# First International Workshop on Time as a Boundary Object and Form of Capital

*Theorizing predictability and anticipation in a data-driven society*
September 17–18, 2020

Conference Program



"Predictive analytics" - artwork by Justin Bower

# Call for Papers

The philosophy of risk management and associated apparatuses that penetrated social, economic, cultural and political spheres shaped predictability not only as an object of science but also as an object of governance and as a driving force of history.

Sociology has dealt with notions of predictability and the anticipation of social phenomena from its foundation at the beginning of the 19th century through to today. Sociology legitimized itself as a full-fledged science by postulating the development of predictive and explanatory models for social processes. This work of legitimization encouraged the development of a deterministic view in which social change has become an object of public initiatives and policy measures. Other approaches, alternative to the purely deterministic views, emerged under the auspices of a "self-fulfilling prophecy". With an intense preoccupation with future improvement, the confirmation of imagined scenarios has become an issue of consideration at both individual and macro-structural levels. Despite multi-faceted perspectives, predictability has been merely assumed as a constitutive feature of social life and less understood as a socio-cultural construct or product of discourse.

Nonetheless, the matter of predictability is constitutive to the "risk society" as long as risks can only be considered and defined by sharing the awareness of a predictable dimension of existence. The awareness of the world as an intricate and interrelated global system created the knowledge of risks as a reality to be tackled through forecasting tools, evidence-based decision making, anticipatory frameworks and governance instruments. Economic developments, technological innovations, and scientific advances enforced the importance of security and certainty through institutionalised efforts of surpassing the unintended consequences of progress. All of these processes ended up revealing the world as a controllable and versatile space.

Predictability, as we know it today, is an invention of reflexive modernity. The current notion of risks was inconceivable in traditional societies where predictability resided in conventions and customs. In traditional societies, predictability was equated with the perpetuation of a state of affairs and was encapsulated in the "myth of eternal return" that favoured a cyclical temporal order. The project of modernity came up with an erosion of stabilities, which contested the version of predictability as a reiteration of tradition. Consequentially, modernity showed predictability both as a site of political action and as a result of strategic planning and resource management conducted to minimise and prevent possible risks. From an intrinsic attribute of social life, predictability was translated into a human confrontation with the sudden effects of progress and development.

The COVID-19 pandemic has partially eroded the ideology of sustainability and challenged the precautionary principle on which the modern culture of predictability has evolved. The

actual pandemic situation comprises new modes of engagement with the future, all of which necessitates a reinvention of predictability and associated vocabularies of risk management, as well as a reconfiguration of commitment towards innovation and development. In this context, the workshop aims to engage scholars, practitioners, researchers and professionals in a multidisciplinary dialogue on how predictability is to be understood in contemporary society.

We invite presentations that answer especially, but not exclusively, the following questions:

1. How is predictability conceptualised and approached across disciplines and methodologies? What versions of predictability are assimilated into programmatic and strategic documents? How is a sense of predictability made possible at the intersection between exact, natural, social and human sciences?

2. How is predictability accomplished in a data-driven society? What kind of vocabularies and discourses of predictability are shaped by employing real-time monitoring systems, optimisation algorithms, and computerised simulations? What role do objects and technologies play in the constitution of predictability?

3. What function does predictability fulfil in a competitive and rapidly changing global economy? How could the government address the issue of predictability in the context of crisis and resource constraints? How could predictability be institutionally supported and reified?

4. How do people experience predictability in social life by observing systematic regularities and collective habits? How does predictability become culturally meaningful through a range of communicative acts circulated in media discourses, design practises and art projects?

5. What kind of temporal regimes are supported by various cultures of predictability, and how are they related to power structures? How are notions of accountability and responsibility (re)created through a reimagining of the future and revisioning of temporality in the face of uncertainty manifested through risks and hazards?

# Session 1. Sociology of Time at the Crossroads of Knowledge
Thursday, September 17th (10.00-12.00)

10.00-10.10    **Opening Remarks**

10.10-10.30    **The Temporal Logic of Social Entrepreneurship. Overcoming the Traditional Political Divide**
Gabriel-Alexandru Toma, National School of Political and Administrative Studies

10.30-10.50    **Predicting Marital Conflict by Assessing Incompatibilities Between Women's Involvement in Their Career/Vocation and Other Culturally Defining Social Roles**
Dana Tudose-Tianu, University of Bucharest

10.50-11.10    **"Wasted Time" versus "Productive Time".  Why We Feel Better to Procrastinate than to Get on with Work!**
Roxana Brișcariu, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

11.10-11.30    **When Time Is Running Out: A Qualitative Analysis of Leisure Gaming and Performance Gaming During Lockdown**
Dragoș Obreja, University of Bucharest

11.30-11.50    **Predictability and Uncertainty in the Gender - and Age - Specific Temporal Norms of Hallmark Films**
Raisa-Gabriela Zamfirescu, Doctoral School of Sociology, University of Bucharest

11.50-12.15    **Roundtable Discussion**
**Prospects for a Sociology of Time: A Research Agenda and Practical Considerations**

## Session 2. Dealing with Uncertainty During the COVID-19 Pandemic
### Friday, September 18th (10.00-11.20)

10.00-10.20    **Discourses of Predictability on Education During COVID-19 Pandemic**
Alexandra Hosszu, Doctoral School of Sociology, University of Bucharest

10.20-10.40    **A Time-Lapse of Future Architecture Through the Lenses of COVID-19**
Cătălin Berescu, Research Institute for Quality of Life

10.40-11.00    **Time to Legitimize Corona Skepticism**
Sorina Vasile - Doctoral School of Sociology, University of Bucharest
Cosima Rughiniș - University of Bucharest

11.00-11.20    **Resistance to Official Expertise and Imagined Futures: A Content Analysis of Anti-Vaccination Predictions During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
Simona-Nicoleta Vulpe - Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies, University of Bucharest


## Session 3. Predictability in the Digital Age: Algorithmic Ideology and Entrepreneurial Innovation
### Friday, September 18th (11.50-13.10)

11.50-12.10    **Predictability in Digital Dating. A Case Study of Tinder Dating App**
Maria Stoicesu - Doctoral School of Sociology, University of Bucharest

12.10-12.30    **Pursuing Predictive Impartiality in Big-Data Powered Behavioral Advertising**
Diana Olar – Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies, University of Bucharest

12.30-12.50    **Temporalities in Delivering Innovation**
Andrea-Mariana Budeanu – Tech Lounge Association

12.50-13.10    **The Socio-Technical Construction of the Digital Self Through Algorithmic Architectures and Artificial Intelligence Systems**
Ștefania Matei, University of Bucharest

## Session 4. Quantification in Social Life: Time Capital, Localized Pasts and Imagined Futures
### Friday, September 18th (14.30-15.30)

14.30-14.50 **Quantified Communicative Acts During Pandemic: Exploring the Unintended Consequences of Quantification in News Social Media Posts**
Denis Iorga, University of Bucharest
Cosima Rughiniș, University of Bucharest

14.50-15.10 **Data and Imagined Futures: Argumentative Time Work During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
Cosima Rughiniș, University of Bucharest

15.10-15.30 **Time Capital as an Object of Quantification, Calculation and Prediction in Present-Day Society**
Marian Preda, University of Bucharest


## Session 5. Temporal Regimes in Socio-Cultural, Economic and Political Arenas
### Friday, September 18th (16.00-17.00)

16.00-16.20 **Structure and Anti-structure in Time Work: Incarceration as a Setting for Temporal Agency**
Michael Flaherty, Eckerd College, USA

16.20-16.40 **Temporal Typifications in the Moral Evaluation of Emergency Department Users**
Marius Wamsiedel, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

16.40-17.00 **Time Predictability, Task Fragmentation and Micro-Closure in the Lives of At-Home Workers**
Mara Stan, University of Bucharest

# ABSTRACTS

## Session 1. Sociology of Time at the Crossroads of Knowledge

**The Temporal Logic of Social Entrepreneurship. Overcoming the Traditional Political Divide**

Gabriel-Alexandru Toma
*National School of Political and Administrative Studies*

This paper represents a call for a conceptual clarification of what social entrepreneurship means from a socio-economic and political perspective. The discussion differentiates between *social entrepreneurship as a cultural orientation* (attitudes and values that question the conventional measures of success in terms of efficiency and profit), *social entrepreneurship as a managerial strategy* (the replication of a corporate mindset in the management of non-profit organizations), and *social entrepreneurship as a political philosophy* (the governance of resources by considering the principle of social justice). This paper shows that social entrepreneurship might turn itself into a form of socially responsible capitalism that uses the mechanisms of a free market in support of social justice. Therefore, in some circumstances, social entrepreneurship constitutes a viable way to overcome the traditional political divide between left-wing politics and right-wing politics by representing both a solution to the challenges of contemporary society and a possible way or resisting the power relations induced by surveillance capitalism.
Keywords: Social entrepreneurship; Social justice; Altruistic capitalism; Capitalism;

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**Predicting Marital Conflict by Assessing Incompatibilities Between Women's Involvement in Their Career/Vocation and Other Culturally Defining Social Roles**

Dana Tudose-Tianu,
*University of Bucharest*

Women's lack of work-life balance has been shown to have a direct impact on the quality of their marital relationship and their other traditional social roles. This presentation will attempt to show the correlation between women's involvement with and prioritization of their career and vocation, during a time in their life where they have reached various levels of professional and educational maturity (ages 30-50), and the time and attention they are willing and able to offer other important social roles, such as being a wife or mother. Women's choice of focusing on their career, provided they are guided by their vocation (talent and ability to perform in a certain field, and make a contribution), has the potential to cause conflict in their marriage or non-marital long-term relationship, because of societal expectations related to their main family-related roles.
Keywords: Work-life balance; Vocation; Psycho-social traits; Postpone; Tasks;

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## "Wasted Time" versus "Productive Time". Why We Feel Better to Procrastinate than to Get on with Work!

Roxana Brișcariu
*Bucharest University of Economic Studies*

Why do we procrastinate? Apparently, it's about time management, good organization, prioritization and efficiency. Procrastination is internalized as a waste of time, as a distraction from the goal to be achieved, as a dissociation from the accomplishment of tasks. All these are connected with time as a physical dimension and less with time as a fundamental term. The perspective of time in the social construction of `procrastination` seems to be a physical, theoretical dimension. The analysis of the concept of procrastination reveals a series of causes and effects that are associated with hyperbolic time and also deep related with psycho-social characteristics of the human being, namely: self-efficacy, achievement motivation, self-esteem, distractibility, intention–action gap, adaptabilities, focus on task, neuroticism, impulsiveness, as well as consciousness and its facets of self-control. The paper argues that tendency to procrastinate is underlined by psycho-social traits that make us to postpone or even cancel some immediate tasks, and enjoy the escapist dimension of contingent leisure.
Keywords: Procrastination; Time; Psycho-social traits; Postpone; Tasks;

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## When Time Is Running Out: A Qualitative Analysis of Leisure Gaming and Performance Gaming During Lockdown

Dragoș Obreja
*University of Bucharest*

From the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was known that isolation would substantially change time-use patterns. In this context, a special interest lays on the behavioral aspects that concern gaming during the two months of lockdown in Romania: between March 16 and May 15, 2020. Thus, the objective of this paper is to study the dimensions of players' concern in the virtual environment. More precisely, the patterns that led to the choice of a certain type of gaming during lockdown were analyzed by conducting eight interviews both during the lockdown period and when the restrictions were substantially reduced. On the one hand, the focus was on players who prefer a leisure type of gaming and, on the other hand, attention was paid to players who choose performance. The results show to what extent the vocabularies of motive invoked in the spirit of leisure differ from those aimed at emphasizing performance in the virtual environment. Discussions about the structure of leisure during a pandemic lead to an interpretation of the cultural dimension of gaming: the results reveal that players define gaming either in terms of a subculture or in terms of a counterculture.
Keywords: Leisure; Vocabularies of motive; Gaming; Subculture; Counterculture

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### Predictability and Uncertainty in the Gender - and Age - Specific Temporal Norms of Hallmark Films

Raisa-Gabriela Zamfirescu

*Doctoral School of Sociology, University of Bucharest*

In this study I discuss the role of temporality and predictability in structuring normative expectations related to the social institutions of age and gender. I analyze Hallmark films in order to assess the variability /consistency of gender & age specific patterns of divisions of roles, with a focus on the social organization of time. Hallmark targets a dominantly family-focused and conservative audience, and their films are designed to portray noncontroversial characters compatible with Christian values and a binary gender ideology. At the same time, contemporary films must resonate with audiences living in a world in which the predictability of long-term careers has been disrupted, and in which women and men are increasingly involved in multiple, fragmented jobs throughout their lives, which they need to balance with household work. Technology has disrupted the traditional generational division of knowledge, valuing young people's control of digital spheres against older generations' experiential wisdom. I observe these tensions and I discuss the main temporal norms that support the stereotypical world of gender binary as portrayed in Hallmark films, including a typology of deviance from these temporal norms and their relation to present-day forms of predictability and uncertainty in the work-family relations.

Keywords: Gender; Ageism; Tv tropes; Social organization of time; temporal norms

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## Session 2. Dealing with Uncertainty During the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Discourses of Predictability on Education During COVID-19 Pandemic

Alexandra Hosszu

*Doctoral School of Sociology, University of Bucharest*

School disruption caused by COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light old and new debates about quality and access to education. Decisions about continuing education from home were taken unexpectedly without a coherent strategy for transforming „face to face" education to online and distance education. From no regulations to compulsoriness, the online education in Romania was like a carrousel of experiences, perceptions and attitudes which occupied the public agenda. As the 2020-2021 school year is expected to start in September, new debates are launched about the ways of continuing education in the context of a large number of Covid-19 infections and fewer official responses are made. This paper will analyze the public discourse on education during COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on risks and time work strategies answering to the following questions: How are risks of reopening the schools portrayed in public discourse? How is predictability shaped when addressing education during COVID-19 pandemic? What vocabularies of predictability are used by the social actors when designing and promoting strategies for online education? How is the discourse about online education constructed from temporal perspectives?

Keywords: Education; Pandemic; Risk management; Predictability

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## A Time-Lapse of Future Architecture Through the Lenses of COVID-19

Cătălin Berescu

*Research Institute for Quality of Life*

Architecture is a predominantly conservative discipline due to its high level of predictability; as a matter of principle, everything is planned and controlled in every detail, including costs. The relatively recent concept of BIM (Building Information Modelling), imposed as a European Directive, connects time, cost and quality through a database that aims to bring efficiency to the public sector and put together every piece of data about a building through its entire lifespan. It is precisely the kind of object that aims to serve the purposes of various professional fields, while keeping everything transparent and manageable. But since the Covid19 crisis started, a whole array of papers are questioning the very foundations of architecture and urban planning, projecting radical scenarios on our built environment. These have to be confronted with the new mechanics of the EU funding programs and with the goal to take full control of the construction industry with a tool that aims to control capital in time.

Keywords: Architecture, Urban Planning, Cities, BIM

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## Time to Legitimise Corona Skepticism

Sorina Vasile

*Doctoral School of Sociology, University of Bucharest*

Cosima Rughiniș

*University of Bucharest*

Romania is hitting record-high numbers of SARS Cov2 infections, as more people are doubting the existence of the virus and are disputing the measures imposed by the government for containing the outbreak (Novel Research, July 2020). The Covid-19 crisis is challenging in public debates the mainstream scientific biomedical ontology and sanitary-driven policies, as new versions of reality are being proposed for explaining the current virus-related events, but also their past(s) and future(s). Both Romanian Orthodox media and alternative news platforms that were previously critical against traditional biomedical science and mandatory vaccination now display overt and implicit corona-sceptical discourses. In this presentation, I will investigate the argumentative time work (Flaherty 2003, 2011) in these accounts. I discuss how, since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, Romanian authors are using various time dimensions (duration, frequency, sequence, timing, allocation etc) in deconstructing the officially medical and political truths and constructing different versions of reality.

Keywords: Covid-19; Science-skepticism; Argumentative Time Work

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**Resistance to Official Expertise and Imagined Futures: A Content Analysis of Anti-Vaccination Predictions During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Simona-Nicoleta Vulpe

*Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies, University of Bucharest*

The late modern society has placed a great emphasis on predictability and the power it gave us to cope with risks. However, recent events caused by the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted social life and undermined our reliance on predictability, leaving us prey to the uncertainty. Health risks are increasingly pressing, and predictions regarding the availability of an anti-coronavirus vaccine are rather discouraging. Under these circumstances, anti-vaccination groups denounce experts' manipulation of information, governmental policies of surveillance and control, and the politically and commercially profitable haste of the current process of developing the vaccine. Through a content analysis of Facebook posts from a Romanian anti-vaccination page, I discuss the role of imagined futures in justifying anti-vaccination stances. As opposing mandatory vaccination in particular and official medical expertise in general are positioned both as an individual act and a political act, its meaning is sustained in a narrative that links past, present, and plausible futures. I observe a shift in predictions made by users between March and July 2020, after the Constitutional Court declared unconstitutional the governmental measures for managing the pandemic, and I discuss the role of this shift in valuing the political efficacy of resistance to official medical expertise.
Keywords: Anti-vaccination; Predictability; Imagined Futures; Risks

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## Session 3. Predictability in the Digital Age: Algorithmic Ideology and Entrepreneurial Innovation

**Predictability in Digital Dating. A Case Study of Tinder Dating App**

Maria Stoicesu

*Doctoral School of Sociology, University of Bucharest*

As applications started to become the means for many social interactions, individuals rely on them for dating and intimacy too. Tinder is one of the most popular apps at the moment, with 57 million users worldwide (Iqbal, 2020). In a society continuously transformed by technologies along lines of acceleration, fluidity and reflexivity, Tinder has further changed the social institution of dating, especially its temporal organization. In this presentation, I analyze Tinder app users' temporal dating strategies. By using the concept of time work and its dimensions – duration, frequency, sequence, timing, allocation, and taking time (Flaherty, 2003, 2011), I expose the dominant temporal orientations and configurations of digital dating on Tinder. The analysis is based on semi-structured qualitative interviews with Tinder users, before and after the pandemic. I highlight app-enabled strategies that users adopt in order to meet their goals and gain a sense of control of their dating lives. Through app design and others' expected reactions, Tinder empowers users' work of coordination, management of beginnings and short duration relationships, and partner sequence, thus changing normative dating temporality.
Keywords: Digital Dating, Tinder, Time Work

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## Pursuing Predictive Impartiality in Big-Data Powered Behavioral Advertising

Diana Olar

*Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies, University of Bucharest*

The predictive powers of behavioral advertising risk enforcing vicious circles of disadvantage through differential recruitment on gender, race, class or age. Through self-fulfilling prophecies (Merton, 1948), algorithmic decisions risk reinforcing the reality of a stereotypically misidentified situation, through prediction products (Zuboff, 2019).  In this study I discuss various strategies of pursuing impartiality in behavioral advertising, with a focus on job advertising. Bias in recruitment has been traditionally mitigated by strategies of ignorance – for example, methodical ignorance of protected characteristics such as applicants' gender or race. How are we to enforce ignorance in algorithmic processed based on predictions from Big Data, in which multiple sources of information could become proxies for individual's protected characteristics? When promising accurate prediction of preferences and abilities that may be correlated with gender, race and other marks of social disadvantage, the question is how can marketers defend and design their advertising as impartial? I rely on a comparative study of scientific, journalistic and marketing documents presenting strategies for identifying, addressing, and preventing bias in algorithmic processes, and I formulate a typology of measures to ensure impartiality in and age of increasing reliance on Big Data and AI for decision-making.
Keywords: Behavioral job advertising; Big data;

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## Temporalities in Delivering Innovation

Andrea-Mariana Budeanu

*Tech Lounge Association*

Innovation – viewed as a central value of the current society – started to be studied since the mid-twentieth century as a sequential process in time and considering its utility. Nowadays temporality is playing a key role when speaking of testing a new idea, bringing the product or service to market (time to market) and discarding the product or service (end of lifetime), mainly when considering an innovative product or service. The way in which each life stage of an innovative product or service is predicted and managed will determine its economic success as well. In this presentation I will discuss the links between different types of innovation and the temporal and spatial aspects of the social interaction. I will focus in more detail on the characteristics of the innovation in the field of information technology, which is seen as a panacea concept to (re)boost the worldwide economies that currently operate in times and environments characterized by increased risks and uncertainties. I will also address the macroeconomic situation described by the stringent need of repositioning European Union's and the United States of America's innovation strategies in order to reduce their economies' dependence on Chinese one.
Keywords: Innovation, Temporality; Utility; Information Technology; Social interaction; Macroeconomy

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## The Socio-Technical Construction of the Digital Self Through Algorithmic Architectures and Artificial Intelligence Systems

Ștefania Matei
*University of Bucharest*

In current society, behavioral analytics are the main drivers of innovation and important catalysts for economic growth. As technologies pervade more and more our everyday life, time-use patterns and humans' interactions with technologies have become assets that are traded on newly formed markets in a process that escapes both people's awareness and governmental regulations. Therefore, digital persona should be understood more than as a neutral extension of the self in the online world, but as an important node in the supply chain of surveillance capitalism. Within an inter-connected social and economic reality, algorithmic architectures and artificial intelligence systems give rise to a type of power that acts upon individuals' freedom of choice and capacity of self-determination. How do digital technologies create and recreate relations of power through dataveillance practices? What actors, institutions and instruments participate in the constitution of the digital subject and what role does each of them play in the process? What vocabularies, discursive tools and cognitive devices might be employed to allow for new ways of understanding the technologically-mediated self? This paper argues that a right to privacy should be complemented by a right to unpredictability in order to resist the submissive forms of subjectification that are socio-technically constructed in a digital world.
Keywords: Behavioral analytics; Digital entrepreneurship; Digital persona; Surveillance capitalism;

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## Session 4. Quantification in Social Life: Time Capital, Localized Pasts and Imagined Futures

## Quantified Communicative Acts During Pandemic: Exploring the Unintended Consequences of Quantification in News Social Media Posts

Denis Iorga
*University of Bucharest*
Cosima Rughiniș
*University of Bucharest*

The Corona virus crisis did more than to change the way we act in different social spheres: it challenged the basic assumptions under which we were able to produce expectations about tomorrow. To respond to such a high uncertainty environment, crisis management stakeholders use quantified communicative acts to create a sense of predictability. In this paper, we explore the unintended consequences of quantification (Espeland & Stevens, 2008) by examining news organizations quantified communicative acts during the COVID-19 pandemic. We start by exploring the role of predictions in the COVID-19 pandemic. Afterwards, we analyse how news organizations influence the consequences of such predictions by means of quantified communicative acts. Finally, we take a longitudinal empirical approach with 214 social media posts of two Romanian news organization to reveal patterns of quantified communicative acts during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Keywords: Pandemic; News; Quantification; Consequences;

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## Data and Imagined Futures: Argumentative Time Work During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Cosima Rughiniș

*University of Bucharest*

COVID-19 has generated an abundance of data about the pandemic, at the same time with an increased polarization of public representations of the disease. Official expertise has been contested both in scientific and public arenas, on a wide spectrum ranging from eccentric conspiracy theories, to endemic skepticism about pandemic fatality and health risks, to multiple scientific controversies and uncertainties. Various actors have used or disputed data to create alternative timelines leading to radically different imagined futures. In this study, I examine the argumentative time work (Flaherty 2003, 2011) of constructing different versions of the past, present, and future, in order to support or undermine policies of pandemic control such as shutdowns, social distancing, or wearing masks. I focus on how actors invoke data as proof for their version of reality, and what is required for data to become evidence in a persuasive narrative. What is the role of quantification in the social construction of temporal reality? How do actors manipulate the temporal dimensions of duration, frequency, sequence, timing, allocation, taking time and the temporal modalities of past, present, and future, to make sense of current events?

Keywords: Argumentative time work; Imagined futures; Social construction of reality; Quantification

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## Time Capital as an Object of Quantification, Calculation and Prediction in Present-Day Society

Marian Preda

*University of Bucharest*

This paper underlines the relevance of the concept of time capital in interdisciplinary scientific practice and strategic management. The discussion defines four types of capital (individual time capital, micro-social time capital, mezzo-social time capital and macro-social time capital) by analogy to the well-known sociological concepts of social capital, cultural capital, symbolic capital, human capital or economic capital. Given the context of surveillance capitalism and its associated technological realities, time capital might be converted to other forms of capital through strategies that follow dataveillance practices. Temporal acceleration and deceleration are two techniques that might be employed to support the predictability of social life by considering time capital as a tool of self-regulation and resource management at multiple levels. Consequently, the paper addresses the relation between agency and time in a context in which more and more behavioral patterns become objects of quantification, calculation and prediction.

Keywords: Time capital; Predictability; Temporal acceleration; Temporal Agency;

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**Structure and Anti-structure in Time Work: Incarceration as a Setting for Temporal Agency**
Michael Flaherty
*Eckerd College, USA*

In this presentation, I draw from an ethnographic study of time and temporal experience in prison. Those who design and run a penitentiary engage in institutional forms of temporal agency. They aim to impose totalitarian predictability on the way prisoners experience time. More often than not, they succeed: prisoners perceive time to pass slowly. In response, prisoners pursue extensive, though largely ineffectual, forms of temporal agency. They aim for resistance to bring about temporal compression-- the perception that time (i.e., their sentence) has passed quickly. Yet this temporal agency on the part of convicts is utterly predictable. In other words, prisoners do not try to slow the perceived passage of time or lengthen their sentences or synchronize their perception of time with clocks and calendars. The time work of prison administrators is meant to create temporal structure, whereas the time work of prisoners is meant to create temporal anti-structure. It turns out that these dialectical processes are equally predictable because they are equally sociological. Agency is rooted in choice, but the choices we make in social interaction are constrained by our circumstances. I conclude by observing that temporal agency is always conditioned by its social location.
Keywords: Time work; Temporal agency; Structure, Anti-structure, Predictability, Social location;
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**Temporal Typifications in the Moral Evaluation of Emergency Department Users**
Marius Wamsiedel
*Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University*

Moral evaluation is the social process whereby health care practitioners place patients into procedurally relevant categories based, at least partially, on non-clinical considerations. In this paper, I examine the nature of staff-devised temporal typifications and their contribution to the moral evaluation of patients at two Emergency Departments (ED) in Romania. The situated knowledge of triage nurses and clerks relies on conjectures about typical ways of doing things by typical patients, which are used to make sense of patients and cases whenever biomedical information is unavailable or contradictory. Temporal typifications play an important, albeit largely neglected, role in this process. Triage workers rely on the perceived temporal distribution of visits, the time of the presentation, and the length of experiencing distressing symptoms to tentatively determine the legitimacy of the case and the social worth of the patient. The paper contributes to a better understanding of the experiential knowledge of triage workers and the practical accomplishment of moral evaluation in emergency care settings.
Keywords; Typification; Moral evaluation; Triage; Social categorization; Ethnography; Access to care; Emergency medicine
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# Time Predictability, Task Fragmentation and Micro-Closure in the Lives of At-Home Workers

Mara Stan

*University of Bucharest*

Trending among large corporations as well as SMEs (small to medium enterprises) in the pandemic context, work from home assumes a new temporal regime and approach to predictability (Kramer & Kramer, 2020). As employees who work from home make use of time agency in autonomously defining their allocation practices, this heteronormative outline of scheduling reflects a high degree of risk and uncertainty. The study aims to examine how time use practices turn into intentional time work tactics in the employees' attempts to disrupt the chain reaction of work-life fusion. The study integrates feedback from a non-randomized micro sample of 10 employees in HR and IT that work primordially or exclusively from home. It looks into their discursive construction of time work to inquire whether work-life fusion has an actionable antidote. Michael Flaherty (2003) conceptualizes time work as „the intrapersonal or interpersonal effort directed towards provoking or preventing various time experiences" (Flaherty 2003:21). The presentation aims to elucidate empirical findings in the light of the concept of boundary time work, which in this context refers to the need to delineate intermingled pastimes, from work and family or household duties. References: (1) Flaherty, M. (2003). Time Work: Customizing Temporal Experience. Social Psychology Quarterly, 66(1): 17-33. (2) Kramer, A. & Kramer, K. (2020). The potential impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on occupational status, work from home, and occupational mobility. Journal of Vocational Behavior. doi: 10.1016/j.jvb.2020.103442
Keywords: Time work; At-home Workers

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