

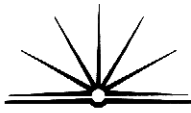


Technology, class and gender all bear significant effects on an individual's ability to access certain categories of work and leisure. ~~Each of these~~ The greatest influence however, on the interrelationship between work and leisure, and its everchanging state, has been technology.

Technology within our global context has not only created a significant impact on our labour market, but on expectations of work. Technology has enabled economies across the world, but especially Australia, to participate in a global economy as national boundaries disappear with better communication devices such as the mobile phone, planes and the internet. The tradition of Australia as the "land of the long weekend" grew to be abolished as the larger institutions such as businesses and the government demanded more productivity in order to compete. Where leisure once played a large role in the value of work, working towards the weekend, work and productivity, the status and identity

It brings became the focus of workers. In 1988, the chairman of the Australian Business Council called Australians to work harder, faster and smarter in order to compete. ~~The Government~~ The Government, in line with international market dictates, as brought on by technology, opted for a policy of neoclassical economic liberalism. ~~The~~ The Government proposed a labour market that was now deregulated, decentralised and gave more power to employers due to Enterprise Bargaining, as started by the Workplace Relations Act in 1996.

Technology spurred an ever competitive global industry, in which Australia was forced to compete, changing small businesses and ~~with~~ traditional work patterns forever. The early 90s recession led to restructuring of companies in order to increase productivity, 1 million were left jobless and full-time employment started to go down. In the 90s alone, it has dropped from 79% to 74%. People employed in full-time



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employment now work longer hours and lead more stressful work lives due to the pressure to perform well under constant monitoring of companies on production. ~~$\frac{2}{3}$ of all workers~~ $\frac{1}{3}$ of all workers now work overtime and ~~$\frac{2}{3}$~~ $\frac{2}{3}$ of these workers don't get paid for it. Such changing work patterns as prompted by technology have had massive changes in the interrelationship of work and leisure.

Work has increasingly intruded into leisure, the boundaries have been blurred as people work longer hours and more at irregular times. The sacredness of the weekend time for leisure has in part been destroyed by increasing secularisation and technology. Technology has enabled many to be non-stop in work, as phones, email and faxes present opportunities for the individual to be contacted, or kept working 24 hours-a-day. A new proliferation of home workers, ~~means~~ ~~that~~ they have doubled in the last ten years,



means that while technology has made it easier for people with disabilities and children, to continue work, the home and the work place are blurred places. The ever-working Australian has had dire consequences in each individual's micro world such as increasing stress placed on the family due to work pressures and long hours. Parents have now been found to spend ~~40%~~ 40% less time with their children than a generation ago.

While the boundaries of leisure and work are blurring due to the effectiveness of technology, technology has also ~~provided people with opportunities~~ ~~of~~ revolutionised the type of leisure many indulge in. While Saturday sport used to prevail as a tradition in Australian society for leisure, many now have turned to more passive forms of leisure such as ~~now~~ watching movies and chatting on the internet. Teenagers and adolescents were found to ~~have~~ spend 5 hours ~~on~~ watching tv, listening



to their radio and playing on the computer per day.

However, while technology has produced great and in a sense, detrimental changes to the interrelationship of work and leisure, class or access to can determine one's access to work and certain forms of leisure. ~~While there has been a growth in~~ ~~there has been significant~~ One's class often reflects access to work, paid employment, as work provides the ability for one to access higher socioeconomic status and class. However, greater inequalities within the workplace as created by the increasing gap between those that have full time employment and those who have involuntary part time and casual work or unemployment, means that lower incomes dictates lower leisure opportunities. While ^{lower and} middle class families were found to have falling wages of 3-4%, higher class families reported an increase in wages of 8-9%. Such falling wages mean that



many and lower and middle class families have to work increasingly harder in order to maintain their current ~~state~~ ^{standard} of living. Their worklife would thus ~~protrude~~ ^{protrude} more into previous leisure time or their micro world, such as the family.

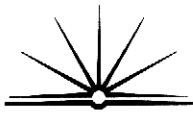
As leisure becomes increasingly commercialised, class, reflecting access to work, has become integral to ~~the~~ creating limitations or freedoms in relation ~~to~~ leisure. Many lower class people do not have the socioeconomic status to participate within such leisure activities as holidays overseas and playing polo. ~~These are~~ Even access to technology which provides much of ~~entertainment~~ leisure time now with movies and music, is limited as determined by class. There is thus, a direct correlation between class and the interrelationship and opportunities of work and leisure.

Gender, in Australian society, plays a large role in accessing work, especially full-



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time work and thus opportunities for leisure. While there has been an increasing participation of many women in the labour force, much of the unpaid work that women undertake as social web weavers, such as housework, is still marginalised. Women, ~~that~~ make up 73% of part-time workers and still earn only 75% - 80% of men's non-managerial wages. Socialised roles such as looking after the family and children do prevent women from gaining access to full-time employment and thus higher socio-economic status. Many women also work in lower status occupations, possessing no real power and authority, for example, only 20-25% of parliamentary positions are held by women. Only 10% of managerial positions are held by women, while they consist of a majority who have clerical or cleaning jobs. Socialised roles and natural restrictions relational to gender, have a significant impact on an



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individual's access to work, and thus leisure. While it has been found that women spend 22% less time in the kitchen cooking dinner on Sundays and go out now on the weekends, just as much as men, there still exists gaps between their ability to access leisure. Many women who work still are found to do the same amount of unpaid work as full-time housewives. Women in this case, can be seen to have increasingly less time for leisure and a blaming in this case of the workplace and the home for leisure time.

Technology, class and gender all have had significant effects in determining not only macro world patterns of work and leisure but micro world patterns of this relationship. Class and gender often present detrimental limitations to one's access to work and leisure while technology has ~~also~~ intruded the workplace and home from the macro to the micro, changing work and leisure like never before