Beyond ideology and Utopia Image of the other is a popular topic in contemporary cultural studies, for it can be seen as the projection of the dominant culture, and from the image of the other in literary history, we as modern readers can have access to the dominant culture then. Utopia has the 'function of social subversion'. “(Meng Hua, p. 33) The ideological portrayal presents a picture of the other with the dominant ideology in control, while the utopian portrayal presents the other as an idealized view to the actual world. Can we transcend our own ideological and/or utopian biases to scientifically understand and change our social realities? The question Karl Mannheim posed for social science in his Ideology and Utopia (1936) still remains a contested terrain amongst social scientists and cultural relativists alike (e.g., Bordo 1987; Foucault 1972; Harding 1991; Laslett 1990; Longino 1990; Kurzman 1992; Nelson 1993; Wallerstein 1991, 1999). Ideology and utopia: an introduction to the sociology of knowledge. Author. Mannheim, Karl, 1893-1947.