



## **The Metamorphosis of Contemporary Work: Time and Space Dimensions of an Eternal Re-birth**

*January, 27<sup>th</sup> 2023, Grenoble (UGA, IAE)<sup>1</sup>*

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Contemporary work keeps departing from the traditional time-space unity of the Taylorian Age. Working everyday at the same place, during the same time, seems to be (for many but not all activities) part of an old world. The heavily emplaced, highly routinized experience of industrial ventures looks already like history in many managerial discourses and practices.

Recently, the visibility of the climate crisis, the covid pandemic and the return to a cold war climate have accelerated (or revealed further) radical changes. Remote work is more legitimate than ever. Digital nomadism is a strange dream shared (and aestheticized) by part of

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that a pre-event will take place on January 26<sup>th</sup> including a workshop and RGCS general assembly.

the new generation. Mobility at work and working in non-placed, evolving, shared environment is becoming the rule. **After a long period spent working in a shared space (to foster a sense of community and on-site serendipity), developing a sense of co-presence or a shared present in a decentered, distributed world of work, seems to be the new managerial stake.** Work experiences a de-spatialization (Taskin and Bridoux, 2010) and the very kind of present and modes of relationship to our present seem to change more or less radically (de Vaujany, 2022a and b). Concepts such as “chronotope” (Lorino and Tricard, 2021), “presence/co-presence” (Bancou, 2021), “organizational presence” (Crevani, 2019), “resistance to spatial change” (Taskin, Courpasson and Donis, 2022), “atmosphere” (de Vaujany et al, 2021; Bernhardt, 2021; Endrissat and Leclercq-Vandelannoitte, 2022), “worksapes” (Brakel-Ahmed, Cnossen and Schlegelmilch, 2020), “open innovation” and “open innovation process” (Haefliger, Von Krogh and Spaeth, 2008), Fabbri and Charrue-Duboc, 2016), “organizational aesthetics” (Wasserman and Frenkel, 2011), “vertical writing” (Helin, 2020), “posthuman practices” (Gherardi, 2016), among others, could be very helpful to explore empirically these (new) temporo-spatial issues and the relationships between time and space dimensions of new ways of working and organizing.

But what do ethnographic research, case studies, surveys, active research already show on the becoming of work and life? What is going on in the world? What are the differentiations happening in our present? What are the differences in the multiple societal metamorphosis taking place in the world? Are there Western- non-Western differences? Small versus big cities differences? Urban versus non-urban areas trends? High intensities versus low intensities divides? What are the productive differences happening in the becoming of contemporary work and life?

Those are the kind of contributions and discussions we expect for this 7<sup>th</sup> RGCS Symposium around remote work, mobile work, commons and commonalization at work, crisis and work, Anthropocene and work, Anthropocene and management, new ways of living and their time-space, new ways of managing work and non-work, digital nomads, the time and space of the leisure class, metaverse and new utopia of work, new forms of entrepreneurship, coworking metamorphosis, the new time-spaces of the maker movement, the role of labs in work transformations, among others. Empirical contributions from multiple fields are welcome (organization studies, urban geography, sociology of work, anthropology of work and organizations, psychology, economic geography, architecture, urban planning...). Both academics and practitioners (consultants, artists, activists, entrepreneurs...) are invited to submit abstracts.

More philosophical contributions (in conversation with empirical trends) are also welcome. Time and space are old topics in the philosophical literature and their inseparability in the becoming of our world has already been stressed by many philosophers (Bergson, Alexander, Whitehead, Barad, Deleuze...) and in continuation to them, the organization studies literature (Chia, 1999, 2002; Calori, 2003; Jones, McLean and Quattrone, 2004). The happening of the world keeps emplacing and spacing, and virtualities of work and life (the *Spatium*) are always in conversation with their actualities (de Vaujany, 2022a). Obviously, digitality has also strongly contributed to the deep change in the time-space relationships (see Sahay, 1997; Sarker and Sahay, 2004; Zheng and Wu, 2022) and with it, philosophy itself has experienced a renewal.

Various ontological stances or metaphysics are available to explore the time-space of new ways of working, organizing and managing. Spinoza, Leibniz, Nietzsche, Bakhtin, Arendt, Heidegger, Bergson, Whitehead, Merleau-Ponty, Foucault, Deleuze, Cixous, Braidotti, Sloterdijk, etc. are likely to offer more or less different perspectives ranging from phenomenological metaphysics, existentialism, process metaphysics, posthumanism, dialogism, post-Marxism, etc. All these philosophies are welcome!

Extended abstracts of around 1,000 words need to be submitted at [collaborativespaces@gmail.com](mailto:collaborativespaces@gmail.com) by **December, 1st at 8 PM CET**. Notification of acceptance or reject will be sent by December, 16th.

Our event will take place this year in Grenoble (at IAE de Grenoble) on **January 27<sup>th</sup> 2023**. For any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Looking forward to meeting you very soon!

The co-chairs of RGCS Symposium 2023

*NB: A special issue of the Journal of Openness, Commons & Organizing (JOCO) will be edited after our symposium. We will also work on a specific edited book.*

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