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Pathways of Thought

Approaches to Utopia was prepared in conjunction with the UNESCO project 'Chemins de la pensée' (Pathways of Thought). This issue reprints several papers from the international conference 'Readings of Utopia', organized in close collaboration with Mexico's National Council for Culture and the Arts (Conaculta) in Morelia, Mexico, 22–4 November 2004. The conference had set itself the goal of examining the clues left by various incomplete projects of social and imaginative construction for our history, assessing the impact of the utopian stories and experiences on modern developments, and seeing how far we still today can or should continue the utopian task.

Pathways of Thought thanks all those who created an 'near-utopian' ambiance – as was said during the conference - for dialogue and reflection, whose current global concerns were set alongside a longstanding local experience, that of the utopia specialist Don Vasco de Quiroga, an experience which the inhabitants of his Fundaciones, which we here salute, are still living today. We acknowledge the government of Michoacán state in the person of the Governor, Mr Lázaro Cardenas Batel and his colleagues Juan Bosco Castro, Lic. Octavio Aparicio, Araceli López Valdéz, Leticia Villanueva, Ing. Octavio Aparicio, Angelica Pérez Palacios; the Tourism Secretary Mr Genovevo Figueroa and his team; Igor Cerda, Carolina Ramírez from the Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, whose emblematic Convent of Tiripetio, magnificently maintained and graciously lent for the conference, was the very first institution of higher education founded in the Americas in 1538 by the Augustinians. A special thank you to the organizing committee, chaired by Ms Mayra Coffigny de Cardenas, and the executive secretariat under Ms Gloria López Morales, for the conference organization and, without exhausting the list, thanks to the Comte and Comtesse de Reiset, Alya Saada, Claudia Belair, Jimena Mateos, Mayeya García-Toraño, América Pedraza, Ana Compeán, Juan Osorio, José Hernandez . . . And also to Borja Cardelus, Teixeira Coelho, Jorge Alberto Lozoya, Francisco López, Armando Mauricio Escobar, Carlos Herrejón Peredo, Francisco Miranda and J. Benedict Warren.

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