**Professor Zsolt Czigányik** from Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, will conduct two workshops on **September 16 & 17** (time will be arranged to suit the participating students). Ideally, the two seminars work together, but they can also be visited separately. Students interested in attending can register by sending an email to: Ms Dafni Mostaklidou, dtmousta@enl.auth.gr. Make sure you state whether you wish to attend one or both of the seminars.

Wednesday 16 September

**The world of utopia - literature and social imagination**

Utopia, the Greek neologism was coined by an Englishman almost exactly 500 years ago, yet the concept is as old as mankind. As a manifestation of man's wishing nature, utopia is sometimes considered as useless dreaming, or even as something dangerous. The seminar will demonstrate that utopianism is more than just a literary genre; it is a part of our thought, the way we look at the world, a search for alternative ways of life. Utopia is a part of both popular culture and social science. Theoretical aspects will be addressed in a student-friendly way and the history of the search for a better world (a search that often ends up with disastrous alternatives) will be traced from ancient myth till contemporary books and movies.

Thursday, 17 September

**Utopia and literature - the first 500 years**

Thomas More coined a word and invented a genre that immediately became popular. This popularity has not been lost during five centuries, even though today it is the opposite genre, dystopia that attracts both readers and movie-goers (or rather downloaders). The two are not necessarily in opposition, rather in a complementary realtionship. This will be demonstrated through the analysis of some classics such as Thomas More's Utopia and Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels, but lesser known pieces, such as Anthony Burgess's The Wanting Seed or Lois Lowry's The Giver will be discussed as well, alongside with works depicting post-apocaliptic scenarios in contemporary culture.