



Seminar

JENNY ANDERSSON

Guest of the Principal, SCAS.

CNRS Research Professor, and Co-director, Max Planck Sciences Po Center on Coping with Instability in Market Societies (MaxPo), Sciences Po, Paris

*The Future of the World:
Futurology, Futurists and the Struggle
for the Post Cold War Imagination*

Tuesday, 5 February, 2019, 2:15 p.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala
www.swedishcollegium.se

S W E D I S H
C O L L E G I U M
for ADVANCED STUDY

ABOUT JENNY ANDERSSON

Jenny Andersson is Research Professor at the CNRS and Co-director of the Max Planck Sciences Po Center on Coping with Instability in Market Societies (MaxPo) at Sciences Po in Paris. She is the author of several books and high level articles, including the recent *The Future of the World. Futurology, Futurists and the Struggle for the Post Cold War Imagination* (Oxford University Press, 2018); “Closing the Future: Environmental Research and the Management of Conflicting Future Value Orders” in *Science, Technology & Human Values* (with Erik Westholm, 2018); “The Great Future Debate and the Struggle for the World” in *The American Historical Review* (117(5), 1411-1430, 2012); and *The Library and the Workshop. Social Democracy and Capitalism in the Knowledge Age* (Stanford University Press, 2010).

Andersson is also a member of the programme committee for the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics’ conference “Fathomless Futures: Algorithmic and Imagined” which will be held in June 2019.

ABSTRACT

The Future of the World is devoted to the intriguing field of study which emerged after World War Two, futurism or futurology. Jenny Andersson explains how futurist scholars and researchers imagined the Cold War and post Cold War world and the tools and methods they would use to influence and change that world.

Futurists were a motley crew of Cold War warriors, nuclear scientists, journalists, and peace activists. Some argued it should be a closed sphere of science defined by delimited probabilities. They were challenged by alternative notions of the future as a potentially open realm.

Futurism also drew on an eclectic range of repertoires, some of which were deduced from positivist social science, mathematics, and nuclear physics, and some of which sprung from alternative forms of knowledge in science fiction, journalism, or religion.

These different forms of prediction laid very different claims to how accurately futures could be known, and what kind of control could be exerted over what was yet to come. *The Future of the World* carefully examines these different engagements with the future, and inscribes them in the intellectual history of the post war period. Using unexplored archival collections, *The Future of the World* reconstructs the Cold War networks of futurologists and futurists.