



Terrains of Time: Modern Temporality(ies) in Social Sciences and Beyond

An International Workshop, Bar Ilan University, Israel

June 14-15, 2020

Time has been studied, researched, and thought over for thousands of years and across cultures. In recent decades, some accounts of the role of time and temporality in human (and non-human) experiences proved fruitful for contemporary thought and research. Those who dared to ask St. Augustine's renowned question—"what, then, is time?"—developed vital and fascinating insights about human and non-human nature(s), cultures, societies, environments, emotions, personalities, and politics. A nuance-sensitive understanding of the social, cultural, and political dimensions of time is of immense potential.

Nevertheless, time as a category is an understudied topic in the traditional humanities and social sciences. Even though Time Studies is now institutionalized in academia (societies, journals, etc.), the field has hardly crystalized into an organized body of knowledge with its own defined and structured vocabulary, working assumptions, controversies, and research agendas, to be reflected in other disciplines. Today, the scholar of space, body and other similar categories can draw from these fields' respective bodies of knowledge. But this is not always the case with Time Studies. Is it a mere problem of institutionalization, or rather does it have to do with Augustin's wonder, i.e. with the elusiveness of the concept of time?

The international workshop "Terrains of Time" is aimed at developing an integrative and interdisciplinary conversation about time as a social and cultural phenomenon, while accounting for global and local contexts. We are interested in discussions such as:

- Time and temporality: definitions, analytical frameworks, narratives, and symbolizations.
- Time and related categories: space, body, and subjectivity.
- Time and humanity; time in (or after) the Anthropocene.
- Time and the social: The role of time in assembling and disassembling individuals and groups, personalities and collectives, actors and networks; measurement, standardization, multi-temporalities, synchronization, and desynchronization.
- Time and power: social and political struggles waged about time as a resource, for example regarding status, gender, and labor; time in public policy, social



stratification (e.g. age stratification), evaluation and criticism; Time regimes; Global, local, and networked temporalities.

- Time and the market: commodification, trading, and soliciting time; Time poverty and affluence.
- Micro-interactions: waiting, rushing, getting prepared, aging, time wasting, “quality time,” transitions, cheating on time.
- Rituals of time, times of rituals.
- Time and morality: temporal distributive justice.
- Time in ecological challenges and technological developments.
- Risk, readiness, and uncertainty (e.g. in future studies).
- Time and cultural relativity: Are there groups that experience “more” or “less” time, or groups that have “more” or “less” temporality? Do certain groups care about time more than others?
- Time and “the moderns”: was the modern period embedded in “temporalization of the experienced life”, as maintained by Koselleck and echoed in Latour’s conceptualization of the modern? Did a “temporal turn” take place in history, and/or in theory? On the other hand, are industrialized societies poorer in time (while being affluent in other resources), as common wisdom so often holds?

The workshop will explore the social, cultural, political, economic, human, and environmental dimensions of time and temporality(ies) from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including, but not limited to: philosophy, literature, psychology, geography, history, linguistics, sociology, anthropology, gender studies, cultural studies, and science and technology studies.

The workshop will take place at Bar Ilan University on June 14-15, 2020. No registration fee is required, but we cannot assist with travel expenses.

Confirmed guest speakers:

Barbara Adam, Emerita Professor, Cardiff University and Affiliate Scholar, IASS Potsdam

Judy Wajcman, Anthony Giddens Professor of Sociology, London School of Economics

Frédéric Worms, Professor of Philosophy, École normale supérieure

Abstracts of up to 300 words for a 20-minute paper, with a short bio, may be sent to: terrainsoftime2019@gmail.com no later than January 15, 2020. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by February 15, 2020.

The international workshop is organized by the Research Group “It’s about Time”, sponsored by Bar Ilan’s Rector, Prof. Miriam Faust; and under the auspices of the [Bar Ilan Center for Cultural Sociology](#). Organizing committee (alphabetical order): Anat Leibler, Miri Rozmarin, Hizky Shoham, Dror Yinon (Interdisciplinary Studies Unit, Bar Ilan University).