The Future City: cruel or consoling Utopia?

The idea of the Future City, as an idea that often relies upon Utopian thinking to sustain itself, can be as cruel as it is consoling. Even as it makes possible investment into urban space as a site of future fulfillment, it regularly fails to deliver upon this promise. This panel asks what futures such Utopian thinking makes available for the city and what present realities it denies? It will query more specifically the Utopias that have come to structure London’s own particular futures. What Utopian thinking is operative, for instance, in a city so firmly structured around the logic of speculation intrinsic to finance capital? And what futures might present citizens be imagining for themselves? The Future City: cruel or consoling Utopia? This event forms part of the LSE Space for Thought Literary Festival 2016, taking place from Monday 22 – Saturday 27 February 2016, with the theme ‘Utopias’. This event is free to attend and open to all. E-tickets will be available to book online after 10am on Tuesday 2 February via LSE online store.

Practical informations:

1. http://www.lse.ac.uk/publicEvents/spaceForThought/LiteraryFestival2016/Home.aspx