

# A Sociology of Modernity (Peter Wagner)

**Ambiguities of modernity:** Project and experience (reality)  
**(narrating modernity)** (self-image & practices / Hegel, discovery of the social)

Liberation and disciplination

Individual autonomy and its substantive/collective other

**Core processes:** Allocation of resources

Distribution of authority (power)

Cognitive representation: reflection and model setting  
(imaginary signification)

## Key analytical concept

**Institutions** Relatively durable sets of rules and resources – habitualized *practices*

Supra-individual but humanly created and continuously recreated (*creation*  
and *workings* of social conventions)

Enabling & constraining (duality of structure > structure/agency)

<b>Mode of modernity</b>	<b>General features</b>	<b>Allocative practices</b>	<b>Distribution of power</b>	<b>Cognitive representation</b>	<b>Boundaries</b>
<b>Restrictive liberal</b> <b>1800-1880s</b>	Socially dangerous openness: substantive exclusions	Original accumulation of economic capital	Imperial bureaucracies	Universal Reason Natural Order  Alienation (Commodity) fetishism	<i>Representations vs. experience (ideal vs real)</i>  Modern vs. traditional (not-yet-modern)  Civilization vs. barbarism (non-modern)  Class separation
<b>Organized</b> <b>1890s-1960s</b>	Conventionalization of practices  Centrality of work (labor)	2 <sup>nd</sup> industrial revolution Oligopolistic managerial enterprise Economic protectionism  Big hierarchical organizations Scientific management (Taylorism)  Mass production-consumption	Universal suffrage The nation-state National homogenization  Mass parties Social movements  <i>Verrechtlichung</i>	<i>Fin-de-siècle</i> Irrationality Mass society  Classification Predictability  <b>Functionalism</b> <b>Behaviorism</b>  Theories of modernization and development (Scientific management etc.)	Nationality Political citizenship Social classes Gender
<b>Extended liberal</b> <b>1970s-present</b>	De-conventionalization of practices	Supra-national entities (Extra-national entities)	Erosion of nation-state-based powers  Global (porous) regulations	Fragmentation (disappearance) of the subject The end of the social Liquid modernity  Postindustrial society Knowledge society Risk society <b>Network society/ANT</b>  Late modern society Postmodern society  <b>Cultural sociology</b>	Primordialization – collectivization of dispositional subjects  Trans phenomenon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transgender</li> <li>• transnationalism</li> </ul>