



## 3rd floor – TIME

### The dismemberment of time

#### ***Compare the daily routines in the different eras.***

*People used to have a fixed daily routine. Work, break and closing time were the same for all workers in a company. With the technical possibilities, a daily routine looks very different today. Rigid times are dissolved.*

*There are often interruptions in what one is doing. As a result, everyone has their own daily routine. Life histories are also becoming more and more different from each other...*

#### **Our time structure is changing rapidly**

In the course of modern history, everyday life and the course of the year have largely become detached from the rhythms of nature: our day and our year are structured by social rather than natural events. But social rhythms also formed a fixed temporal framework for our lives for a long time: since industrialisation, we no longer get up with the sun and go to bed when it sets. They were first replaced by the factory siren and the end of broadcasting on television. On the threshold of the 21st century, however, the social rhythms of life are also in the process of dissolving. Depending on their situation in life and their tasks, people go to bed at very different times and get up again at very different times. Some turn night into day, some are early risers, others are morning grouches.

Sociologists therefore speak of an 'individualisation' of the daily pattern...

#### **Old structures are dissolving**

But the temporal fragmentation of life has another side: in fact, more and more people do not simply have their own individual rhythm, but they no longer have a fixed rhythm at all: They get up at a different time every day and also go to bed sometimes earlier and sometimes later, depending on their daily schedule. And this also applies to all other daily activities: Whereas there used to be almost uniform working hours from 8 am - 5 pm, today there are no longer fixed working hours for many occupational groups. People who work at home and on their PCs can do so around the clock. And he can also shop around the clock, or watch TV, or send messages to his friends. Social scientists call this the 24/7 society: you can do more and more things 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

#### **To each his own time?**

This dissolution of fixed patterns (de-sequencing) also applies to the life course as such. Until well into the 20th century, people were guided by a standardised life course, by the idea of a normal biography. This biography had a professional and a family dimension: as a child, you went to school and lived with your parents. After education, one started a job and looked for a permanent relationship with a life partner.

Once you had a steady income, you moved in with your partner. Once they had their own household, they could have children. When you reached the age of 65, you retired - your own children were then grown up and had already left home. Today, on the other hand, life courses are increasingly breaking away from this pattern: some have children before they marry and while

they are still in education, others work early and start further education later; still others marry several times and become fathers again at the age of 60. Maybe they take up a job again at 67, even though they had already taken early retirement at 58. Here, too, we find both an individualisation and a flexibilisation of time patterns.

THE DOCTRINE OF 'KAIROS  
THE FINDING OF THE RIGHT  
THE RIGHT MOMENT, NO LONGER PLAYS  
ANY ROLE AT ALL:  
FASTER IS ALWAYS BETTER,  
WAITING MEANS LOSING'.