CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHES
SUR L'INDIVIDU ET LA SOCIETE HYPERMODERNES
ESCP EUROPE

LABORATOIRE DE CHANGEMENT
SOCIAL ET POLITIQUE
UNIVERSITE PARIS 7

SYMPOSIUM

In Se@rch of Time...

Hyperconnected individuals, accelerated society: tensions and transformations

Centre International de Recherches sur l'Individu et la Société Hypermodernes (International Center for Research on the Hypermodern Individual and Society)

Paris, 8, 9, 10 June 2016

**ESCP Europe
Paris Campus**

http:/colloque.hyperconnexion.i-escpeurope.eu

Organized by the **International Center for Research on the Hypermodern Individual and Society (CIRISHYP, ESCP Europe)**, and under the auspices of the **International Association of French Language Sociologists** (AISLF, Research Comittes 19 and 33) and of the Thematic Network « Clinical Sociology » of the **French Association of Sociology** (RT 16), this symposium will gather specialists of several disciplines, particularly: sociology, philosophy, anthropology, psychology, psychoanalysis, management sciences, marketing and information systems.

Themes

With the emergence of new technologies, the last two decades have witnessed a decisive recognition of time "compression" and "acceleration" phenomena, and acceleration itself has become central to explain the hyperconnected society and its citizens' everyday lives. Paul Virilio's work on speed and its pressures raised concerns about the moral, political and cultural consequences of global time acceleration (1995, 1996). Nicole Aubert's research (2003) documented the advent and consequences of the new way we think about time as a result of new technologies. Inducing instantaneity, immediacy and urgency, they orchestrate the pace of today's society as well as the pace of business, work, everyday experience, democratic institutions, and collective action.

Hartmut Rosa's work (2010, 2012) on acceleration in late modernity shows that time structures can be described as a triple acceleration. First, technical acceleration when innovations in transportation, communication and production grow at a fast pace. Second, social change acceleration, when social institutions such as the family and work mutate and face increasing instability. Third, lifestyle acceleration, when people increasingly feel that time is lacking and pressing as they must "do more in less time." Those three forms of acceleration appear contradictory because technical acceleration should free up time by allowing to accomplish certain tasks faster. Yet, as Rosa points out, this is obviously not occurring: the pace of life increases "despite an impressive acceleration rate in technology".

Following the transformation of the economy in a world combining the accelerating effects of globalization, capitalism and neo-liberalism, contemporary individuals find themselves forced to live in a constant state of acceleration, and under the imperative of constantly surpassing themsleves in order to exist, to express themselves, and to survive (Aubert, 2010). With its increasing speed and instantaneity, the relentless acceleration in technology, media and communication transforms consumption, production and innovation cycles as well as democratic institutions and strategic sites of social change, such as the city.

Adopting an interdisciplinary approach, this symposium aims at tackling the origins and consequences of the acceleration imperative in all spheres of society. Its six themes are the following:

1) **New forms and modalities of consumption and their consequences**
2) **The relationships between information-processing technologies and acceleration**
3) **The effects of acceleration on the self**
4) **The effects of acceleration on relationships, interactions, and thought**
5) **The consequences of acceleration on professional life**
6) **The future of democracy and public action in a context of temporal mutation**

For each of these topics, we will study the effects of these mutations on individuals and on society.

Schedule:
- **February 10, 2016**: paper submission (1 to 2 pages) to the thematic session organizer and to CIRISHYP
- **February 20, 2016**: acceptation from the organizing committee
- **February 28, 2016 (from)**: symposium registration
- **June 8, 9, 10, 2016**: symposium at ESCP Europe in Paris.

The organizing committee will publish selected contributions as a collective book in 2017.

Scientific committee:

Nicole Aubert, Emerit Professor ESCP Europe, member of the Social and Political Change Laboratory (LCSP), University Paris 7), founder and Scientific Director of CIRISHYP, Paris

Elisabeth Tissier-Desbordes, Professor ESCP Europe, co-Scientific Director of CIRISHYP, Paris

Jean-Philippe Bouilloud, Professor ESCP Europe, member of the Social and Political Change Laboratory, (LCSP), University Paris 7

Isabelle Fortier, Professor ENAP (National School of Public Administration), Montréal

Yannick Meiller, Professor ESCP Europe, member of RFID European Lab., Paris

Simon Gottschalk, Professor University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA

Francis Jaureguiberry, Professor University of Pau, Director of SET Laboratory (CNRS)

Claudine Haroche, Research Director CNRS (Institut Interdisciplinaire d'Anthropologie du Contemporain, Edgar Morin Center), Paris

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Vincent de Gaulejac, Emerit Professor University Paris 7, member of the Social and Political Change Laboratory, University Paris 7 (LCSP)

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Elisabeth Tissier-Desbordes, Professor ESCP Europe, co-Scientific Director of CIRISHYP

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Claudine Haroche, Research Director CNRS (Institut Interdisciplinaire d'Anthropologie du Contemporain, Edgar Morin Center), Paris.

Sessions

There will be six sessions.

Sessions overview

1) Consumption, communication, acceleration

Call for paper : send a copy to tissier-desbordes@escpeurope.eu and to cirishyp@escpeurope.eu

The new communication technologies have modified consumers' relationships to time and space. Now, companies can offer products or services anytime and anywhere. The act of purchase has long involved moving and devoting time to think, even if numerous offers designed to foster impulse buying have always existed. Nowadays, a simple click is enough to purchase anything one desires, especially if payment information is safely stored in an online account. How does this acceleration of purchase time impact the consumer's decision-making process? What are the different types of acceleration impacting consumption? At the same time, consumers can easily resell the commodities they purchased in online stores. Are those new tools accelerating product rotation and how? What are the impacts of such consuming behaviors on products lifespan? Furthermore, instant communication is increasingly developing, and platforms such as Twitter or Real Time Buying allow the sending of targeted ads in real time. But Internet users can also react and comment almost instantly. How does this acceleration in communication impact persuasion mechanisms?

2) Technology and information processing: methods and subjects of acceleration

Call for paper : send a copy to ymeiller@escpeurope.eu and to cirishyp@escpeurope.eu

Information technology is disturbing our relationship with time and distance. The diffusion and processing of information are now accelerated. Thanks to the internet, one can now be permanently connected to the whole world and, thanks to Big Data, enormous volumes of quantitative and qualitative data can now be processed. With its promise to integrate the physical and the digital worlds, the Internet of Things leapfrogs important processing steps and allows machine to machine communication without necessitating any human intermediary. Similarly, artificial intelligence and autonomous systems promise faster responses to changing conditions without human intervention. These few examples illustrate the technical capacities that have contributed to the acceleration of society - the purpose of this symposium. Paradoxically, as this acceleration is accompanied by a far more persistent and shared (digital) memory than has ever been possible, everything is going faster but nothing is forgotten.

In this session, we explore those technologies' relationtionships to time and space, and their impacts on information processing. In so doing we hope to develop the topology of the informational world and its links with the real world, as both are being constantly re- defined by acceleration.

3) Acceleration of self: what effects on individuals

Call for paper : send a copy to aubert@escpeurope.eu and to cirishyp@escpeurope.eu

What are the beneficial and/or destructive effects of an acceleration generated by the economic requirements imposed by the dictatorship of financial capitalism and the multiplication of new technologies at work, in business and in personal life? Does this acceleration constitute a form of liberation and personal enrichment thanks to the multiplying opportunities and possibilities of action, information and self-realization it allows? Or does it rather incapacitate people by drowning them into a growing tidal wave of superficiality, fragmentation, impoverished self-experience, and burnout?
Are there acceleration-related pathologies? Who is most likely to be affected? How are these effects manifested in personal and professional life? How can we manage them? Can those pathologies be treated by other interventions than a total withdrawal from our accelerating and self-damaging environment? How can one then restructure one's existence, life-rhythms, and the quest for self-realization?

4) Interpersonal accelerations, virtual contacts, digital thinking

Call for paper : send a copy to simon.gottschalk@unlv.edu and to cirishyp@escpeurope.eu

The rapid colonization of public and private spheres by electronic devices induces new forms of interaction. How does digital interaction encode our perceptions, constructions, understandings of the other, and our attitudes toward him and her? Moreover, this colonization recodes the boundaries between the virtual and the real, the public and the private, the permanent and the ephemeral, the immediate and the continuous, the present and the absent. What are the effects of such recodings on digital and face-to-face and interactions? What types of social relation can we develop as we constantly commute between digital and face-to-face interaction? How do these accelerated and digital interactions transform our relationship to objects? As the practice of everyday life increasingly requires digital interactions, we cannot help but adjust to their logic. What are the mutual influences between digital interaction and "software thinking"? What are the expressions, effects, and risks this thinking presents ? How can we resist it ?

5) Accelerated work

Call for paper : send a copy to bouilloud@escpeurope.eu and to cirishyp@escpeurope.eu

The technological and social change prompted by acceleration have led to multiple transformations in all the organizational dimensions of the professional world where the phenomenon of acceleration affects all organizational dimensions: acceleration of product or service renewal cycle, their obsolescence, the organizational transformation pace induced by the generalization of project management thinking, professional mobility in a certain number of cases, change in the competitive environment, modifications of labor laws, etc. We will discuss the impacts of acceleration on working conditions, human relations, structure and functioning of organizations, and analyze individual and institutional responses to these transformations.

6) The future of democracy and public action : tensions and transformations of the state, institutions and the city.

Call for paper : send a copy to isabelle.fortier@enap.ca and to cirishyp@escpeurope.eu

Modernity is based on a political project, a far-reaching rationalization of the world linked in its scope and impact to globalization processes and technologies that modify not only different actors' relationships with time and space, but also their reflexivity and increased capacity for self-determination. In his social critique of time, Rosa notes that the social acceleration driving modernity has greatly contributed to the development of our democracies, even as it now threatens to undermine them, as a result of the desynchronization of politics, institutions and different spheres of the social system. Pluralism and volatility, even uncertainty, render the task of defining interests more precarious and the pertinence of collective decisions short-lived, though the pending issues and options to be taken into consideration within a short time-frame are multiplying and complexifying. While speed appears to be at the centre of ideological struggles, individuals and groups engaged in democratic processes, as well as policymakers and legislators, need time to consider and deliberate upon different points of view, produce relevant analyses, disseminate information, foresee possibilities, and establish a meaningful direction for the future. Sites of social reinforcement also exist, many of which are marked by their resistance to acceleration. The city, as a privileged site for the emergence or convergence of social and democratic movements, is a marked and meaningful space where the tensions and transformations linked to the acceleration of social life unfold.

What are the current issues surrounding democracy and its relation to acceleration? We are seeking analyses, at both macro- and local-levels, that examine the following issues: contextual elements (capitalism, neoliberalism, globalization), the role of and effects on institutions (governance, politics, the state, public action), or any urban phenomena that reveal the tensions or transformations affecting our democracies.