



# Critical Social Theory and the End of Work

Edward Granter, Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, UK

Rethinking Classical Sociology

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Critical Social Theory and the End of Work examines the development and sociological significance of the idea that work is being eliminated through the use of advanced production technology. Granter's engagement with the work of key American and European figures such as Marx, Marcuse, Gorz, Habermas and Negri, focuses his arguments for the abolition of labour as a response to the current socio-historical changes affecting our work ethic and consumer ideology. By combining history of ideas with social theory, this book considers how the 'end of work' thesis has developed and has been critically implemented in the analysis of modern society. His work will appeal to scholars of sociology, history of ideas, social and cultural theory as well as those working in the fields of critical management and sociology of work.

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## Contents

Introduction: critical social theory and the end of work; The beginning of the end of work; Industrialism. Utopia and the end of work; Marx and the end of work; Marcuse: needs and potentialities in the age of automation; The future of work and leisure; André Gorz: postindustrial Marxism and the end of work; Sociology and the end of work: classical, cultural and critical theories; Travail sans frontières: globalisation and the end of work; Conclusion: the end of work as critical social theory; References.

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## About the Author

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