

行政院國家科學委員會專題研究計畫成果報告

重閱經典烏托邦

Reconsidering Canonical Utopias

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一、中文摘要

本論文試圖透過重新閱讀英國十九世紀末~二十世紀初作家威爾斯 (H. G. Wells) 的烏托邦作品《現代烏托邦》(*A Modern Utopia*) (1905), 質疑主流烏托邦史觀, 並揭示威爾斯在烏托邦文學史中所應擁有的位置。晚近學者對於威爾斯作品的文學性已有相當程度的認可, 然而威爾斯對於烏托邦文學的貢獻仍有待探討。實則, 無論就文體或內涵而言, 《現代烏托邦》皆超越了十九世紀經典烏托邦的範疇, 直追二十世紀末的女性烏托邦。《現代烏托邦》的出現, 顛覆了十九世紀烏托邦的面貌, 也“打亂”了主流烏托邦史觀的佈局。

關鍵詞：烏托邦、威爾斯、《現代烏托邦》

Abstract

This paper aims to reevaluate the significance of H. G. Wells as a utopian through a study of his *A Modern Utopia* (1905). Given the emergent appreciation of the artistry of Wells, the acknowledgment of Wells's contribution as a utopian writer still leaves much to be desired. In fact, a revisionary reading of *A Modern Utopia*

may entail a rewriting of the literary history of utopia itself. A dissection of the style and vision of *A Modern Utopia* will uncover the affinity between *A Modern Utopia* and the more recent critical or feminist utopias. *A Modern Utopia* is indeed ahead of its time in many aspects and as a result problematizes canonical utopian history.

Keywords: Utopia, Wells, *A Modern Utopia*

二、緣由與目的

筆者於研究女性烏托邦多年後, 深自覺得, 在女性烏托邦已成另一典律的今天, 重閱經典烏托邦實有其必要性。歷來對於經典烏托邦的批判誠然有助於揭發諸多關於經典烏托邦的迷思, 但亦可能有以偏概全之憾。職是之故, 本研究企圖透過重閱經典烏托邦的努力, 還原經典烏托邦的原有風貌。有鑒於十九世紀末、二十世紀初乃烏托邦文學的黃金時代, 本研究乃專注於討論此時期的代表性人物—威爾斯, 希冀能藉由仔細爬梳其作品重新為其定位。

三、結果與討論

威爾斯是一位出類拔萃的作家，本計畫的重心乃試圖糾正烏托邦文學史對於他的忽視。其實，威爾斯一直致力於烏托邦文類的經營，與其同時代的人相較，其對於文體的自覺和對於烏托邦內涵的省思更顯得獨樹一幟。

在文體和結構方面，《現代烏托邦》一舉突破十九世紀烏托邦的寫實掛帥而展露出許多出人意表的實驗手法。後設技巧、開放文體、多重觀點……等手法之援引使得《現代烏托邦》成了一部多音／異質／流動等成分交雜的作品，有別於十九世紀烏托邦的靜態性。

在內涵方面，《現代烏托邦》亦與傳統烏托邦大相逕庭。它刻意與傳統烏托邦保持距離，質疑傳統烏托邦所擁抱的安定、幸福、進步、完美等理念，並凸顯現代烏托邦的不完美、不確定性

無論就文體或內涵而言，《現代烏托邦》皆顛覆了十九世紀烏托邦的風貌，而與二十世紀的女性烏托邦有諸多類似處。準此，則主流烏托邦史觀是否需要重新改寫？

四、計畫成果自評

本研究計畫已完成英文論文“Utopia Under Revision: *A Modern Utopia* Reconsidered,” 近期將投稿於國內刊物。論文凸顯威爾斯《現代烏托邦》的開創性，進而推翻主流烏托邦史觀壁壘分明的二分法：即經典烏托邦乃是寫實的、靜態的、封閉而保守的，而女性烏托邦始開展出烏托邦文類可貴的未定特質和實驗性傾向。此研究成果與研究計畫預期目標相符。

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