

Session Type: Thematic Session

Submitted by: Andrew Schrank, University of New Mexico
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Working Title: **Blocking the Low Road, Paving the High Road: The Material Bases of Real Utopias**

Substantive Focus: Real utopias need material foundations. What might those foundations and their institutional supports look like at a societal level? The proposed panel would bring together a number of scholars who are working on regulatory and industrial policies that are designed to block the proverbial low road of exploitation and ecological degradation and/or pave a higher road that insulates workers, families, and their environments from mistreatment and abuse. In so doing, it helps to identify "accessible way stations" on the road to a more just society.

Rationale for Inclusion: The panel will explicitly speak to the challenges of designing institutions that can foment the spread of more egalitarian and sustainable modes of production. As such, it explicitly highlights a central plank in the theme of the 2012 meeting.

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