

“The temporal experience of everyday life of the flexible workforce in Greece”

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PhD abstract

The flexibilization of working time and terms of work that takes place during the last four decades constitutes a milieu of sweeping flexibility that born out of the field of paid work expands across the lived time of everyday life and after all across the whole of the biographical time path. The thesis examines the temporal experience of the flexible workforce in Greece focusing on the cultural practices of time management that emerge in the field of everyday life. Its basic queries are related to how the flexible workers experience and manage the temporally fluid routine that arises from the ongoing flexibilization process: What kind of emotions accompany the temporal experience of labor flexibility? What are the distresses and the probable benefits? And how all these affect the projections of the future and the identity formation around paid work? To answer the forenamed queries the thesis turns to the empirical exploration of the lived times of work shift, reproductive work and spare time as well as distinct time regimes like unemployment. The thesis forms a qualitative research following the grounded theory directives and is based on semi-structured interviews realized with workers from across the spectrum of labor flexibility (part-time, seasonal work etc.) and the sectors related to it (tourism, retail, education etc.). The research sample centers on the younger segment of the flexible workforce in three Greek metropolises (Athens, Thessaloniki, Heraklion). The empirical material is examined using the method of thematic analysis and in comparison to the relative international research projects' conclusions. The research objective is the enrichment of the theoretical interpretive tools concerning the temporal experience of the working class everyday life and the contribution to the field of sociology of time and work at domestic and international level.