

The concept of work became one of the central ideas in theories focused on the explanation of social processes. It is included in theories of Durkheim, Weber and Marx. Social theories based on the European Christian tradition deal with this substantial problem, too. The nowadays prevailing way of understanding the role of work in society is based mainly on the economic attitude to the social world and we can see this ideological stereotype when reflecting negative impacts of work on the everyday life and on forming human personality. Examples of these attitudes can be found in the contemporary sociological thought.

New technologies affect the social perception of both paid work and the “society of work”. The diminishing share of routine paid work on the total production of goods and even on offered services can not be explained only in terms of economic theories that assume the rationality of production and consumption. The traditional meritocratic principles are set to question. Changes in the perception of work also affect the perception of wealth that differs in post-modern society and in agricultural or industrial societies. The study aims at proposing new way of explaining social processes by putting stress on connections between labour market, resp. division of labour and distribution of power in society.