



April 3, 2017
6-7:30 pm
Craven Lounge, Morris Hall

Technologies of Utopia
Alberto Foyo

Biography

Alberto Foyo is the principal of internationally recognized Alberto Foyo Architect, PC, integrating architecture, urban design, and landscape architecture. He has taught at the Graduate School of Architecture at Columbia University, at the CUNY School of Architecture, The Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, the UNITEC School of Architecture in New Zealand, and the Fachhochschule in Munich, Germany.

Combining his academic and architectural expertise, his work demonstrates his commitment to ethical aesthetics. His firm's satellite organization Postopia develops renewal policies and proposals in deteriorated urban environments and has earned him an Honorary Masters Honoris Causa from the School of Civil Engineering and Architecture in Kharkov, Ukraine. At Recycled China in Beijing, he collaborates to repurpose discarded materials for architectural use. He has co-founded Spain's Compostela Institute, an international academic architecture program.

His students participate in an international "hands-on" laboratory: permaculture design-build initiative in the Brazilian Amazon basin with the indigenous Mundurucu tribe, reconstruction in Gaza and the design and the development of a community center in Sri Lanka. He has lectured and published worldwide.

Inspired by Noam Chomsky's work on 'Manufacturing Consent', this lecture will elaborate on an alternative look at technology and the ways in which it is becoming an agent of transformation of human reality. The lecture will elaborate on the ways in which new technologies are bringing about the 'social fabrication' of a new technocratic regime; one under which 'the possible' is morphing towards the 'the impossible' and 'the impossible' is morphing towards 'the possible'; one where states of consciousness and states of unconsciousness are no longer so far apart. One where, for good or for bad, realities and utopias have merged into one.

As we give consent to living in a potential state of technolatriy, one that is prone to the uncritical adoration of technology, we ought to take the opportunity, as an act of being consequential, to ponder on new definitions of both reality and utopia; new definitions that reflect our changing existentialist link to life.