

## Annual John Urry Lecture : Social Acceleration, Dynamic Stabilization and the Desire for Resonance: A Structural and Cultural Analysis of Modernity.

The Lecture will put forward a somewhat overly schematic account of the core features of the present capitalist social formation (section 1), of the crises and pathologies it necessarily creates (section 2), and of a possible way to transform or revolutionize this formation in the sense of a cardinal change of paradigm (section 3). As an underlying assumption it takes for granted that we can only understand society's fabric and its dynamics if we simultaneously look at its structural ('objective') features and its cultural (or 'subjective') underpinnings which provide the (motivational) energy for social life to process and evolve.

Therefore, in order to put forward the approach in the most straightforward and bold way possible, the line of argumentation developed in dialogue with John Urry's theoretical, methodological and empirical insights, is this: 1) Structurally, capitalist modernity can be defined as a social formation which can only reproduce itself in the mode of dynamic stabilization, i.e. through growth, acceleration and innovation. 2) Culturally, this social formation is driven by the 'Triple A Aspiration', i.e. by the desire to make the world accessible, available and attainable to an ever larger degree. 3) Structurally, this leads to pathologies of desynchronization, while culturally, the triple-A-approach to the world leads to alienation. 4) Therefore, what is needed is a fundamental change of paradigm which structurally replaces dynamic stabilization with a mode of adaptive stabilization and which culturally replaces the triple A approach with a resonanceconception of the good life.

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
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