

Hartmuth Rosa – short bio

Hartmut Rosa is a Full Professor of Sociology at Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena, and an Affiliated Professor at the New School for Social Research in New York. His focus is on the sociology of time and the formation of identity. He is a Co-Editor of *Time and Society* and a Co-Director of the Annual International Conference *Philosophy and the Social Sciences* in Prague. In 2010, he published his book *Alienation and Acceleration. Towards a Critical Theory of Late Modern Temporality* with NSU Press Malmö/Århus. His book „Beschleunigung. Die Veränderung der Zeitstrukturen in der Moderne“ (Frankfurt: Suhrkamp 2005) will be published in English through Columbia University Press in 2012.

Abstract

Leading a Life: The *other* secret curriculum of our schools

In modern societies, the question of ‘the good life’ is thoroughly privatized. This means that everyone has to judge for him- or herself what to do with their lives and how to lead (or not lead) it. Teachers certainly are not meant to teach their pupils *how to live* or *how to lead a life*. Nevertheless, there can be little doubt that ‘globalized’ and ‘mediatized’ high-speed late-modern societies require a vast number of complex cultural competencies and dispositions for individuals to successfully cope with the challenges of everyday life. This lecture will explore the secret ways in which young people acquire their basic orientations, or their ‘cognitive-evaluative maps’ which define their patterns of living and action, the goals and aspirations as well as the strategies they pursue in everyday life as well as in long-term planning. The schoolground seems of overriding importance in this respect, for it is here that kids develop their strategies of recognition-seeking and distinction, their ‘strong evaluations’ and their fundamental definition of ‘existential problems’, and finally their strategies for balancing long-term and short-term issues and selecting options.