unveiling the stories of migration, assimilation and resistance by which they may have been framed.</p> <p>The seminar will bridge utopian strategies for solving food crises over the past 500 years with projects that are nowadays being put into practice, although at a micro-level, as reported by recent film documentaries.</p>
<p>Prerequisites to follow the seminar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. <b>Readings:</b> A Reader will be prepared for the seminar, containing, on the one hand, theoretical texts from the field of Food Studies and Utopian Studies, and on the other hand chapters of utopian literary texts. The students WILL NOT have to read all the texts, as the seminar relies on collaborative work, but will have to commit to reading and presenting the texts that will be assigned to them.</li> <li>. <b>Documentaries:</b> The students are expected to watch one of the documentaries that have been recently released on the future of food.</li> <li>. <b>Digital Humanities:</b> To “interrogate” the selected literary texts students are to use the set of “utopian questions” formulated by Lyman T. Sargent by resorting to a very simple open-source labeling software. The data resulting from this will be made available online for free.</li> <li>. <b>Meetings with NGOs:</b> Students are expected to visit one of the NewFaces’ partner institutions and report on the issues related to food that will be discussed in this seminar.</li> </ul>
<p>Seminar objectives /skills to be developed by the students</p>	<p>At the end of the seminar, the students will be familiar with the basic conceptual tools of the emerging field of Food Studies and with a selection of utopian literary texts from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They are expected to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. understand that it is not the first time that the human beings are facing a food crisis;</li> <li>. understand how utopian literary texts have addressed food issues over the past five centuries;</li> <li>. apply the proposed methodology (Lyman T. Sargent’s “utopian questions”) to other literary texts, in the future, thus generating more data and contributing to the field of the Digital Humanities;</li> <li>. Make the bridge between events and strategies devised in the past and current experiments happening all over the world.</li> </ul>

Session 1 – Presentation / plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Introduction to the Field of Food Studies.</li> <li>. The importance of food today, its relevance for the construction of a better future: Discussion of the documentaries watched by the students.</li> <li>. Group work: Guided discussion of the selected theoretical texts.</li> <li>. The “utopian questions” regarding food issues formulated by Lyman T. Sargent</li> </ul>
Session 2 – Presentation / plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Food as a political issue in Great Britain since the Enclosure Movement</li> <li>. Contextualized discussion of five of the selected utopian texts. Reports presented by the students on the texts that have been assigned to them.</li> </ul>
Session 3 – Presentation / plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Contextualized discussion of the remaining two utopian texts. Reports presented by the students on the texts that have been assigned to them.</li> <li>. Discussion of the visit to the NewFaces’ partner institution as regards food issues</li> <li>. What now?</li> </ul>

## **Bibliography**

**Note:** A Reader including on the one hand theoretical texts from the fields of Food Studies and Utopian Studies, and on the other hand chapters of selected utopian texts will be prepared for the seminar. The students will also be sent links to the selected documentaries. The bibliography below should only be considered for complementary/exploratory critical reading:

KEN ALBALA, *Routledge International Handbook of Utopian Studies* (New York: Routledge, 2013).

J.E. ARCHER et al., *Food and the Literary Imagination* (New York: Palgrave, 2014).

ANNE L. BOWER (ed.), *Reel: Essays on Food and Film* (New York, Routledge, 2004).

CAROLE COUNIHAN & PENNY VAN ESTERIK (eds.), *Food and Culture: A Reader* (Oxon: Routledge, 2013).

MICHAEL K. GOODMAN & Colin SAGE (eds.), *Food Transgressions: Making Sense of Contemporary Food Politics* (London: Routledge, 2014).

DAVID M. KAPLAN (ed.), *The Philosophy of Food* (London: University of California Press, 2012).

MICHAEL PARRISH LEE, *The Food Plot in the Nineteenth-Century Novel* (New York: Palgrave, 2016).

JEFF MILLER & JONATHAN DEUTSCH, *Food Studies: An Introduction to Research Methods* (Oxford: Berg, 2009).



JOPI NYMAN & PERE GALLARDO (eds.), *Mapping Appetite: Essays on Food, Fiction and Culture*, (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2007).

RACHEL SLOCUM & ARUN SALDANHA (eds.), *Geographies of Race and Food: Fields, Bodies, Markets* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2013).

PAUL V. STOCK et al (eds.), *Food Utopias: Reimagining Citizenship, Ethics and Community* (New York, Routledge, 2015).