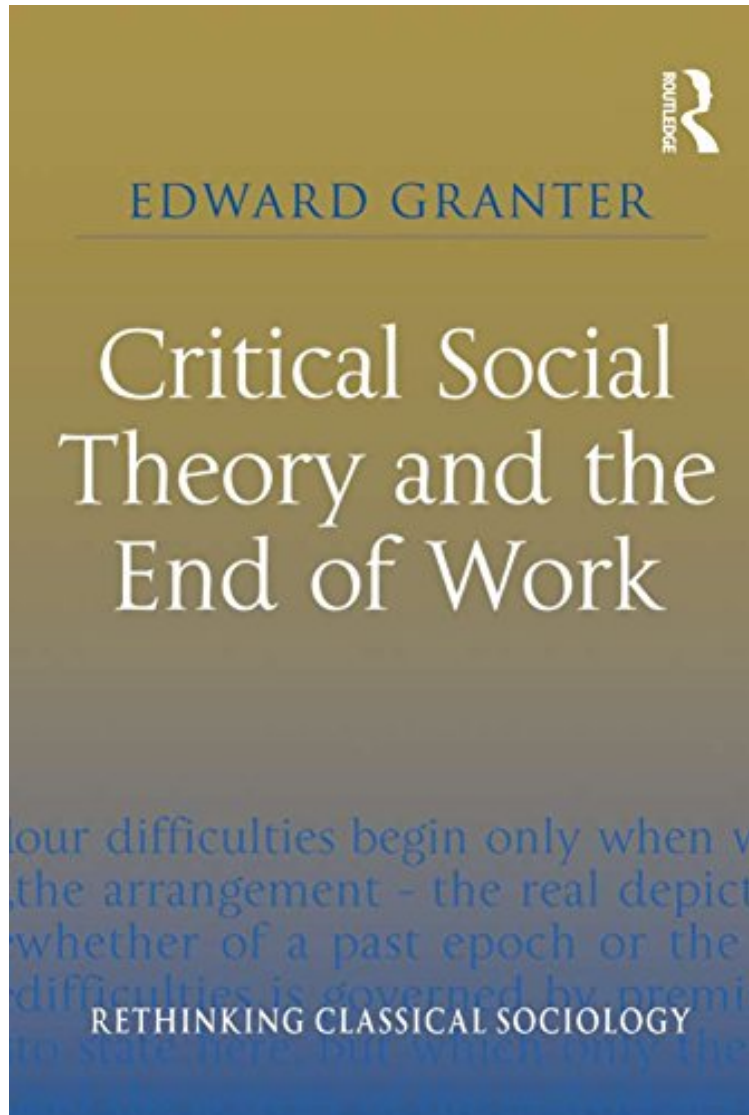


Critical Social Theory and the End of Work (Rethinking Classical Sociology)

Edward Granter

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Edward Granter : Critical Social Theory and the End of Work (Rethinking Classical Sociology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Critical Social Theory and the End of Work (Rethinking Classical Sociology):

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.

'Granter's book is a major contribution to critical theory and Marxism. He is absolutely correct that Marx advocated the abolition of (alienated) work, and he traces this thread of utopian thought through Marcuse, Gorz, Negri and others. In this most dystopian of ages when work fills nearly every available nook and cranny of our waking time, Granter's book resurrects a utopian perspective, helping us "think otherwise" about our present and future.' Ben Agger, University of Texas at Arlington, USA 'The prospect of mass technological unemployment has long haunted modern society. And the flip-side too: the utopian prospect that automation will free us from work for play. Ed Granter gives us a sure-footed history of ideas, covering the most important sociological arguments about the end of work. Against a literature replete with hyperbole and fancy, Granter's analysis is deeply knowledgeable, profoundly realistic, and highly tonic.' Paul S. Adler, University of Southern California, USA 'Critical Social Theory and the End of Work provides a compelling study of visionaries who have imagined a world without labor. This is the best theoretical overview of theories of the end of work by disparate writers such as Fourier, Marx, Marcuse, and Gorz that I have seen and a provocative sociological analysis of the possibilities of organizing our lives differently.' Douglas Kellner, University of California Los Angeles, USA 'I have enjoyed this account of the development of ideas about work and its future in the industrial age...his work will interest scholars of sociology, history of ideas, and social and cultural theory.' James Robertson, author of *Future Work: Jobs, self-employment and leisure after the industrial age* 'The book is impressive in its scope, marshalling a nuanced and often challenging body of work in a scholarly and accessible fashion. By engaging with the existential as well as the economic dimensions of the end of work, Granter displays a warm appreciation for the emancipatory thrust of critical social theories and their ultimate emphasis on freedom and individuality. ... The book is highly recommended to both students and academics interested in critical social theory or sociological debates on work and work-time. Granter is engaging throughout. In a British context, where the issue of work-time is largely absent from the political agenda, he admirably rejuvenates and reinforces the credibility of both classical and contemporary debates in this area.' *Work, Employment and Society* From the Back Cover 'Granter's book is a major contribution to critical theory and Marxism. He is absolutely correct that Marx advocated the abolition of (alienated) work, and he traces this thread of utopian thought through Marcuse, Gorz, Negri and others. In this most dystopian of ages when work fills nearly every available nook and cranny of our waking time, Granter's book resurrects a utopian perspective, helping us "think otherwise" about our present and future.' Ben Agger, University of Texas at Arlington, USA 'The prospect of mass technological unemployment has long haunted modern society. And the flip-side too: the utopian prospect that automation will free us from work for play. Ed Granter gives us a sure-footed history of ideas, covering the most important sociological arguments about the end of work. Against a literature replete with hyperbole and fancy, Granter's analysis is deeply knowledgeable, profoundly realistic, and highly tonic.' Paul S. Adler, University of Southern California, USA 'Critical Social Theory and the End of Work provides a compelling study of visionaries who have imagined a world without labor. This is the best theoretical overview of theories of the end of work by disparate writers such as Fourier, Marx, Marcuse, and Gorz that I have seen and a provocative sociological analysis of the possibilities of organizing our lives differently.' Douglas Kellner, University of California Los Angeles, USA About the Author Edward Granter is a research associate at Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, UK.