



The Timespace of Human Activity: On Performance, Society, and History as Indeterminate Teleological Events (Toposophia: Sustainability, Dwelling, Design)

By Theodore R. Schatzki

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This book shows that a concept of activity timespace drawn from the work of Martin Heidegger provides new insights into the nature of activity, society, and history. Although the book is a work of theory, it has significant implications for the determination and course, not just of activity, but of sociohistorical change as well.

Drawing on empirical examples, the book argues (1) that timespace is a key component of the overall space and time of social life, (2) that interwoven timespaces form an essential infrastructure of important social phenomena such as power, coordinated actions, social organizations, and social systems, and (3) that history encompasses constellations of indeterminate temporalspatial events. The latter conception of history in turn yields a propitious account of how the past exists in the present. In addition, because the concept of activity timespace highlights the teleological character of human action, the book contains an extensive defense of the teleological character of such allegedly ateleological forms of activity as emotional and ceremonial actions. Since, finally, the book's ideas about timespace and activity as an indeterminate event derive from an interpretation of Heidegger, the work furthers understanding of the relevance of his thought for social and historical theory.

The book combines textual interpretation, theoretical argumentation, and empirical substantiation. Many of its empirical examples are taken from the Blue Grass Horse Country around Lexington, Kentucky, where the author resides.

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Editorial Review

Review

Ted Schatzki is a leading figure in the philosophy of the social sciences. *The Timespace of Human Activity* represents a major development of the philosophy of practice, articulated in his previous books. Drawing principally on the work of Martin Heidegger, Ted Schatzki explores the way in which the world is constituted through human activity and how that world influences the very possibility of our existence. Schatzki builds his analysis through careful exegesis of the works of Heidegger, Lefebvre, Bergson, and others, interspersing his interpretations with vivid examples from everyday life. The book speaks to existential issues which have become central to contemporary debates in the social sciences and philosophy and will be required reading for all those interested in what it is to be human. (Anthony King, University of Exeter)

In this exciting and inspiring book, Schatzki turns previous accounts of social practice inside-out to reveal the timespace of human activity. With each chapter new lines of enquiry come tumbling forth, challenging and at the same time invigorating established agendas across sociology, psychology, history, and geography. (Elizabeth Shove, Lancaster University)

With this book, Ted Schatzki provides a remarkable synthesis and expansion of his past work. By adding considerations of time and space, practice, and the role of performance, the ceremonial, and teleological in human action to a Heideggerian starting point, he gives us a novel approach to the philosophy of action that gets beyond formalism and meaningfully connects with substantive problems. (Stephen Turner, University of South Florida)

About the Author

Theodore R. Schatzki is professor and associate dean of faculty in the department of philosophy at the University of Kentucky. He is author of *Social Practices: A Wittgensteinian Approach to Human Activity and the Social*, *The Site of the Social: A Philosophical Exploration of the Constitution of Social Life and Change*, and *Martin Heidegger: Theorist of Space*, as well as coeditor of *The Practice Turn in Contemporary Theory*.

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Kevin Gans:

This *The Timespace of Human Activity: On Performance, Society, and History as Indeterminate Teleological Events (Toposophia: Sustainability, Dwelling, Design)* book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book will be information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This kind of *The Timespace of Human Activity: On Performance, Society, and History as Indeterminate Teleological Events (Toposophia: Sustainability, Dwelling, Design)* without we realize teach the one who reading through it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't always be worry *The Timespace of Human Activity: On Performance, Society, and History as Indeterminate Teleological Events (Toposophia:*

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