



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts

John Harlow

Will defend his thesis

Utopian Themes in Sustainable Development Discourse

Abstract

Sustainable development is commonly traced back to the “Bruntland Report”. However, its origins wind their way through earlier UN conferences, 18th century economic thought, Rousseauian ideals, the modernism founded on Bacon and Descartes, early Christian utopianism, and classical utopias such as Republic and New Atlantis, which expressed themes of social justice and rational management. This paper follows sustainable development back through some of its history, and traces competing utopian themes from their origins into contemporary conflicts within the discourse. It concludes suggesting that awareness of these discursive streams will assist in the use of the tools and application of concepts available for sustainable development efforts.

April 19, 2010
10:00 AM
GIOS 101

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Aaron Golub (Chair)
Dr. Braden Allenby (Member)
Dr. Arnim Wiek (Member)