



Call for papers **CHRONOTOPIA : experiences of time**

Proposed by Catherine Deschamps (anthropologist), Alain Guez (architect and urban planner), Luc Gwiazdzinski (geographer)

This call for articles aims to capture, on the one hand, concrete experiences of time and, on the other, its analytical capacities. It aims to pinpoint the temporalities contained in (and constructed by) the places and situations. Between the space of experience and horizon of expectation dear to the historian Reinhart Koselleck, between lived time, ordinary time, extraordinary time, lasting time, disappeared, narrative, imaginary, collective, individual, critical, creative, political or prospective..., it is a question of making the different approaches to *chronos* an object and a tool in itself, rather than a simple element of composition of contexts, alongside the *topos*, understood itself in its great variety of social expressions.

From predictability to uncertainty, hope to fear, continuity to rhythm, linearity to circularity, or even the everyday to the extraordinary, the physical or digital materiality of places contributes to the construction of universes that are in turn polychronic, dyschronous or even anachronistic. These universes resonate with social representations of the world, contemporary actions and expectations. Among these expectations is the injunction to take care of the planet in the present in order to hope for its future.

This thematic issue invites us to consider different temporal regimes and scales and to potentially criticise the alleged linearity of progress. Whether it is a question of plasticity, permanence, rhythmicity or impermanence of spatial practices, of the cycles and longevity of matter and, more broadly, of resources, or even of the durability of infrastructures, the relationships between humans and their environments are both localised and synchronised on the one hand, and deterritorialised and desynchronised by technique as much as by the imagination on the other. Indeed, plural regimes of historicity and temporality are today in tension in Western societies with hegemonic risks of alienating acceleration, presentist drift, museification, interpretation of the present and the future by analogy with the past or, conversely and according to Ulrich Beck, a relationship with the contemporary no longer governed by the past but by the uncertainties and anxieties of the future. But the link between regimes of historicity and temporalities also opens up possible worlds, making it possible to revisit the practices of the present through a counterfactual approach to the past, as Patrick Boucheron invites us to do, and a reasoned consideration of proposals for action.

To address these points, six angles are proposed, not exclusive of other possible focuses and moreover more intertwined than their presentation in list form would suggest. In all cases, field surveys are the basis for the theoretical developments.

➔ **Chronotopia**

According to Mikhail Bakhtin, the chronotope assumes that time and place are inseparable and jointly constitute the framework of the action in the novel or in reality. Sandra Bonfiglioli's chronotopia is a translation of this same joint approach into conventionally spatial disciplines. The idea here is to think about practices in a perfect spatial and temporal articulation, and the heuristic contribution of this association.

➔ **Between permanence and impermanence**

In an update of the tensions between so-called 'modernities' and 'traditions', this angle aims to question what these divergent but idealised conceptions of the world and its times do to social realities or, conversely, how permanence and impermanence coexist or clash in daily life, the imaginary and doctrines.

➔ **The amplitudes of duration, between crisis and projection**

The acceleration of climate change and the debates on the Capitalocene or Anthropocene oblige us to rethink the long term. And yet, the history of climate change, for example, is not new. Applied to a given spatial universe - including virtual universes - it involves questioning what thinking about things in the long term, in the intermediate term or in a hurry does to research.

➔ **Imaginary, political and practical repetitions**

Religious or political millenarianism, golden ages and downfalls, the repetition of misfortunes, feelings of déjà vu... These are all phenomena that, from the beast of Gévaudan to the fear of the Y2K bug or the re-election of Donald Trump, can be seen as both recurring and spectacular times that disrupt the order of ordinary daily life.

➔ **Arrangements and choreographies**

Choreographies, i.e. the arts of movement, consider both what endures and what is transformed in multiple terms: organisational, programmatic, material, symbolic, aesthetic, strategic, operational, tactical and political. This focus aims to question the forms of permanent and temporary arrangements that shape human and non-human choreographies.

➔ **Time as a heuristic tool for deciphering**

In this last proposal, temporalities, in their different variations and in the paradoxes of their approach, are not so much the object of research as a tool for the analysis and systematic ordering of the survey materials. The aim is to highlight what thinking about time brings to the understanding of a given field.

Proposals for articles (1500 characters + contact details and institutional attachments) should be sent by midnight on 30 April 2025 to:

- the secretariat of the *Journal des anthropologues*: secretariat.afa.01@gmail.com
- Catherine Deschamps: catherine.deschamps@paris-lavillette.archi.fr
- Alain Guez: alain.guez@paris-malaquais.archi.fr
- Luc Gwiazdzinski: luc.gwiazdzinski@toulouse.archi.fr

After an initial selection based on proposals, the selected articles (between 32,000 and 40,000 characters depending on their number) should be sent to the same addresses by 15 September 2025 at the latest. **Double-blind evaluations** will then take place, which will involve further correspondence with the authors.

The functioning of the *Journal des anthropologues* and its **editorial standards** must be read and respected, otherwise publication will be refused:

[Functioning & Editorial Standards - ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE DES ANTHROPOLOGUES](#)

The publication of the issue 'CHRONOTOPIA: experiences of time' is scheduled for the last quarter of 2026.